




The Qin and Han Dynasties



Four Chinese Dynasties

Four Chinese Dynasties				
	SHANG	ZHOU	QIN	HAN
When	1750–1122 B.C.	1045–256 B.C.	221–206 B.C.	202 B.C.–A.D. 220
Important Leaders	Numerous kings with large armies and control over the land; ruled from capital city of Anyang	 Wu	 Qin Shihuangdi	 Liu Bang
Main Ideas and Accomplishments	Developed social classes that included farmers, merchants, aristocrats, and royal family	Longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history; established Mandate of Heaven	Strengthened central government; created single monetary system	Population and landmass grew under Han; opened China to trade and commerce by building Silk Road
Influences on Chinese Culture	Influenced Chinese religion and culture; created Chinese written language	Developed irrigation and flood-control systems to help farmers grow more crops	Introduced use of censors to check on government officials; Qin built the first Great Wall to keep out invaders	Created government's civil service examination; major inventions: steel, paper, acupuncture, advanced sea travel



Locating Places

- Guangzhou – a port city in southern China on the Chang Jiang.
- Silk Road – a large network of trading routes stretching from western China to southwest Asia.
- Luoyang – City in northern China on the Huang He.

Meeting People

- **Qin Shihuangdi** – means “the First Qin Emperor”; ruler who declared himself ruler in 221 B.C. and he based his ideas upon Legalism.
- **Liu Bang** – founded the Han dynasty and declared himself Han Gaozu, which means “Exalted Emperor of Han”; divided the empire into provinces and counties
- **Han Wudi** – name means, “Martial Emperor of Han”; led the Han Empire to its peak;

Qin Shihuangdi



- Qin Empire
- Defensive walls

GOBI DESERT



Xianyang
Hao
Xi'an

Yellow River (Huang He)

Yangtze River (Chang Jiang)

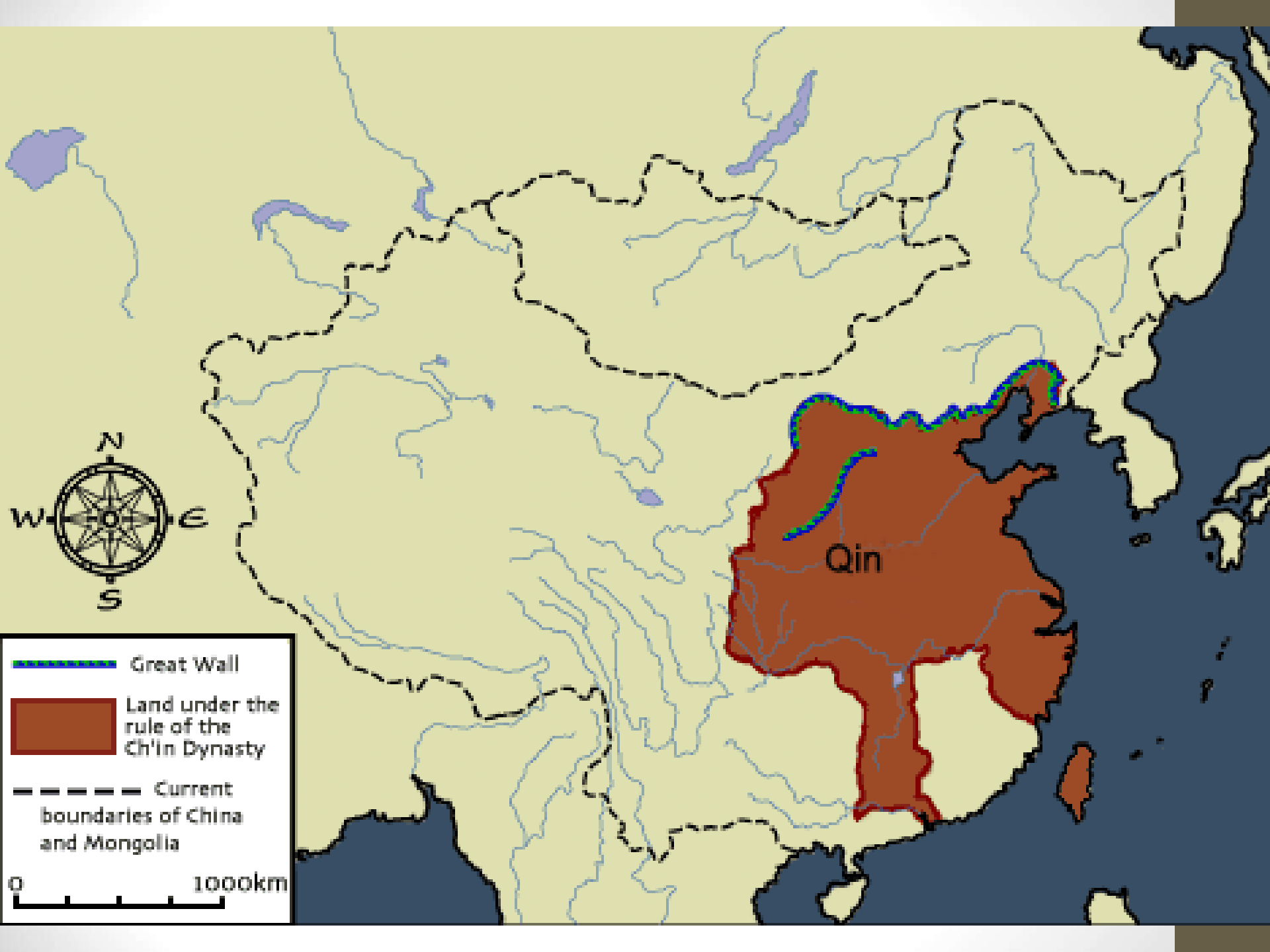
Yellow Sea

East China Sea

South China Sea

TAIWAN





Emperor Qin Shihuangdi

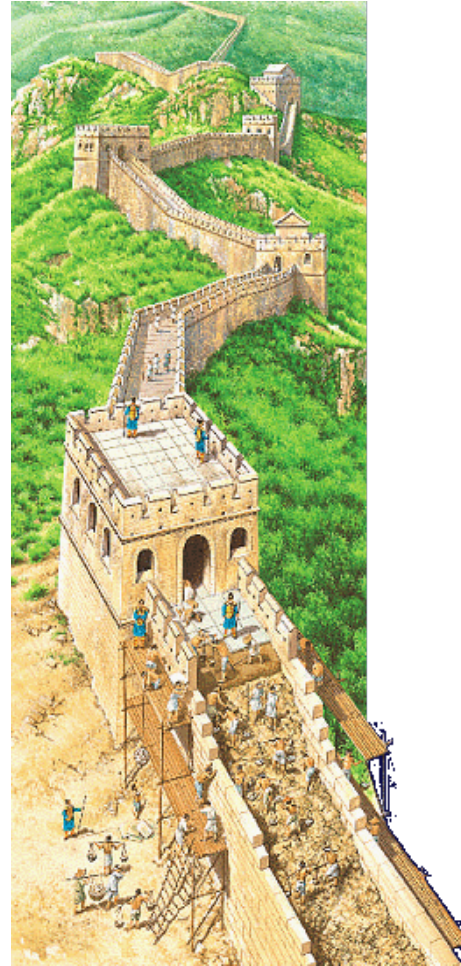
- Qin was a ruler of a local state during the Zhou dynasty
- He gradually took over neighboring states and declared himself Qin Shihuangdi, or First Qin Emperor.
- Qin's rule was based on Legalism
- Qin abolished the officials' authority to pass their posts on to their sons.

Emperor Qin Shihuangdi

- He became the only person authorized to fill empty posts.
- Qin united China, created one type of currency, ordered the building of roads and buildings, and connected the Chang Jiang to central China by canal.

Emperor Qin Shihuangdi

- The Great Wall of China was built to protect the Chinese from the Xiongnu, a nomadic people living north of China.
- Chinese people believed Qin Shihuangdi was a harsh ruler, and they overthrew his dynasty after his death.



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What are some examples of Qin Shihuangdi's cruelty in ruling his people?





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Qin punished or killed anyone who opposed him. He forced farmers to leave their farms to build the Great Wall of China. He also burned scholars' writing.

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KEY

-  Qin empire
-  Great Wall in Qin period
-  Han empire
-  Great Wall in Han period

The Han Dynasty



- Liu Bang founded the Han dynasty in 202 B.C.
- Civil service examinations began when Han Wudi started testing potential government employees.

The Han Dynasty

- Students prepared for many years to take the exams.
- The population tripled during the Han dynasty.
- Farmers had to divide their land among more and more sons, which left them with very little land
- Farmers sold their land to aristocrats and became tenant farmers to survive.

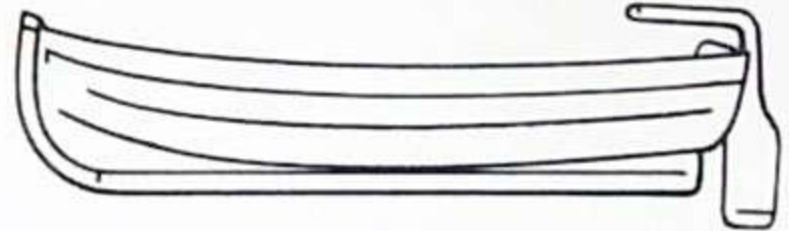
The Han Dynasty

- The Chinese invented many new products during the Han dynasty, such as the waterwheel, the rudder, drill bits, steel, and paper.
- Chinese doctors began practicing **acupuncture**, the practice of easing pain by sticking needles into patients' skin.





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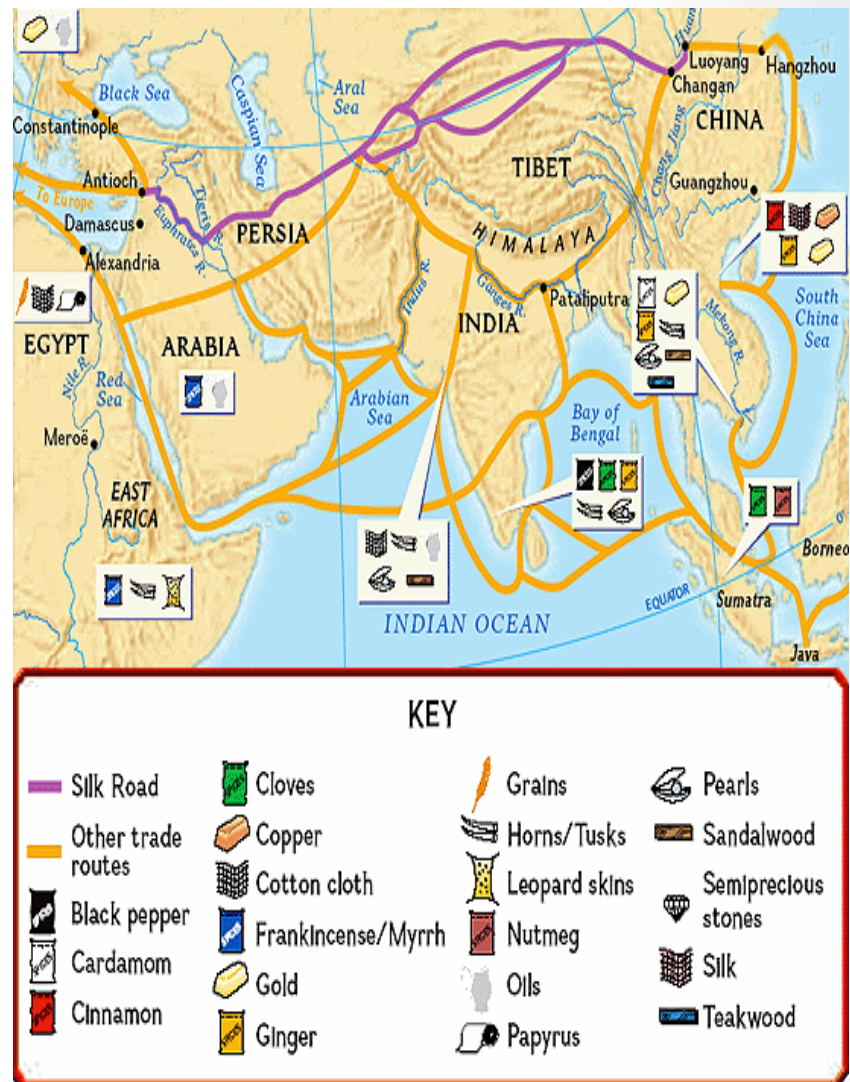
How did the invention of the rudder change Chinese trade?

A

With the rudder, the Chinese could move ships' sails differently. Ships could now sail into the wind rather than with it. This meant Chinese ships could travel to the islands of Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean.

The Silk Road

- Silk was the most valuable trade product.
- The Silk Road was an overland trade route extended from western China to southwest Asia.



EUROPE

Mongolian Plateau
Gobi Desert

Great Wall

Aral Sea

Silk Road

Yellow River

Yellow Sea

East China Sea

Yangtze River


Himalaya
Mtns.

South
China
Sea

Arabian
Sea

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What empire had General Zhang Qian encountered during his 13-year trip west and how did he describe it upon his return?

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He had visited the Roman Empire and described the large cities with people wearing embroidered clothes and driving chariots.

Major Changes in China

- Buddhism spread from India to China.
- The Han dynasty fell after wars, rebellions, and plots against the emperor.
- Civil war began, and nomads invaded the country before the government collapsed.
- Buddhism helped people cope with the chaotic times.

The Qin and Han Dynasties

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How did Buddhism become popular in China?

A

First, merchants from India brought Buddhism to China. During the unrest of the fall of the Han dynasty, people found comfort in the teachings of Buddhism, and more people began practicing the Buddhist religion.

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Why did Qin Shihuangdi have the Great Wall built?

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to keep out the Xiongnu

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What were civil service examinations and why were they created?

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Civil service examinations were long, difficult tests used to qualify people for jobs in the government bureaucracy. They were used to find the best and most talented people.

The Qin and Han Dynasties



Geography Skills What barriers did merchants who used the Silk Road have to cross?



mountains, deserts, seas, oceans, and harsh terrain

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Explain How did Qin Shihuangdi make China's central government stronger?

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He appointed censors who made sure that government officials did their jobs. He also appointed and dismissed aristocrats who ran the provinces rather than allowing their positions to be hereditary.

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Analyze Why did the Qin dynasty fall?

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Because Qin Shihuangdi was such a ruthless ruler, his dynasty was overthrown by unhappy subjects soon after his death.