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Puspa Shrestha

“The greatest glory is not in never falling, but rising every time we fall.” – *Confucius*

Reading

Qin Dynasty

Before you read

Look at the picture and discuss.

- What do you see in the picture?
- When was this structure built?
- Who made it?



Read the following text about the contribution of the Qin Dynasty in Chinese history and culture.

The Qin Dynasty has a short duration (221-206 BCE), but very important in Chinese history. It followed the Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 BCE) and it ended when Liu Bang became the king of Han in 206 BCE (the formal beginning of the Han Dynasty). Despite its brevity, the Qin Dynasty left important marks on Chinese culture. In fact, the name "China" is derived from the name Qin (“Ch’in” in former Romanisation systems). Following the Zhou Dynasty, China became involved in a seemingly endless conflict

between the various regions for supreme control of the country. This period of conflict has come to be known as The Warring States Period (426-221 BCE). A series of victories by the state of Qin towards the end of the Warring States Period resulted in their complete conquest of China in 221 BCE when the Qin Empire unified China for the first time in its history.



Origins of the Qin Kingdom

During the Zhou Dynasty, China was never a unified kingdom. The Zhou government bore a strong resemblance to some of the forms of feudalism in medieval Europe, which is why the Zhou age is sometimes referred to as a feudal age. China was composed of a

network of city-states loyal to the Zhou king, from which military and political control spread over the surrounding farming villages.

About 771 BCE, a barbarian invasion drove the Zhou rulers eastwards. During this time, the state of Qin became responsible for guarding the western frontier and they gradually moved eastward and eventually occupied the original Zhou domains. Thus, the Qin became a close ally of the Zhou and they also had marriage relations with the Zhou ruling class. King Ping of Zhou (770-720 BCE) transferred titles of the nobility and huge estates to the chief of Qin. Many Chinese historians consider this event as pivotal for the state of Qin. The Qin was, at that time, very aware of the fact that they could be a great power. The elevation to nobility of the Qin meant that the Qin could become more ambitious and better fend off attacks from surrounding regions. As a consequence, these centuries spent fighting non-Chinese tribes helped the Qin gain invaluable experience in warfare and territorial expansion.

Of the many Chinese states, the Qin had the advantage of a favourable location: Its territory in modern Shaanxi Province is well guarded from the east by mountains and gorges and has easy access to the North China plain through the Yellow River passes. No major battle ever took place in the Qin's heartland.

During the Warring States period, all the states in China were trying to draw more power and prestige to themselves. The states of Qin and Chu were the strongest which was due, in part, to the locations of these two states being able to command vast resources. They were also able to expand their borders without fear of immediate conflict, unlike the other states, and so could obtain still further resources. This benefit, and others such as the size of the Qin army and their expert use of the chariot, contributed to their success in warfare. The Qin had all of the resources and advantages but what finally gave them victory over the other states was their ruthlessness in battle.



Qi Shi Huangdi

The Qin statesman Shang Yang (356-338 BCE) advocated total war and a disregard for the polite policies of battle which the Chinese Generals had always adhered to. His lessons were implemented by Ying Zheng, King of the Qin, who emerged victorious from the Warring States Period and proclaimed himself Shi Huangdi - 'first emperor' - of China in 221 BCE. About 230 BCE, when the final campaign to unify China began, it is estimated that the Qin controlled one-third of all the land under cultivation in China and one-third of China's total population.

Achievements in the Qin Dynasty

Early in the Qin Empire, the practice of Legalism reached its peak in Chinese history. This idea of state policy was devised by Shang Yang who came to Qin as a foreign advisor. Qin was lacking, early on, in skilled intellectuals and politicians and, therefore, had to look beyond its borders for talented people. Shang Yang was one of those foreign talented persons and he would have a lasting influence on the Qin Empire. During his time as a minister, Shang Yang radically renovated the policies of government but, in fact, he simply revived a practice which was already present for years: a form of government with a focus on greater efficiency and less adherence to tradition in which strict adherence to the letter of the law was made paramount. Emperor Shi Huangdi approved of Shang Yang's policies and implemented them across his realm.



Grand Canal

This form of government consisted of a collectivisation programme and the decimation of aristocratic power. Farmers were freed from serfdom and Shi Huangdi reduced the power of the aristocracy. The people throughout the empire were now supposed to bear collective responsibility for each other. If a person did not behave according to the rules, then others were required to report to him. If they did not do this, they were quartered or beheaded. Fear and control were the key features of this political system. In addition, one's personal importance to the empire was also a key element. If you, as a person, meant nothing to the state, you actually meant nothing objectively; your life was meaningless. Those who contributed the most to the state were highly rewarded while those whose lives were considered of no consequence were sent to work as slaves on Shi Huangdi's building projects such as the Great Wall of China, the Grand Canal, and the roads which increased ease of trade and travel.

Another result of the Legalism of Shi Huangdi was that scholarship was strongly suppressed and literacy denied to the majority of the populace. Shi Huangdi believed that uneducated people were easier to control and so the people should remain stupid so that they would never think to doubt who was in charge of the empire. This policy resulted in the burning of books on a large scale and, in 212 BCE, on the advice of his chief advisor Li Si, Shi Huangdi had scholars executed on a large scale. Books were banned throughout the empire, as was teaching, except for subjects touching upon the

re-written history of the Qin Dynasty, Legalism, or the personal glory of Shi Huangdi. It was not until the later Han Dynasty that books were recovered from hiding and repaired, and literacy was again available to the people of China.

Although Shi Huangdi and Shang Yang's Legalism (as well as Li Siu's policies) were hated by many at the time (and have been generally frowned upon by scholars of the period), later the Qin kings and emperors of China were well aware of the strong impact that Legalism had on the efficiency and strength of the state. Legalism helped to create a superior army, a disciplined bureaucracy, an obedient populace, and the unquestioned authority of a strong central government. This bureaucratic model became the standard for the Chinese government and is still maintained in some form today. Although Confucianism was preferred in later dynasties, Legalism continued to exert a strong influence in China. It was often the case that the harsh Legalism was glossed over with just a different name and, quite often, as 'Confucianism'.

The End of the Qin Empire

In the year 210 BCE emperor Shi Huangdi died on a journey through the realm. The people were told that these trips were designed for the inspection of the empire but later evidence suggests that the emperor was looking for an elixir of immortality. In his later years, Shi Huangdi became obsessed with death and the hope of eternal life. In constant fear of assassination, it is said, he never slept in the same room of his palace two nights consecutively and he ordered the construction of his elaborate tomb (including his Terracotta Army of 8,000 warriors) early on in his reign. The cause of his death is still unknown.

Li Siu (c. 280–208 BCE), the then prime minister of the recently deceased emperor, tried to hide the fact that Shi Huangdi was deceased in any possible way. He brought the emperor's body back to the capital along with carts of dead fish to mask the smell of the corpse. Along with Zhao Gao (died 208/207 BCE), Li Siu contrived to place Hu Hai on the throne. Hu Hai was the weak second son of Shi Huangdi. Due to the weakness of Hu Hai, the oppressed people of China grew bolder and soon began to revolt.

Through a series of uprisings and rebel alliances, the Qin authority was overthrown in the year 206 BCE in the capital of Xianyang. The Imperial House was massacred and the Qin Dynasty was thus at an end. A complicated series of battles followed for the honour of being the successor to the Qin Dynasty which resulted in the period known as the Chu-Han Contention in which Xiang-Yu of the state of Chu fought Liu Bang

of Han for supremacy. Liu Bang emerged victorious following Xiang-Yu's defeat at the Battle of Gaixia in 202 BCE. Liu Bang (247 BCE- 195 BCE) was applauded as a man of the people and, after his victory, founded the Han Dynasty.

Legacy of the Qin Dynasty

As mentioned previously, Legalism had a lasting effect on the entirety of Chinese history. The Qin Dynasty created the standard of bureaucratic government and the Legalistic policies first initiated by the Qin are still seen in China today. In addition, the dynasty left a wonder of ancient artwork: The Terracotta Army in Xi'an. This tomb reflects the character of the Chinese emperor and his unending desire to be immortal.



Terracotta Army

The Terracotta Army also exemplifies what Chinese society at that time was able to produce once it had been formed as a state. The most famous legacy left by the Qin is The Great Wall of China. Although the present structure does not date from the Qin Dynasty, it was begun under Shi Huangdi, as was the Grand Canal, and the roads which today link the cities of China and the countryside. The Qin did more than just found a dynasty in China: they brought a continent together.

Gabriel Peralta

NOTES

Feudalism: a socio-political system that existed in Europe during the Middle Ages in which people worked and fought for the nobles who gave them protection and the use of land in return

Legalism: an ancient Chinese philosophical belief that human beings are more inclined to do the wrong than the right because they are motivated entirely by self-interest. It was developed by the philosopher Han Feizi (c. 280-233 BCE).

Confucianism: the system of ethics, education, and statesmanship taught by the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551–479 BCE) and his disciples, stressing love for humanity, ancestor worship, reverence for the parents, and harmony in thought and conduct

Ways with words

A. Match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| a. brevity | i. the state of being alike |
| b. conquest | ii. a member of an uncivilised group of people or culture |
| c. resemblance | iii. state of being noble in character, quality, or rank |
| d. barbarian | iv. liquid that is believed to cure all ills |
| e. ally | v. lasting only for a short time |
| f. nobility | vi. cruel |
| g. ruthlessness | vii. victory over a place or people by use of military force |
| h. decimation | viii. the killing or destruction of a large number of a population |
| i. harsh | ix. character of having no pity or compassion |
| j. elixir | x. one state united to another by a treaty or a league for a military purpose |

B. Find the following words in the text and use them in sentences of your own.

invasion disregard paramount populace revolt assassination serfdom

C. Study the following homographs.

address (noun): the location of a house)

addRESS (verb) to speak to a group of people)

DEcrease (n.): reduction in the amount of something)

deCREASE (v.): to become smaller in amount)

PREsent (n.): a gift)

preSENT (v.): to give something formally)

PROtest (n.): objection to something by an organised group of people)

proTEST (v.): to express an objection)

CONtest (n.): a game or event of completion)

conTEST (v.): to challenge or dispute)

RECORD (n): a written account of information)

reCORD (v.): to keep or store information for future use)

Homographs are the words with different pronunciations and different meanings but same spellings. However, the words here have a change in the word stress often causing changes in the vowel sounds.

D. Consult a dictionary and prepare a list of ten homographs.

E. Read the limerick, the stressed words are in uppercase.

I KNEW a MAN whose NAME was SHAW.

He ATE a ROCK and BROKE his JAW.

WHAT do you THINK?

He SAID, with a WINK.

PerHAPS it's BAD to EAT them RAW.

A limerick is a funny rhyming verse of five lines with the rhyme pattern aabba. Remember, limericks emphasise English sentence stress.

F. Here is a very old limerick taken from a book 'A Book of Nonsense' by Edward Lear. Practise it with the help of your teacher and find the stressed words.

There once was a fly on the wall.

I wondered 'why didn't it fall'?

Were its feet stuck?

Or was it just luck?

Or does gravity miss so small?

Comprehension

A. Complete the table with the correct information from the text.

Qin Dynasty Period	
Zhou Dynasty Period	
Warring States Period	
Unification of China by Qin	
First Emperor of Qin Dynasty	
Death of Shi Huangdi	
Liu Bang Period	

B. Answer these questions.

- Why is the Zhou Age called a feudal age?
- What is the location advantage of the Qin?
- What contributed to the success in the warfare as described in the text?
- Why did the Qin invite the foreign advisor, Shang Yang?
- What were the key features of the Qin political system?
- How were the people treated during the Qin Period?
- Why did Shi Huangdi stop educating ordinary people?
- What did the Qin achieve by the legalism in practice?
- Why did Shi Huangdi never sleep in the same room for two consecutive nights?
- What are the everlasting marks of the Qin Dynasty?

Critical thinking

- The Great Wall and the Taj Mahal are the creation of the autocratic rulers. Present your view for or against this statement.
- How do you describe the pros and cons of feudalism?

Writing

- Write an email to your friend living abroad stating the contributions of *Prithvi Narayan Shah* in the unification of Nepal.
- The table shows the major political movements in Nepal after the end of the Rana Regime. Write a paragraph of each event with their key contributions in the political landscape of Nepal.

S. N.	Political Movement	Year (AD)
1	Establishment of Democracy	1951
2	First General Election	1959
3	Dismissal of Elected Government	1960
4	National Referendum	1980
5	People's Movement I	1990
6	People's Movement II	2006

Grammar

A. Read this paragraph and classify regular and irregular verbs in the bold face.

About 771 BCE, a barbarian invasion **drove** the Zhou rulers eastwards. During this time, the state of Qin **became** responsible for guarding the western frontier and they gradually **moved** eastward and eventually **occupied** the original Zhou domains. Thus, the Qin **became** a close ally of the Zhou and they also **had** marriage relations with the Zhou ruling class. King Ping of Zhou (r. 770-720 BCE) **transferred** titles of the nobility and huge estates to the chief of Qin.

Past simple is used to talk about a single action or series of actions that happened in the past.

B. Complete the texts below using the correct past forms of the verbs from the bracket.

- The Maya established a very advanced civilisation in the jungles of the Yucatan. However, their culture..... (disappear) by the time Europeans first (arrive) in the New World.
- When I(turn) on the radio yesterday, I(hear) a song that was popular when I(be) at the basic level of my study. It (take) me back to some old memories.
- I was looking for a job. I.....(apply) for a job last week. Fortunately, I..... (get) it and now I am a job holder.

C. Choose the correct words from the list and complete the sentences with the correct verb form.

teach	write	see	get up	throw	cost
-------	-------	-----	--------	-------	------

- Newton.....an apple falling from the tree.
- Ramesh Bikal.....many popular stories.
- My jacket is expensive. It.....me Rs 5000.
- She.....early in the morning yesterday.
- When I was small, my father.....me at home.
- Why did you.....the cap away?

D. Put the verb into the correct form and complete the sentences.

- a. I went to see the film, but I.....it. (not/enjoy)
- b. I.....Rojina in town in a few days ago. (meet)
- c. It was very warm, so I.....my coat. (take off)
- d. Though the bed was very comfortable, I.....very well. (not/sleep)
- e. I new job last week. (start)
- f. He too busy in the office yesterday. (be)
- g. Nita..... her to the party, but she didn't come. (invite)

Listening

A. Look at the picture and answers the questions.

- a. What do you see in the picture?
- b. What do you see on the forehead?
- c. What does it symbolise?



B. Listen to the audio and write True for true statements and False for false ones.

- a. The centre of the head is similar to the centre of the universe.
- b. The secret symbol is inconsistent in different cultures and religions.
- c. The third eye connects us to the great unknown force of the universe.
- d. We are indirectly connected to the extraterrestrial beings.

C. Listen to the audio again and answer the following questions.

- a. What is the shape of the centre in human beings?
- b. Where do we see the symbol of third eye in Buddhism?
- c. What is cosmic egg?
- d. What does the cosmic egg represent?

D. Collect other information about the third eye and share with friends.

Speaking

A. Read the following text loudly.

I'm Anupama. I travelled from Jumla to Surkhet by flight on June 5, 2019. It was my first flight experience. I reached the airport at 9:30 am. After some formal chit chat, I

went for the security check. The flight was scheduled to leave at 10:00 am. The flight was on time and I had the window seat. I was waiting for the take off. Before the takeoff, the pilot made an announcement. The air hostess informed us about safety rules. Now time came... Firstly the plane moved on the runway till the opposite end. But finally it took an about-turn and the speed increased. Within a few seconds I was in the sky. The view was breath-taking. The roads and buildings seemed like lines and toys. My ears were humming initially when the plane increased the height, but later on everything was fine. Finally, I reached Surkhet at 10:30 am. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life!



B. Work in groups of five and narrate your memorable event with some exciting experiences that you had.

Project Work

Find the similarities and differences between the Qin Dynasty in China and the Rana Regime. You can search information on the internet and prepare a comparative chart. Once you complete your project, compare it with the charts from your friends.