

Qin's Tomb TERRA COTTA SOLDIERS: Can you imagine digging in your yard one day, and discovering a life-sized terracotta soldier, made 2000 years ago completely out of clay? That's what happened in China in 1974! By the time archaeologists had finished digging, they had uncovered over 6000 life-size terracotta soldiers! Some are kneeling with terracotta bows, ready to shoot. Some are standing. Some have moustaches. Some have armor. They also found terracotta horses, spears, and chariots—all life-sized, all made out of clay. It took 720,000 laborers about 34 years to create this incredible grouping. They finished just in time, right around 210 B.C.E., when First Emperor Qin died. His son, the second Qin emperor, saw to his burial.

What did Qin think of his method of fixing China's problems?

Qin did not think that his rule was cruel. "A thousand may die so that a million may live." He built roads, canals, and bridges. His public works projects probably saved millions of lives that would have been lost to floods and famine. Although many people died building the great wall, this wall did provide an advantage in war.

No rebellion occurred during the emperor's rule. He died in 210 B.C.E.. Once he was dead, his son took over. But he did not rule for long. People revolted against the Qin government all over the countryside. The peasant who led that revolt became the first emperor of the Han Dynasty.

Ch'in (Qin) Dynasty Questions:

1. What is censorship?
2. What is standardization?
3. What is bureaucracy?
4. The peasants had two jobs. What were they?
5. How were government officials chosen?

Why or why not:

Do you think government officials liked living in Qin times?

Do you think peasants liked living in Qin times?

Do you think nobles liked living in Qin times?