

▲ *Figures of dancing peasants*

generally tolerated. Large Buddhist monasteries became important centers of learning, literature, and the arts.

## SECTION 4 REVIEW

1. **Identify** (a) *The Analects*, (b) Legalism, (c) Daoism.
2. **Define** (a) filial piety, (b) alchemy.
3. Explain how each of these thinkers believed an orderly society could be achieved: (a) Confucius, (b) Hanfeizi, (c) Laozi.
4. What ethical code of conduct did Confucius promote?
5. (a) Why did Buddhism appeal to many people in China? (b) How did Buddhism adapt to Chinese traditions?
6. **Critical Thinking Analyzing Information** "Rewards should be rich and certain so that the people will be attracted by them. Punishments should be severe and definite so that the people will fear them." Which of the philosophers discussed in this section expressed these ideas? Explain.
7. **ACTIVITY** Write a dialogue between Confucius, Hanfeizi, and Laozi on the proper role of government.

## 5 Strong Rulers Unite China

### Guide for Reading

- How did Shi Huangdi unite China?
- How did Han rulers shape Chinese government?
- What advances did Han China make?
- **Vocabulary** *monopoly*

From his base in western China, the powerful ruler of Qin rose to unify all of China. An ancient Chinese poet and historian described how Zheng (JUHNG) crushed all his rivals:

“Cracking his long whip, he drove the universe before him, swallowing up the eastern and the western Zhou and overthrowing the feudal lords. He ascended to the highest position . . . and his might shook the four seas.”

In 221 B.C., Zheng proclaimed himself Shi Huangdi (SHEE hoo ahng DEE), or “First Emperor.” Though his methods were brutal, he ushered in China’s classical age.

### Triumph of the First Emperor

Shi Huangdi was determined to end the divisions that had splintered Zhou China. He spent 20 years conquering most of the warring states. Then, he centralized power with the help of Legalist advisers. Using rewards for merit and punishments for failure, he built a strong, authoritarian government.

**Sweeping changes.** The emperor abolished the old feudal states and divided China into 36 military districts, each ruled by appointed officials. Inspectors, who were actually more like spies, checked on local officials and tax collectors. Shi Huangdi forced noble families to live in his capital at Xianyang, where he could keep an eye on them, and divided their lands among peasants. Still, peasants had to pay high taxes to support Shi Huangdi’s armies and building projects.



To promote unity, the First Emperor standardized weights and measures and replaced the diverse coins of the Zhou states with Qin coins. He also had scholars create uniformity in Chinese writing. Workers repaired and extended roads and canals to strengthen the transportation system. A new law even required cart axles to be the same width so that wheels could run in the same ruts on all Chinese roads.

**Crackdown on dissent.** Shi Huangdi moved harshly against critics. He jailed, tortured, and killed many who opposed his rule. Hardest hit were the feudal nobles and Confucian scholars who despised his laws. To end dissent, Shi Huangdi approved a ruthless campaign of book burning, ordering the destruction of all works of literature and philosophy. Only books on medicine and agriculture were spared.

**The Great Wall.** Shi Huangdi's most remarkable and costly achievement was the Great Wall. In the past, individual feudal states had built walls to defend their lands against raiders. Shi Huangdi ordered the walls to be joined together. Hundreds of thousands of laborers worked for years through bitter cold and burning heat. They pounded earth and stone into a mountainous wall almost 25 feet high topped with a wide brick road. Many workers died in the harsh conditions.

Over the centuries, the wall was extended and rebuilt many times. Eventually, it snaked for thousands of miles across China.

While the wall did not keep invaders out of China, it did show the emperor's ability to mobilize vast resources. In the long run, the Great Wall became an important symbol to the Chinese, dividing their civilized world from the nomadic bands north of the wall.

**Collapse.** Shi Huangdi thought his empire would last forever. But when he died in 210 B.C., anger over heavy taxes, forced labor, and cruel policies exploded into revolts. As Qin power collapsed, Liu Bang (LEE OO BAHNG), an illiterate peasant leader, defeated rival armies and founded the new Han dynasty. Like earlier Chinese rulers, Liu Bang claimed the Mandate of Heaven. (See page 61.)

## The Han Dynasty

As emperor, Liu Bang took the title Gao Zu (GOW DZOO) and set about restoring order and justice to his empire. Although he continued earlier efforts to unify China, he lowered taxes and eased the Qin emperor's harsh Legalist policies. In a key move, he appointed Confucian scholars as advisers. His policies created strong foundations for the Han dynasty, which lasted from 206 B.C. to A.D. 220.

**Strengthening the government.** The most famous Han emperor, Wudi, took China to new heights. During his long reign from 141 B.C. to 87 B.C., he strengthened the government and economy. Like Gao Zu, he chose officials from Confucian "men of wisdom and virtue." To train scholars, he set up an imperial university at Xian.

Wudi furthered economic growth by improving canals and roads. He had granaries set up across the empire so the government could buy grain when it was abundant and sell it at stable prices when it was scarce. He reorganized finances and imposed a government monopoly

**Army in a Tomb** More than 8,000 terra cotta foot soldiers, cavalry, and chariots stand guard inside the tomb of Emperor Shi Huangdi. This life-sized army was expected to protect the First Emperor even after death. The tomb was uncovered accidentally in 1974 by a farmer who was digging a well. **Impact of the Individual** How does this tomb reflect the power of Shi Huangdi?

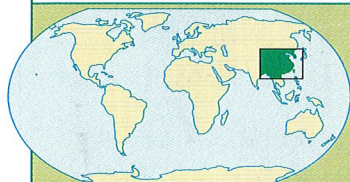




## Qin and Han Empires, 221 B.C.–A.D. 220



### GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



Under the Qin and Han dynasties, China expanded to roughly its present-day borders. Still, Chinese territory would be lost and regained many times over the centuries.

**1. Location** On the map, locate (a) the Silk Road, (b) the Great Wall, (c) Chang'an, (d) Korea, (e) Qin empire, (f) Huang He.

**2. Region** In which regions of the Han empire was silk production carried on?

**3. Critical Thinking Linking Past and Present** Study the map of Asia on page 988. Compare the extent of the Han empire with the extent of China today.

on iron and salt. A **monopoly** is the complete control of a product or business by one person or group. The sale of iron and salt gave the government a source of income other than taxes on peasants.

**Expansion.** Wudi earned the title “the Warrior Emperor” because of his endless campaigns to secure and expand China’s borders. He fought many battles to drive nomadic peoples beyond the Great Wall. Chinese armies added outposts in Manchuria, Korea, northern Vietnam, Tibet, and Central Asia. Soldiers, traders, and settlers slowly spread Chinese influence across these areas. (See map above.)

To cement alliances with nomads on the western frontier, Wudi and later emperors

arranged marriages between nomad chiefs and noble Chinese women. The loneliness of these brides became a popular theme in Chinese poems like this one:

“My people have married me  
In a far corner of Earth;  
Sent me away to a strange land . . .  
A tent is my house,  
Of felt are my walls;  
Raw flesh my food  
With mare’s milk to drink.  
Always thinking of my own country,  
My heart sad within.  
Would I were a yellow stork  
And could fly to my old home!”



# PARALLELS THROUGH TIME

## Success Stories

What is the road to success? There are as many answers to that question as there are successful people. Enterprising people have always found new and interesting ways to achieve economic prosperity. Their success is often based on ingenuity, hard work, and perseverance.

**Linking Past and Present** Do you think one needs to “dress for success”? How do today's attitudes about proper business attire differ from those of the past?



**PAST** Sima Qian, a historian of the Han dynasty, studied prosperous business people. He marveled at their many roads to success, which included plowing fields, slaughtering swine, shipping bamboo, making silk, tanning hides, sharpening knives, and drying sheep stomachs.

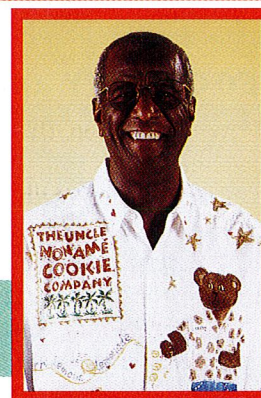
*“Wealth finds its way to the man of ability like the spokes of a wheel converging upon the hub.”*

—Sima Qian

**PRESENT** Wally Amos of the United States achieved success in the 1970s and 1980s by way of chips—chocolate chips! His cookie business started out as just a way to make a living, but quickly became a multimillion-dollar operation. After selling his first cookie company, Amos started a new one based in Hawaii.

*“I tried really hard to make it. That determination is all it takes.”*

—Wally Amos



## Silk Road to the West

**UP CLOSE** The emperor Wudi listened intently to the tales told by the traveler Zhang Qian (JAHNG chee EHN). Zhang had spent a dozen years among the barbarians of Central Asia. Far to the west, he told the emperor, was a land with an amazing breed of “heavenly horses,” stronger than any known in China.

To Wudi, the horses were an irresistible lure. He sent a huge army 2,500 miles (4,025 km) into Central Asia to get some of the marvelous beasts. His forces pushed into the Takla Makan

desert, bringing oases under their control. The emperor sent gifts of silk to help secure allies among the nomadic rulers of those distant lands.

Wudi's efforts paid off handsomely—he got his horses. He had also opened up a trade route, later called the Silk Road, that would link China and the west for centuries.

**Wondrous goods.** Strange and tempting things came to the emperor along the great Silk Road. A Chinese historian reported on one gift from a Persian ambassador:

*“To the Chinese court he presented an ostrich egg and some conjurers from*



Li-Chien [a Chinese name for the Roman Empire]. The Son of Heaven took great pleasure in these.”

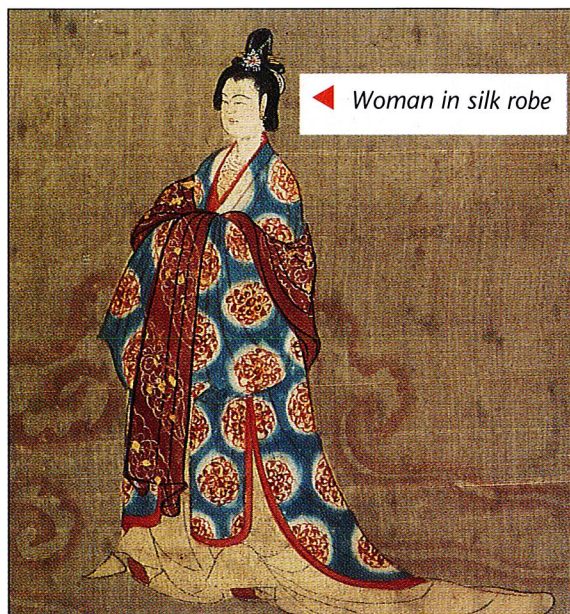
During the Han period, new foods such as grapes, figs, cucumbers, and walnuts flowed to China from western Asia. At the same time, the Chinese sent tons of silk westward to fill a growing demand for the prized fabric.

**A long, hard journey.** Setting out from China along the Silk Road, fearful travelers might begin the journey with a prayer. Beyond the borders of the Middle Kingdom lurked not only bandits and harsh terrain, but evil spirits and strange gods as well. Still, the possible rewards made the risk worth taking. So the travelers would tighten the straps on their pack animals—horses, mules, camels, or yaks laden with bundles of silk or packets of jewels and spices. In a band of 50 or more, protected by a bodyguard of archers, the caravan set forth.

Week after week, month after month, the journey continued. The traders would roast in the deserts of the Takla Makan and freeze in the snowy passes of the Pamirs. Along the way, the caravan passed lonely soldiers huddled in clay-walled forts, ever on the lookout for bands of hostile nomads.

Eventually, the Silk Road stretched for 4,000 miles (6,400 km), linking China to the Fertile Crescent. Still, few traders covered the entire distance. Instead, goods were relayed in stages from one set of traders to another. At the western end, trade was controlled by various people, including the Persians.

**Back to China.** At the end of the journey, weary merchants could complete their business and begin the journey home. Lucky traders might return to China bearing furs from Central



Asia, muslin from India, or glass from Rome. Unlucky traders might not return at all. Some died of fever under a felt tent on the steppes, or froze in snowy mountain passes, or were killed by bandits. These brave merchants had paid a grave price to keep up the flow of goods on the great Silk Road. ■

## Han Society

Han rulers left their stamp on all areas of Chinese life. Han China made such tremendous advances in so many fields that the Chinese later called themselves “the people of Han.”

**Scholar-officials.** Han emperors made Confucianism the official belief system of the state. They relied on well-educated scholars to run the bureaucracy. A scholar-official was expected to match the Confucian ideal of a gentleman. He would be courteous and dignified and possess a thorough knowledge of history, music, poetry, and Confucian teachings.

**Civil service examinations.** Han emperors adopted the idea that officials should win positions by merit rather than through family background. To find the most qualified officials, they set up a system of exams. In time, these civil service exams were given at the local, provincial, and national levels. To pass, candidates studied the Confucian classics, a collection of histories, poems, and handbooks on customs that Confucius was said to have compiled.

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

China and Rome shared goods indirectly by way of the Silk Road. Yet the two empires never made formal contact. They came close in A.D. 97, when a Han general led an army to the edge of the Caspian Sea, the nearest any Chinese army ever came to Europe. He sent an ambassador to learn more about Rome. But when Persian sea captains warned that the journey back would be long and dangerous, the ambassador turned back.



In theory, any man could take the exams. In practice, only those who could afford years of study, such as the sons of wealthy landowners or officials, could hope to succeed. Occasionally, a village or wealthy family might pay for the education of a brilliant peasant boy. If he passed the exams and obtained a government job, he, his family, and his clan all enjoyed immense prestige and moved up in society.

The civil service system had enormous impact on China for almost 2,000 years. It put men trained in Confucian thought at every level of government and created an enduring system of values. Dynasties rose and fell, but Confucian influence survived.

**Women.** Confucian teachings about filial piety and the superiority of men kept women from taking the civil service exam. As a result, government positions were closed to women. Still, a few women did receive an education, mostly nuns or members of the imperial court.

The proper behavior of both women and men was carefully spelled out. Around A.D. 100, Ban Zhao (BAHN JOW) wrote *Lessons for Women*, an influential handbook of behavior. While she did argue in favor of equal education for boys and girls, Ban Zhao stressed obedience and submission. "Let a woman modestly yield to others," she advised. "Let her respect others."

## Han Achievements

The Han period was one of the golden ages of Chinese civilization. Han scientists wrote texts on chemistry, zoology, botany, and other subjects. Han astronomers carefully observed and measured movements of the stars and planets, which enabled them to improve earlier calendars and invent better timekeeping devices.

The scientist Wang Chong disagreed with the widely held belief that comets and eclipses showed Heaven's anger. "On the average, there is one moon eclipse about every 180 days," he wrote, "and a solar eclipse about every 41 or 42 months. Eclipses . . . are not caused by political action." Wang Chong argued that no scientific theories should be accepted unless they were supported by proof.

**Advances in technology.** In its time, Han China was the most technologically advanced civilization in the world. Cai Lun, an official of the Han court, invented a method for making durable paper out of wood pulp. His basic method is still used to manufacture paper today. The Chinese also pioneered advanced methods of shipbuilding and invented the rudder to steer. Other practical inventions included bronze and iron stirrups, fishing reels, wheelbarrows, suspension bridges, and chain pumps. Some of these ideas moved west slowly, reaching Europe hundreds of years later.

**Medicine.** Chinese physicians diagnosed diseases, experimented with herbal remedies and other drugs, and developed anesthetics. Some doctors explored the uses of acupuncture. In this medical treatment, the doctor inserts needles under the skin to relieve pain or treat various illnesses.

**The arts.** The walled cities of Han China boasted splendid temples and palaces amid elegant parks. Although these wooden buildings have not survived, Han poets and historians have described their grandeur. Artisans produced delicate jade and ivory carvings and fine ceramic figures. Bronzeworkers and silkmakers improved on earlier techniques and set high standards for future generations.

## Collapse of the Han Empire

As the Han dynasty aged, signs of decay appeared. Court intrigues undermined emperors who could no longer control powerful warlords in the provinces. Weak rulers let canals



**A Dutiful Wife** This figure of a servant was buried with a Chinese princess. The lamp she is holding symbolizes eternal fidelity. Under Confucianism, wives were expected to give eternal devotion to their husbands. **Political and Social Systems** According to Confucian ideas, how did women contribute to the stability of society?



## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### Long-Term Causes

Confucian ideas dominate education  
China's isolation permits development without much outside interference  
Common system of writing evolves

### Immediate Causes

Zheng conquers eastern and western Zhou and overthrows feudal lords  
Zheng proclaims himself Shi Huangdi ("first Emperor")

## UNIFICATION OF CHINA

### Immediate Effects

Shi Huangdi standardizes weights and measures and money  
Roads and canals unify distant provinces  
Government cracks down on dissenters

### Long-Term Effects

Han dynasty is founded by Liu Bang  
China makes advances in government, trade, and transportation  
Confucian-educated officials gain monopoly of government offices  
Common culture helps China survive upheavals

### Connections Today

Mainland China remains a large, politically united country  
Chinese still share a common written language

**Interpreting Charts** Under Shi Huangdi, most of China united under a single ruler. Although China's borders continued to shift under later rulers, the First Emperor's goal of a unified state endured.  
■ How did political unification encourage advances in government, trade, and technology?

and roads fall into disrepair. Burdened by heavy taxes, peasants revolted. In A.D. 220, ambitious warlords overthrew the last Han emperor. After 400 years of unity, China broke up into several kingdoms. Adding to the disorder, invaders poured over the Great Wall and set up their own states. In time, many of these newcomers were absorbed into Chinese civilization.

During this turbulent period, Buddhism took root in China. It appealed to nomads and Chinese alike. A common faith created links among these diverse groups.

### Looking Ahead

Shi Huangdi and Gao Zu forged a vast and varied land into a united China. The two rulers established the pattern of government that would survive until 1912.

Han rulers created an empire roughly the size of the continental United States. China would undergo great changes. It would break up and be painfully reassembled over and over. But, on the whole, Chinese civilization flourished in a united land. After periods of disunity, a new dynasty would turn to Confucian scholars to revive the days of Han greatness.

## SECTION 5 REVIEW

- 1. Identify** (a) Shi Huangdi, (b) Great Wall, (c) Gao Zu, (d) Wudi, (e) Silk Road (f) Ban Zhao (g) Wang Chong.
- 2. Define** monopoly.
- 3.** What were three steps Shi Huangdi took to unify China?
- 4.** How did Han emperors increase the influence of Confucianism in China?
- 5.** Why is the Han period considered a golden age of Chinese civilization?
- 6. Critical Thinking Synthesizing Information** How did the ideas of Wang Chong challenge the ancient Chinese concept of the Mandate of Heaven? (See page 61.)
- 7. ACTIVITY** Imagine that you are a Chinese trader traveling along the Silk Road during the Han dynasty. Write a poem or a letter home describing how you feel about your journey.



## CHAPTER REVIEW

## REVIEWING VOCABULARY

Write sentences, using *five* of the vocabulary words from this chapter, leaving blanks where the vocabulary words would go. Exchange your sentences with another student and fill in the blanks on each other's lists.

## REVIEWING FACTS

1. According to Hinduism, what is the ultimate goal of existence?
2. What are the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism?
3. Describe three advances during the Gupta empire.
4. How did caste rules affect the daily lives of Indians?
5. In the view of Confucius, what duties and responsibilities did superiors and inferiors have toward one another?
6. How did the goal of Daoism differ from the goal of Confucianism?
7. What was the Silk Road?
8. What events caused the collapse of the Han dynasty?

## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

## CLASSIFYING SOURCES OF INFORMATION

**Primary sources** include official documents and first-hand accounts of events by people who witnessed or participated in them. Letters, diaries, and photos are examples of primary sources.

**Secondary sources** are written after events have occurred by people who did not witness or participate in them. Examples of secondary sources include encyclopedias, biographies, and textbooks.

Below are a list of sources about India and two passages written by Sima Qian, an official historian of Han China. Use them to answer the following questions.

**Sources of Information About India**

One of Asoka's pillars

An encyclopedia entry about Asoka

A report on the Maurya court by the Greek ambassador Megasthenes (see page 82)

*The Wonder That Was India*, a book written by the scholar A. L. Basham in 1963

A report on Gupta India by the Chinese monk Faxian (see page 85)

**Reading A**

“Confucius said, ‘Bo Yi and Shu Qi never bore old ills in mind and had not the faintest feelings of hatred.’  
...The tales of these men state that

1. **Identify primary sources.** (a) Which items on the list of information sources are primary sources? (b) Why is Reading B a primary source?
2. **Identify secondary sources.** (a) Which items on the list are secondary sources? (b) Why is Reading A a secondary source?
3. **Decide how each kind of source might be used.** What kinds of information about Maurya India might you get from the encyclopedia but not from the laws of Asoka?

Bo Yi and Shu Qi were two sons of the ruler of Kuchu. Their father wished to set up Shu Qi as his heir, but when he died, Shu Qi yielded in favor of Bo Yi.”

**Reading B**

“Li Ling and I were both stationed in the palace, but we never had a chance to become friends. Our duties kept us apart; we never shared so much as a cup of wine, let alone enjoyed a closer friendship. But I observed that he conducted himself as no ordinary gentleman. He was filial toward his parents, honest with his colleagues.”