12/12/17
Aim: How did Shi Huangdi impact political unification in China?
Did Shi Huangdi improve China?

HW: 19 & 20.
How did Shi Huangdi impact political unification in China?
Did Shi Huangdi improve China?

- Describe Shi Huangdi’s impact on political unification in China.
- Argue whether Shi Huangdi improved China.

Introduction

Think Like a Geographer

China in 260 BCE vs. China 221 BCE

Directions: Examine the maps below, then respond to the questions.

Map 1: The Warring States of China c. 260 BCE

Map 2: Qin Dynasty 210 BCE

1. How many warring states were there during the Warring States period in China?

7

2. What impact do you think warring states had on the people who lived in China?

Scary. Homes invaded. War-like conditions. Might have to fight in military.

UNIT 3 | Classical Civilizations | SQ 17. How did Shi Huangdi impact political unification in China? Did Shi Huangdi improve China?
3. Comparing the map from 260 BCE to the map from 220 BCE, what impact did Shi Huangdi have on China’s political situation?

Unified China.

4. How do you think the change from 260 to 220 BCE affected the lives of people in China?


Legalism

Directions: Read the text about Legalism and the primary source excerpt below, then complete the accompanying prompts.

Legalism was a school of Chinese philosophy that grew popular during the turbulent Warring States era (475–221 BCE) through the influence of the philosophers Shang Yang, Li Si, and Han Feizi. Legalism influenced the government of the Qin Dynasty (221–207 BCE). The Legalists believed that human beings are inherently selfish and short-sighted. Thus there can be no social harmony by choice. Instead, social harmony is achieved through strict laws, a strong central control and absolute obedience to authority. The Legalists advocated for a government that handed out strict punishments and rewards for specific behaviors. They stressed the direction of all human activity toward the goal of increasing the power of the ruler and the state.

1. Describe Legalism.
   - Philosophy of government
     - Strict laws
     - Harsh punishments

2. Shi Huangdi supported the philosophy of Legalism. How might this philosophy help him to politically unify China?

   People obey their ruler because they are afraid.

Memorial on Annexation of Feudal States, Li Si (Legalist counselor for Shi Huangdi)

Context: Li Si (d. 208 BCE) was Shi Huangdi’s prime minister and used his position to influence the emperor to use Legalist philosophy to rule. Li Si wrote Memorial on Annexation of Feudal States after Shi Huangdi and his forces successfully unified China under his rule.

Through military victories, the state of Qin has, in the time of the last six kings, brought the feudal lords [leaders in China who rivaled Shi Huangdi’s power] into submission. Now, with the might of Qin and the virtues of Your Highness [Shi Huangdi], at one stroke, like sweeping off the dust from a kitchen stove, the feudal lords can be annihilated [completely destroyed], imperial [relating to an empire] rule can be established, and unification of the world can be brought about. This is the one moment in ten thousand ages. If Your

3. According to Li Si, how did Shi Huangdi bring the “feudal lords into submission”?

Through military victories

Annihilate them.

- To prevent the feudal lords from rebelling.

4. What did Li Si recommend that Shi Huangdi do? Why did he make this recommendation?
Highness allows it to slip away and does not press the advantage in haste, the feudal lords will revive their strength and organize themselves into an anti-Qin alliance. Then no one, even though he possesses the virtues of the Yellow Emperor, would be able to annex their territories.

**SQ 17. How did Shi Huangdi impact political unification in China? Did Shi Huangdi improve China?**

**Task 1**
Desc elve Shi Huangdi’s impact on political unification in China.

**Construct Arguments**

**Task 2: Thesis Tracker**
- **Directions:** Based on the evidence you have examined so far, circle “Yes” or “No” below.

**Claim: Did Shi Huangdi improve China?**

**Directions:** Fill in the table below with the reasons and evidence that support your claim.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Protected People</th>
<th>Unified China</th>
<th>Provided Peace, Stability, Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Evidence - Built Great Wall</td>
<td>- Legalism</td>
<td>- Annexed feudal states</td>
<td>- Ended Warring States Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Army - Terracotta Soldiers show us what his army looked like</td>
<td>- Created Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>- Stopped fighting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNIT 3 | Classical Civilization | How did Shi Huangdi impact political unification in China? Did Shi Huangdi improve China?**
Go to the SQ 13 Did Shi Huangdi improve China? (Synthesis Packet) and write your thesis on the row that reads, "AFTER learning about the Terracotta Army and the Great Wall"

UNIT 3 | Classical Civilizations | SQ 17. How did Shi Huangdi impact political unification in China? Did Shi Huangdi improve China?