AIM: How did the Qin Dynasty unify China?
MOTIVATION:
1. REVIEW THE CHINESE PHILOSOPHIES.

2. WHICH PHILOSOPHY WOULD BE NEEDED FOR ANARCHY TO TERMINATE & PEACE & STABILITY TO ARISE WITHIN A STATE?
I. THE TRIUMPH OF THE QIN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPERIAL UNITY

a. The western state of Qin, led by Shi Huangdi, unified China at the end of the 3rd century. Qin rulers had nomadic origins and were regarded as barbarians by other Chinese.
II. The Transformation of a "Barbarian " Land
a. The Qin rulers introduced critical reforms strengthening their state:
1. The Qin produced better metal weapons and tools, used massed cavalry & the crossbow.
2. Peasants were freed from bondage to lords & allowed to hold land.
3. Vassal warriors were weakened & allowed the Qin to employ shi in a loyal bureaucracy, therefore enlarging armies.
III. THE LEGALIST SANCTION

a. The political centralization of the Qin was supported by statesmen known as Legalists. Shang Yang and other thinkers argued that the power of rulers should be absolute, but that they subject to the law.

b. Legalists believed that people existed to serve the state, and that strict laws and harsh punishments were required.
IV. Shi Huangdi, Emperor of China

a. **221 B.C.E.- Shi Huangdi** unified China. He ordered all regional fortresses and the weapons of local warriors destroyed.

b. Formerly independent states were replaced by provinces ruled by bureaucrats.

c. State officials developed a standard script, coinage, and weights and measures.
d. Created a defensive barrier against nomadic invaders, the **GREAT WALL**.

e. Other projects included **canals** and **roadways**.
From the Yellow Sea in the east to the Gobi Desert in the west, the Great Wall twisted like a dragon's tail for thousands of miles. Watch towers rose every 200 to 300 yards along the wall.

Although Shi Huangdi built the earliest unified wall, the wall as it exists today dates from the later Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).

In the time of Shi Huangdi, hundreds of thousands of peasants collected, hauled, and dumped millions of tons of stone, dirt, and rubble to fill the core of the Great Wall. Many who died working on the wall were buried in the core.

Slabs of cut stone on the outside of the wall enclosed a heap of pebbles and rubble on the inside. Each section of the wall rose to a height of 20 to 25 feet.
Shi Huangdi, first emperor of the Qin dynasty, used warfare to weaken six of the seven warring states. His efforts to unify China led to the consolidation of his power.

... The Qin [under Shi Huangdi] made many changes that were meant to unify China and aid in administrative tasks. First, the Qin implemented a Legalist form of government, which was how the former Qin territory had been governed. The area was divided up in 36 commanderies which were then subdivided into counties. These commanderies had a civil governor, a military commander, and an imperial inspector. The leaders of the commanderies had to report to the Emperor in writing. The Legalist form of government involved rewards and punishments to keep order. Also, the state had absolute control over the people, and the former nobility lost all of their power. The nobility were also transplanted from their homes to the capital. Groups were formed of units of five to ten families, which then had a group responsibility for the wrongdoings of any individual within the group. ...

Source: “Qin Dynasty,” EMuseum, Minnesota State University at Mankato

2 Based on this EMuseum document, what were two ways the Qin under Shi Huangdi attempted to control China?
V. THE COLLAPSE OF A TYRANNICAL REGIME

a. Shi Huangdi's harsh policies created opposition among both the shi and peasantry.
b. All but a few state-approved books were ordered destroyed.
c. Building projects stimulated a rising, which ended the dynasty in 207 B.C.E.
His [Shi Huangdi’s] most significant reforms were to standardise Chinese script [writing], weights and measures and even the length of cart axles so that every cart could run smoothly in the ruts. An extensive new network of roads and canals improved trade and the movement of troops between provinces. …

Source: “The Emperor with an ego big enough for all time,” Timesonline

Based on this document, what was one way Shi Huangdi’s actions helped China? Li Si was a strong supporter of legalism and served as the Grand Counselor to Emperor Shi Huangdi. In this passage, Li Si is responding to a scholar who has challenged the Emperor’s movement away from traditional values.

“I humbly propose that all historical records but those of Chin [Qin] be burned. If anyone who is not a court scholar dares to keep the ancient songs, historical records or writings of the hundred schools, these should be confiscated and burned by the provincial governor and army commander. Those who in conversation dare to quote the old songs and records should be publicly executed; those who use old precedents [examples] to oppose the new order should have their families wiped out; and officers who know of such cases but fail to report them should be punished in the same way.

“If thirty days after the issuing of this order the owners of these books have still not had them destroyed, they should have their faces tattooed and be condemned to hard labour at the Great Wall. The only books which need not be destroyed are those dealing with medicine, divination and agriculture. Those who want to study the law can learn it from the officers.” The emperor sanctioned this proposal. …

Source: Szuma Chien, Records of the Historian, The Commercial Press

3b According to Li Si’s proposal, what was one way Shi Huangdi could control the people of China?
Aim: How did the Han Dynasty consolidate the imperial power of China?

"At last the whole world is mine,"
the first Han emperor, Liu Bang
What is the meaning of this quote and how does it foreshadow the reign of the Han Dynasty?
I. Han Dynasty (202 BCE- 220 CE)

a. FIRST RULER: Liu Bang, a peasant village headman leading an army of soldiers, bureaucrats, & peasants.
b. Martial Emperor Han Wudi (141-187 B.C.E.): Succeeded Liu Bang, & ruled the imperial throne with vision & vigor and pursued two policies administrative centralization & imperial expansion.
II. HAN GOVERNMENT

a. Han centralization; adopted Legalist policies.

(Pax Sinica-A time of Peace)

1. Built an enormous bureaucracy to rule the empire.

2. Continued to build roads, canals, & defensive walls.

3. Levied taxes on agriculture, trade, and craft industries.

4. Imperial monopolies on production of iron and salt.

5. Established Confucian educational system for training bureaucrats- Civil Service Exam.
Based on the document, what was the purpose of the Civil Service in China during the Han Dynasty?

Questions from a Civil Service Examination in Ancient China:

1. From the earliest times great attention has been given to the improvement of agriculture. Indicate the arrangements adopted for that purpose by the several dynasties.

2. The art of war arose under Hwangte, forty-four hundred years ago. Different dynasties have since that time adopted different regulations in regard to the use of militia or standing armies, the mode of raising supplies for the army, etc. State these.

3. Give an account of the circulating medium under different dynasties, and state how the currency of the Sung Dynasty corresponds with our use of paper money at the present day.
Document 1

Source: Han government official, writing to local officials concerning flood prevention, early second century B.C.E.

I request that you establish water conservation offices in each district and staff them with people who are experienced in the ways of water. There should be one high official and one deputy with just enough workers to meet the need. For the area on both sides of each river select one person as chief hydraulic engineer. Order inspections of the waterways, the walls of the cities and their suburbs, the dikes and rivers, canals and pools, and government buildings and cottages, and supply enough workers to those who are to carry out the repair work in each district.

Document 2

Source: Huan Guan, Han government official, *Discourses on Salt and Iron*, first century B.C.E.

In earlier times workers were allowed to do both foundry work and salt-boiling as long as they reported the work and paid a tax. Tools manufactured by individual families to do this work were well-made. Today the iron tools that workers are required to use are produced by the state using convict labor; these tools are often crude and not very functional. In previous times the tools manufactured by workers for their own use and for sale were of excellent quality. Now that the state has monopolized the salt and iron trades, most of the tools provided to the workers are hard and brittle and the responsible government officials are often not available to take complaints. Good implements are hard to come by. Salt and iron are now sold at very high prices by the state and many common people cannot afford to buy either. Some of the poorest peasants now have no choice but to till the soil with wooden plows and cannot afford salt to season their food.

1) Describe each author’s opinion/perspective in these two documents.

2) Based on these documents how would you describe Chinese technology & it’s implementation & function in Chinese society?
III. HAN SOCIAL HIERARCHY

a. Three main social strata gained official recognition: the shi, ordinary free subjects, and an underclass (the "mean people“/slaves). Each had many occupational and status divisions.

b. A new class—which was part of the first class, the scholar-gentry controlled both land and office-holding and had a base in towns and rural regions.
c. CLASS AND GENDER ROLES IN HAN SOCIETY.

1. Women, especially from higher social classes had more freedom in Han times.
2. Upper class women often were educated & lower class women worked in households and in town markets.
4. At all levels, however, women were subordinate to men. Their primary function was to produce male children.
5. Males dominated households, family property, & political positions.
IV. HAN EXPANSION

a. The Han under Emperor Wudi, enlarged the empire, strengthening its borders. The Han armies extended Chinese rule to northern Korea and southward into Vietnam.
V. HAN CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

b. Silk textiles, paper production; replaced silk and bamboo as writing material.
c. Astronomers developed a 365 5 day calendar and calculated planetary movement.
d. Created the compass and seismograph.
e. Population growth: twenty million to sixty million from 220 B.C.E. to 9 C.E.
Based on the document how can the achievements of Han, be compared to the achievements of earlier Chinese dynasties, such as the Shang, Zhou, & Chin?
VI. Imperial Collapse

a. The Wang family seized power in 9 C.E. Emperor Wang Mang's reform efforts alienated the scholar-gentry and peasants.

b. In 23 C.E. he was overthrown and the Han dynasty was restored.

c. Political decline was continuous. Central authority crumbled as court factions, the scholar-gentry, emperor's wives, and regional lords dueled for power. The dynasty ended in 200 C.E.
## Two Great Empires: Han China and Rome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Han Dynasty—202 B.C. to A.D. 220</th>
<th>Roman Empire—27 B.C. to A.D. 476</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empire replaced rival kingdoms</td>
<td>Empire replaced republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centralized, bureaucratic government</td>
<td>Centralized, bureaucratic government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built roads and defensive walls</td>
<td>Built roads and defensive walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conquered many diverse peoples in regions bordering China</td>
<td>Conquered many diverse peoples in regions of three continents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At its height—area of 1,500,000 square miles and a population of 60,000,000</td>
<td>At its height—area of 3,400,000 square miles and a population of 55,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese became common written language throughout empire</td>
<td>Latin did not replace other written languages in empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing conflict with nomads</td>
<td>Ongoing conflict with nomads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire fell apart; restored by Tang dynasty in 618</td>
<td>Empire fell apart; never restored</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Skillbuilder: Interpreting Charts

1. How long did each empire last? During what years were they both in existence?
2. How were Han China and the Roman Empire similar? How were they different?