**Qin and Han China Vocabulary**

1. Warring States Period- A time of political turmoil, with regional warlords constantly challenging the authority of the Zhou Dynasty. Saw rise of three influential belief systems (Legalism, Daoism, and Confucianism)
2. Qin Dynasty- State of the Wei River Valley that rapidly conquered its rivals and created China’s first empire (221-206 BCE). Short lived dynasty; Ruler Shi Huangdi
3. Shi Huangdi- Founder of the short-lived Qin dynasty; standardized many features of the Chinese society (laws, currencies, script) and ruthlessly marshaled subjects for military and construction projects, engendering hostility that led to the fall of his dynasty shortly after his death; tomb with army of terracotta soldiers; forced subjects to contribute their labor to build public works like the first fortifications of the Great Wall of China.
4. Han Dynasty- Dynasty of emperors who ruled from 202 BCE to 220 CE; de-emphasized legalism in favor of a government based on Confucian values; expanded Chinese frontiers and trade contacts.
5. Gaozu- The throne name of Liu Band, one of the rebel leaders who brought down the Qin and founded the Han dynasty in 202 BCE.
6. Terracotta Soldiers- Shi Huangdi monumental tomb with life-sized sculptures of seven thousand soldiers to guard him in his after life.
7. Chang’an- City in the Wei River Valley in eastern China; capital of the early Han empire
8. Buddhism- A religion of eastern and central Asia growing out of the teaching of Siddhārtha Gautama that suffering is inherent in life and that one can be liberated from it by cultivating wisdom, virtue, and concentration.
9. Legalism- Belief system that humans were naturally evil and would only obey authority through force. They advocated strict laws, harsh punishments, and sacrifice of personal freedom for the good of the state.
10. Daoism (Taoism)- Shunned political and military ambitions; guided followers toward nature for comfort and understanding; emphasized acceptance and individual retreat from society.
11. Confucianism- Emphasized the importance of hierarchical, harmonious relationships in the creations of an orderly society (everyone has a place in society); family is the foundation of society and serves as a model for benevolence, duty, and courtesy.
12. Mandate of Heaven- The emperor had the support of the heavens as long as he was good ruler.
13. Filial Piety- Notably in Confucianism; a virtue of respect for one’s parents, elders and ancestors.
14. Scholar-gentry class- Controlled large amounts of land and bureaucratic positions in government
15. Silk Road- Network of trade routes which connected the East and West. Many goods and ideas were exchanged, including religions (such as Buddhism). China greatly benefited from this trade.