



Non-Fiction

Group 1

The Terracotta Warriors

American International School Hong Kong, Kwon, Hojoon Patrick - 7

Emperor Qin became emperor when he was only 13 years old. When he was born, his name was Zheng. Then he changed his name to Qin Shi Huang Di. Which meant ‘the first emperor of China’. Emperor Qin conquered the 6 surrounding kingdoms. In present, we call all of the 7 kingdoms [including Qin] China.

Emperor Qin ordered people to build the Great Wall of China for the defense of the war. One day, Emperor Qin said to his warriors, “Make an army of clay statues in the place where I’m buried”. Why did he say that? You may ask. He thought that his clay made warrior will protect him in the afterlife.

The first terracotta warrior was found by a farmer who worked in Xian, China. Archaeologists found nearly 2000 of them. Archaeologists think there are 8000 total. There are also 130 chariots along with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses. Each statue has its own facial expressions. Even the horses have its own facial expressions. There were even wild animal statues beside the terracotta warriors. It took 40 years to finish the terracotta army. Before anyone had found the terracotta warriors, they were buried for 22 centuries. The pits where they were buried is nearly 4 football fields.

I wonder what part of history in China will be discovered now.

The Amazing Terracotta Warriors

American International School Hong Kong, Ng, Yu-Zhi Maegan - 6

Terracotta warriors are amazing! They are clay soldiers that were buried with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di. Qin Shi Huang Di was an amazing man himself: he became king in 246 B.C. when he was only 13 years old! He built roads and canals, and started building the Great Wall of China. He was a very powerful king, but he also made many enemies. So, he ordered workers to make the terracotta warriors to accompany and protect him in the afterlife.

Terracotta warriors are amazing because there are so many of them! So far, about 2000 terracotta warriors have been found, but many more are still buried. It is estimated that there are as many as 8000 terracotta warriors in the emperor's tomb.

Terracotta warriors are amazing because they are unique! Each terracotta warrior is as tall as a real man, and each one of them looks different, just like in the real world where no two persons look the same. They have different costumes, hairstyles, facial expressions and even ear shapes!

Terracotta warriors are amazing because they form an orderly army! The clay soldiers were placed into pits, all facing the east where the emperor's enemy states were, together with their weapons, clay horses and chariots. There are stories about miniature cities and rivers of mercury inside the vast tomb still waiting to be discovered. Indeed, the emperor made sure that he would be as powerful in the afterlife as he was in life!

Terracotta warriors are amazing because their creation required a lot of people's hard work! Such an impressive army of clay soldiers took 700,000 workers more than 30 years to make. Even so, the work was never finished: an empty pit was found in the emperor's tomb, where more clay soldiers were to be placed.

Terracotta warriors are amazing because we continue to learn new things from them today! These clay soldiers were made more than 2000 years ago. Even though it has been more than 40 years since they were discovered, scientists today are still thinking of new ways to study them. For example, scholars are still trying to figure out how workers were able to make each terracotta warrior look unique. Recently, scientists have also found ways of preserving the paint on the clay soldiers so that we can learn more about how people lived and dressed more than 2000 years ago.

If you have a chance to visit the terracotta warriors, I am sure you will find them amazing too!



Non-Fiction

Group 2

Terracotta Troubles

Kau Yan School, Gittings, Rebecca - 10

It was one of the most famous accidental discoveries in history. Farmer Yang Zhifa had been digging a well for three days in Xiyang village, 35 kilometres east of the city of Xian in north-western China. Suddenly he and a few friends made a discovery that would change the lives of everyone in their village. On 29 March 1974, his shovel hit something unusually hard. When he dug it out, he discovered a strangely shaped terracotta object that looked like a head without a body.

None of them knew this would be the beginning of one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. Nor could they have guessed that it would start a chain of events that would see Yang and his fellow villagers forced to leave their 200 year old village to make way for a museum that now attracts millions of visitors every year.

Yang thought the object was part of an ancient kiln. Some of the other villagers worried the discovery could cause trouble for the village because China was then still in the final stages of a 10 year campaign called the Cultural Revolution in which most historical objects were seen as bad things. So other villagers urged Yang and his friends to rebury the object. But Yang refused, saying it should be shown to the county Cultural Relics Bureau. Together with his friends, they took three cartfuls of terracotta relics into town, but all the bureau gave them was 30 Chinese yuan. They gave the money to their village and received a tiny reward of 13 Chinese fen (which is worth less than one Hong Kong dollar) in return.

Yang's discovery of the terracotta soldiers has brought great benefits to our understanding of ancient Chinese culture. Sometimes called the eighth wonder of the world, the thousands of terracotta soldiers have given us an amazing insight into the First Emperor's rule over China and the phenomenal skills of Qin Shi Huang's craftsmen. The terracotta soldiers are, without doubt, a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Chinese history. They have brought visitors from around the world to gape at the three pits containing the splendor of the terracotta army. Some people have made money selling souvenirs and other services to the tourists and, for a few people, the discovery has been a gold mine. For example, one villager started a factory producing replica warriors and now sells them all over the world for up to 10,000 yuan each.

But not everyone has benefited from the influx of visitors and some have even suffered as a result. Among the most unlucky are Yang's fellow villagers who have been forced from their homes to make way for exhibition halls, coach parks and gift shops for the visitors. In China, when the government tells you to move, you often have little choice and receive little compensation. Although the villagers were paid 300 yuan for each 600 square metre piece of land they lost, they had to pay 8000 yuan per person for new homes to be built elsewhere. Some of the villagers were so unhappy that they complained about a "curse of the terracotta army". They were so angry with Yang that he had to move out of the village to avoid their hostile stares.

Yang was luckier than most of the other villagers because he got a job signing books for visitors who want the autograph of the man who discovered the terracotta warriors. But being famous has its price. A Chinese newspaper described Yang as an illiterate who couldn't write his own name and could only draw three circles as his signature. A furious Yang sued the newspaper and received 20,000 yuan in compensation. That money came in handy when Yang stopped signing books some years ago, and found himself with no income at all.

Even whether Yang Zhifa really discovered the terracotta warriors has been challenged by other villagers trying to make money signing books for visitors. Yang Quanyi, for example, has set up another table outside the exhibition hall and tells visitors that he is the true discoverer of the terracotta warriors.

The tale of the discovery of the terracotta warriors is an interesting example of how the lives of so many people can be changed so much by an accidental discovery. As Yang Zhifa has said, if he had dug another foot in the other direction he would have missed the discovery that made him famous. Perhaps someone else would have found the terracotta warriors later on, we'll never know. But most likely Yang would never have signed any books, and instead spent his whole life farming.

Some people have benefited from the discovery, including Yang for the most part. But others have suffered, including many of his fellow villagers. Some must surely wish that he'd taken their advice to rebury the object he found, instead of taking it to the county Cultural Relics Bureau.

It would be a tragedy if other villagers who find historical objects in the future decide it is better to rebury those objects, instead of revealing them to the world. Archaeological tourism is something which every country must handle carefully to make sure its benefits are bigger than the disadvantages. There are international guidelines which say that archaeological sites should work closely with the local population and respect their values, ideals and rights. That's something which the Chinese government should remember when managing the terracotta warriors' site. The aim should be that no one will ever regret making an archaeological discovery.

The lesson to be learnt from this tale is that historical artifacts are important, but so are the people affected by their discovery.

Mixed Feelings visiting the Terracotta Warriors

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Lau, Sze Tung - 11

Last year in the Easter holiday, I went to China with my parents and little brother. We visited a lot of places as China is filled with modern and old culture. Skyscrapers fill the sky in Shanghai; on the other hand, Beijing has the Great Wall which is over 2000 years old. The contrast is so striking and it makes the whole country interesting to explore. Among all the interesting places I visited, I was most impressed with this incredible sightseeing spot – the Terracotta Warriors, which was where the King Qin Shi Huang was buried after his death.

At first, my brother and I were so reluctant to visit the tomb because we were told it was where the dead people are buried. My dad said paying a visit to this tomb is an opportunity of a lifetime. Even though we had reluctant hearts, we seemed to have no choice but to join them..... Now, I have to admit that we were lucky we booked the tour as there were some unbelievable facts that I was made aware of during this trip.

On our way to the tomb, the tour guide briefed us about the history of the Terracotta Warriors in his tranquil tone. I could tell that he must have done this a thousand times already for he was so familiar with the content, like he was reciting a poem. Although his tone raised no excitement, the background of the tomb did. In 1974, a group of farmers digging wells near Xian in China staggered upon this big tomb complex. It was one of the most shocking archaeological discoveries of all time, not only in China but all around the world. This discovery prompted Chinese archaeologists to investigate. The construction of the figurine group involved huge efforts. To be more specific, heads, arms, legs and torsos of Terracotta army figures were created separately and then assembled. The soldiers are all man-sized but vary in height, uniform and hairstyle in accordance with their ranks and duties. We were told that the project took more than thirty years to complete and more than seven hundred thousand people were dragged in to help finish it. I could not believe that it took this enormous crowd of people only thirty years to finish this project. After digesting so many

facts about the Terracotta Warriors, I figured out that manpower is much more powerful than machine power, if people work together with spirit. In that kind of situation, back then in 221 B.C, it was so incredible that manpower could create such a great achievement.

But why would someone with such a power and energy command a construction of such a huge project? The answer is King Qin - one of the legendary kings in ancient Chinese history. He was born in 260 B.C. and became the ruler of China at the age of 13. He died at the age of 50. It is believed, the reason why King Qin built this tomb was due to his cultural beliefs. Ancient Chinese believed that the items and even people buried with a person could be taken with them to the afterlife. The formation of Terracotta Warriors was the consequence of his cultural belief.

While standing inside the museum listening to the tour guide's briefing, I had mixed feelings. If I was an archeologist, this complex tomb would certainly be a huge treasure for me. Digging the history of Dynasty Qin inside out and learning more about our country's ancient culture and traditions would be indeed a lifetime experience. The fact is, this tomb complex is the biggest tomb in the world and no king has ever made an achievement so humongous as this one. However, what about the fate of people living in the time of Dynasty Qin? I pity those greatly, more than seven hundred thousand people involved in this project. They had suffered terribly for as long as over thirty years. A lot of human lives must have been lost during the construction stage.

Coincidentally, my school had a debate on "King Qin", in the first semester of this year. Having visited his tomb, I found myself engaged in the discussion whole-heartedly. King Qin had made a lot of achievements and the impacts are still noticeable and affecting even today's generations. Just to name the few, he had built the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors. At the age of 39, he united China after conquering all other warring states. After that he unified the Chinese script and currency. During his short yet meaningful ruling years, he had made China a strong and undefeatable country. People were grateful for his intelligent mind, but in the minds of the ones who suffered, he had killed a lot of people in order to uphold his ruling.

For centuries, people have debated and still do about his merits and demerits. The debate will continue and shall inspire us to think. I thank my dad for giving me this chance to visit the Terracotta Warriors, for he knows well what inspires kids to think.



Non-Fiction

Group 3

Ears and Arrowheads

Chinese International School, Fung, Liam - 14

The Terracotta Warriors are seen by many as the eighth wonder of the world, an engineering marvel. But even though they were discovered in 1976 and have been under excavation and study for about 40 years now, we still have only a vague idea about how they were made. Recently, some research has been done, allowing scientists to discover more about production methods.

The Terracotta Warriors were constructed to keep Emperor Qin Shih Huang's soul safe in the afterlife. Approximately 8000 soldiers and 600 horses have been unearthed, and there are still many that are trapped under the dirt in undug sites. The Army was built on his command and was buried along with him around 210–209 BC. The tomb was sealed, and it was forgotten in the sands of time for over two thousand years. The Qin Dynasty was the first time China was completely united, and therefore was historically significant. Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of knowledge about this period in time, as the warriors were buried and then suddenly disappeared through history, and Qin Shih Huang ordered the burning of many books documenting events through this era in history, so the only way to really know much about this period of history is to examine artifacts and weapons. As the Terracotta Army contains a lot of weapons and reveals a lot about army formations during the Qin Dynasty, it is an momentous discovery.

In 1976, farmers in Shaanxi were digging a well and accidentally discovered the Terracotta Army. Initial excavation took years and was precarious. The government did not want to damage the soldiers or somehow cause the whole excavation to go wrong. The stability of dirt near the undug sites is unconfirmed, and it is risky to continue excavating as it is possible the site could cave in or collapse into itself, ruining the warriors and ruining the site. After a significant portion of the site was unearthed, it was clear that this discovery was extremely important and could help scientists discover a lot about Qin Shih Huang's reign. Following the initial excavation, scientists quickly moved on to studying the warriors and begun investigations into production methods and metal compositions.

Just in March of 2014, scientists believed they had discovered the method according to

which the warriors were made, the “cellular manufacturing system”. A cellular manufacturing system is actually quite simple – within each cell, an entire warrior was made from beginning to end. Skilled craftspeople made the mold of the warrior’s body, poured clay into the mold, painted the warrior and made weapons out of wood and bronze to arm the warrior. All of this happened in a single cell while, nearby, other cells were doing the same thing. This is a very different process from, say, the modern assembly line method. The cellular manufacturing system was used to create both the bodies of the warriors and the weapons they wielded, and ensured that the weapons would be very high quality. By examining the arrowheads of the warriors, the manufacturing system was deduced. It was discovered that their metal compositions differed somewhat from one group to the next. Since this would not make sense had the arrowheads been constructed using a conventional assembly line, scientists deduced that the cellular manufacturing system was the reason. Because there is no way that there could be such a large variance in metal composition if all the metal came from a single operator’s stockpile, the only way that there could be such a large variance is if there were many different craftspeople creating arrowheads from many stockpiles of metal.

Not only were the warriors within a given group of 500 different from those in other groups, but each individual warrior, it has been discovered, was unique. This has been discovered through comparing their ears. Scientists found that no two ears of the thousands of soldiers were the same. This highlights the amazing detail that the workers put into each and every one of the warriors. Each warrior was not simply put into a cast, poured out, and stood up, they were slowly constructed little by little, limb by limb. The research was painstakingly slow and tedious – scientists had to note details of the warriors, while at the same time making sure they didn’t touch the warriors and damage them. The scientists measured the warriors by taking 360 degree photos of the ears, then rendered them on a computer screen as a 3D model, then measured them.

Personally as a very curious teenager, I believe that there is still a lot to reveal about the Terracotta Warriors. A few questions I still have in mind for scientists today are: Firstly, how was the knowledge of the location of Qin Shih Huang’s tomb lost suddenly? It took a whole lot of coincidence to discover the location of the warriors, how did it just vanish into thin air like that? Secondly, why didn’t scientists simply measure the warriors’ chests instead of having to go through all the trouble to measure their ears? Wouldn’t measuring their chests be a lot easier and a lot quicker than measuring their ears? Finally, I wonder if we will ever be able to prove that the cellular manufacturing system was definitely what was used to create the warriors, as all we have now is a deduction and no solid proof it was actually this way. Until proven wrong, we just have to kind of assume that this is the case and that this is the truth.

It’s estimated that only around ten percent of the entire vast army has been unearthed and excavated. By discovering this amazing monument to Chinese engineering and technology, we have already uncovered swathes of knowledge and history previously unknown to us. The more we dig, the more questions we ask, and the more we question our previous research. A lot more can be known about these warriors, but not much has been answered so far, and we seem to be drawing near to the limits of our knowledge, unfortunately.

Although this is the case, and even though we may never know everything about the mysterious Terracotta Warriors, curiosity will lead our charge into the depths of Qin Shih Huang’s tomb.

The Warriors and the Self-Made God

Sha Tin College, Chan, Cyrus - 12

The discovery of the Terracotta Warriors was the greatest archaeological find of the 20th Century. A mass collection of over 8000 individual soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, each and every piece uniquely handcrafted with no two warriors alike. Each individual soldier lined up in battle formation, representing the power of the Qin Dynasty. This creations reason of existence– the protection of the Emperor in his afterlife. However elaborate, breathtaking and astonishing this collection may sound, the discovery of this hoard has raised more questions than given answers. Some of these questions end up being quite outrageous and controversial. This leads us to the ultimate question to sum it all up “Was Qin Shi Huang taking over the role of God?” If he was, did he succeed and leave behind an everlasting legacy?

Qin Shi Huang was the first Emperor of China and was the first to unite all of the warring states. During his reign, his accomplishments were vast, with the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors both under his belt. Towards the end of his time on the throne, Qin Shi Huang became obsessed with immortality and after many futile attempts; Qin Shi Huang began the construction of the Terracotta Warriors, designed with the intentions of protecting him in the afterlife. These warriors were stored to the east of Xi’an in Shaanxi Province. Individually, each warrior was hand sculpted and molded from clay. Hundreds and thousands of artists and sculptors were hired to create this army of clay, however the sheer quantity of the Terracotta Warriors meant the sculptors and artists were assigned each exclusively to produce a specific part. This is one of the earliest evidence of an assembly line being used.

The mausoleum consists of three main vaults, with an additional empty fourth vault hinting that the mausoleum was never completed the way it was originally intended to be. In the first and largest vault, there stand columns of soldiers at the front with chariots in the back. The second vault contained a thousand soldiers and dozens of wooden chariots. The most important third and final vault included a command center of the armed forces with

generals, officers, soldiers, horses and a war chariot. Within these chambers, the warriors could be distinguished by their clothing. Generals wore a dual long sleeved jacket, a crested hat, long pants with thigh protectors and boots with a square toe opening. Middle level officers had two types of clothing; the first included a long jacket, thigh protectors, and boots with a square toe opening also, a chest plate trimmed with lace and a double long hat. The second included a high collar gown, thigh protectors and the same boots. Soldiers wore traditional chest plates and armor which appear to be consistent with the uniform during the Qin dynasty. The weapons they carried had been crafted and designed to last with the use of chrome.

The magnitude and scale of the Terracotta Warriors was huge. In today's day and age, we see the warriors as an impressive art collection, a part of our history. A lot of people don't question at what price did this come at? The sacrifices he made to produce the Terracotta Warriors were insurmountable. Even though he was the Emperor, the communities' highest authority in command, does that grant him the right to abuse his power and push the boundaries and limits of mankind? This possibly leads us to perceive during his reign, was Qin Shi Huang drunk with power? So consumed in himself, he believed he was in fact God? Considering he was capable of uniting the warring states, Qin Shi Huang already had accomplished the impossible. The people of China would have depicted Qin Shi Huang as a God, the great power, granting him the loyalty and respect only a God would get, satisfying his power cravings. They spoiled him, causing him to delude, making him perceive himself as omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. With this amount of power he was being given, Qin Shi Huang himself perhaps believed that he could gain immortality, could 'cheat the system' and rule eternally. By making the Terracotta Warriors, Qin Shi Huang may have had the intentions of replicating his empire into clay form while he further indulges himself, playing the role of God. This last attempt at immortality seemed quite a possible, realistic feat to Qin Shi Huang with all the power that he had been given. Another argument was the army was built for the protection of his people and his land at times of need. Magic and witchery were quite commonly practiced so that the theory isn't quite farfetched.

Despite being one of the greatest 20th Century archaeological finds, at the time of its creation no living soul was able to experience its glory; the Terracotta Warriors was perhaps the biggest kept secret. This build however, did have its repercussions. Firstly the exhaustion of labor and materials, majority of the states that were in development, there undoubtedly could have been much more fruitful, constructive use of those resources. Perhaps the continuation of the Great Wall, the creation of additional road networks, the improvement of irrigation systems or changes to the imperial court? On a larger scale there were also the deaths of artists, sculptors and workers checking in at a hefty number of 700,000. At the time, did this collection of statues better or change their community in any shape, way or form or were the laborers' hard work all in vain? On the contrary, if he took the Warriors public it would have become a symbol of strength, power and wealth for the nation to believe in and for the world to fear; and more importantly, a boost of morale for the population, uniting states.

The success he displayed and the way he is immortalized are some of the reasons why he still is reckoned as one of the greatest leaders of all time. As previously mentioned, he brought together the warring states, standardized multiple systems including the governing methods of China which allowed for easier management. For his people, he created new measurements and currency units to allow for fair and equal trade. This indirectly furthered their economy and eliminated the chaos between businesses and trades. Moreover, he also improved irrigation systems which meant farmers had more fertile crops, improved road networks for more sophisticated transportation methods between states and individual state defenses

to defend against the Mongols in the north. With these improvements and upgrades Qin Shi Huang was able to give actual value to people's belongings and businesses. There is no doubt that Qin Shi Huang improved his empire for many years to come. Arguably with the implementations he implanted within China before his death, he was ruling beyond his grave.

Ultimately, there is one thing that deserves questioning, how superstitious did Qin Shi Huang have to be to believe clay soldiers were capable of protection? Like many ancient emperors of China, Qin Shi Huang was deeply superstitious and embarked on the lifelong journey of seeking immortality even more so after three assassination attempts. The thought of death itself terrified him. He believed in magic and an elixir that could grant him an everlasting life.

Although Qin Shi Huang's physical form did not make the cut for immortality, there are still many debates that in actuality in fact he did. To begin, the Terracotta Warriors are probably the one thing he is most widely known for along alongside the Great Wall. The Great Wall of China lived on to become one of the Five Wonders of the world, a jaw dropping tourist attraction and a stunning piece of architecture. Obviously this is just one of the many noteworthy contributions Qin Shi Huang had made to his people and the world, but what does all this mean? Returning back to the topic of immortality; immortality can also be classified or measured by the legacy one leaves behind and if that's so, many can agree his is in fact, immortal. From being studied by archeologists, historians and children in schools and read about by the common people, the world is still fascinated and curious about him till this day.

The Terracotta Warriors have endured the test of time, in our modern day life it is still heard and talked of. It is more than just a tourist attraction, it was a pioneer for areas like art, the assembly line and weapons design. With all that being said, the truth is still untold. Most records of the events during the Qin Dynasty were written 200 years after, leading to inaccuracy or faulty records. The only chance the truth may be revealed is the unveiling of Qin Shi Huang's grave. Whether the truth will ever be told or remain a mystery, there is one thing for certain, the Terracotta Warriors have left behind an everlasting legacy alongside Qin Shi Huang.



Non-Fiction

Group 4

Non-Fiction – Group 4

Death's Grip

Creative Secondary School, Liu, Sophie - 17

We all knew that human cannot be resurrected from death, but even dead bodies can be influential symbols of power. China as one of the four civilizations, inherits a number of superstitious beliefs on death. Emperor, the son of heaven who stands on top of all the classes, demonstrates these notions to the most extreme extent. The first Qin emperor's mausoleum is one of the most remarkable. Being at the center of power, the death of emperor is extraordinarily meaningful, lending its significance too down the centuries to the death of modern-day leaders. China nowadays is still maintaining her mausoleums as a big show of power and it's favourably comparable to the mass scale of terracotta warriors.

Dating back to the Qin dynasty, the construction of Qin emperor's tomb demonstrates his absolute control over the people. Based on the vast scale of construction projects such as the mausoleum, the Great Wall, palace and roads, the beads of people's sweat could have been gathered to form the Yellow River. Therefore, the enormity of the creation of the terracotta warriors and the delicately crafted statues can in their darkest sense, be seen to symbolize a mass grave. All this effort paid was purposed to protect the afterlife of the emperor. This demonstrates his manipulation of the people.

Once his dynasty was overthrown, a fire destroyed parts of the terracotta army. The most convincing theory proclaimed that the rebels lead by Xiang Yu carried out such destruction. This event elaborates on the existence of the tomb as a symbol of Qin's power. Soon after his dynasty vanished, his mausoleum no longer was protected. Undoubtedly, his clay army is a projection of Qin's dictatorship.

Although modern China abandons some of the old shibboleth on burial, a new and odd custom is developed. After Mao Ze Dong died, the chairman of the China Communist Party, he was not buried with any such mass of funerary objects, but was instead, kept in a glass coffin long-term. Despite his will declaring his wish to be cremated, his wish was altered by a political power struggle. His successor Huo Guo Feng was the one who greatly encourage preserving his body in glass coffin for displacement so that people could pay their respect. This action was to continue the cult of Mao as means of consolidating Guo's power in the

party. Similar to Qin building the terracotta army as an impressive demonstration of his throne, the politician's body remains a tool to solidify power.

It is also worth mentioning that China is not the only country to preserve their leader's body. Most of the socialist leaders such as Lenin in Soviet Union, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam and Kim Jong-il in North Korea were kept in glass coffins also. The display of their bodies is purposed to continue to be influential even after they died. Mao's remains are used to continue Mao's fanaticism. Just as like Qin to build the terracotta army as a method of control, so the politician's remains a tool to manipulate power.

In spite of the mausoleums of both Qin and Mao symbolize power; the nature of both events is different. Qin had an intended construction of the tomb since 13 years old, whilst the displacement of Mao contradicted his will. Mao did not calculate the show of power through his own body. The instigators of these events are different. Moreover, the manipulations of the people are by different approaches. On the one hand, the Qin emperor enforced physical impact on the people. People were preoccupied by the immense amount of hard labor. The atmosphere of fear rendered the people's complain into speechless. On the other hand, politician used Mao's body to influence people's ideology. By allowing people to get a glimpse of their leader, the significance of the hero of communist China is repeatedly emphasized even today. Therefore, people are still fascinated by Maoist revolutionary ideas through the successful depiction of Mao's heroic image.

On the whole, the deaths of the leaders were made advantageous, showing us the influence of dead bodies. Although the benefits of the leaders' burial were exploited through distinct methods, they both inevitably signify power. Even after they have died, people's lives continue to be shaped by their unforgiving souls.

Conspiracy of Terracotta Warriors

Discovery College (Secondary), Woo, Nicole - 14

China is known to have countless historical attractions, such as, the infamous Great Wall and Forbidden City in Beijing. However, the Terracotta Army must not be excluded from one's list of must-sees when travelling, as it is one of the top attractions in China. Gaining its significance due to the hundreds of detailed life-size models, representing the army that triumphed over all other Chinese armies in the Warring States Period and ushered the united imperial China era 2,200 years ago, it is considered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world, and one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.

Many believe that the Terracotta Warriors are the greatest collection of terracotta sculptures in the world. However, the name should be changed to Terracotta Worriers, as it will better describe the designer – Qin Shihuang, the first Emperor of China, the reason and purpose behind these monuments.

Background Information

A quick review before we submerge into an ocean of information: The Qin Tomb Terracotta Warriors and Horses (秦陵兵马俑 in Chinese), feature hundreds of life-size models of soldiers, horses and chariots in battle array. It was constructed in 246-206 BC., and with the tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang, it took 720 thousand builders.

But, one may ask, why were the Terracotta Warriors made? First Emperor Qin, from whom China gets its name, ordered the creation of this army of terracotta statues, to be buried with him. Supposedly, it is said that it was a show of his glory, to remember the army that triumphed over the other Warring States to unite China, and because it was believed that objects like statues could be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army. However, the real reason of why these statues were made remains unknown, as there is no record in history showing why it was built.

Laid underground for more than 2000 years, farmers digging a well in 1974 uncovered what is now considered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world. The first part of the Terracotta Army site to be discovered was named Vault One. In 1976, two other vaults were uncovered about 20 meters away, and were named Vault Two and Vault Three. In December 1987, UNESCO selected the Tomb of the First Emperor (including the Terracotta Army Vaults) as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

Thousands of life-size, vivid terracotta warriors in battle formation were revealed in the course of excavation of the earth and timber vaults – a whole army that would accompany

their emperor into immortality. The horsemen, the longbow bearers, the archers, and the senior officers and generals were positioned in a grand ancient army formation, in strict accordance with the ancient directives on the Art of War. Every figure differs in facial features and expression, clothing, hairstyle, and gestures, providing abundant artifacts for the study of the military, cultural, and economic history of that period. Imagine if you were the designer, the number of soldiers you would need to make would be much more than your following on social media.

Many of the figures originally held real weapons of the time, such as bronze swords, longbows, arrows, spears, dagger-axes, and other long-shafted weapons. The weapons were treated to make them resistant to rust and corrosion, so that even after being buried for over 2,000 years they were still sharp.

The museum mainly consists of three vaults and an exhibition hall: Vault One, Vault Two, Vault Three, and The Exhibition Hall of the Bronze Chariots. The vaults are arrayed as the buried army was in strict accordance with the ancient directives on the Art of War: facing east towards the ancient enemies of Qin State (and towards the entrance), with Vault One on the right flank, Vault Two on the left flank, and Vault Three a command post at the rear.

Vault One is the largest and most impressive — the size of an airplane hangar. It is believed to contain over 6,000 terracotta figures of soldiers and horses, but less than 2,000 are on display. All soldiers and horses face east in a rectangular array. The vanguard appears to be three rows of infantry who stand at the easternmost end of the army. Close behind is the main force of armored soldiers holding weapons, accompanied by 38 horse-driven chariots.

Excavation and restoration is still ongoing at vaults two and three. Excavated in 1976, Vault Two stands about 20 meters north to Vault One. As the highlight of the whole mausoleum, it uncovers the mystery of the ancient army array. It consists of four units, measuring 94m east to west and 84m south to north and 5m deep, forming a 6000m² built-up area. The first unit contains rows of kneeling and standing archers; the second one is a chariot war array; the third unit consists of mixed forces with infantry, chariot and trooper standing in rectangular array; and the last one includes troopers holding weapons.

Vault Three is the smallest one. There are only 68 terracotta figures, many of which are without heads. It's obvious that Vault Three represents the command post, as all the figures are officials.

The two bronze carriages at the Exhibition of Bronze Chariots displayed in the hall were discovered 20 meters from the west side of the Tomb of Qin Shihuang in December 1980, and were elaborately restored before exhibition. The carriages have about 3,400 parts each and were driven by four horses.

The bronze horses vary from 65 cm to 67 cm high and 120 cm long, weighing 1,234 kg in total. The carriages were so well-made, and so vivid, that they boast being the best-preserved and having the highest rank among the earliest known bronze relics in China. These chariots are the biggest pieces of ancient bronzeware ever found in the world.

Designer of the Terracotta Warriors and horses

Qin Shihuang Di (the first emperor) reigned for eleven years over the first large empire in the region. He was born the son of a king in a kingdom that already had plans for the conquest of every other Warring State and had been preparing for conquest for years by mobilizing the masses for massive construction projects, conscripting the people for the army, and producing the most advanced weaponry that they could. Military might and conquest was their major goal aside from the continued rule of their king. The State of Qin rulers believed

in a political philosophy called Legalism, which justified strict centralized control and using the people to strengthen Qin. He and his top officials followed the dictates of this philosophy by first conquering the region (in which they conquered every other region of the former Zhou Empire and some surrounding peoples as well) and then conscripting everyone for their projects of construction and foreign conquests, as they believed that part of strengthening his rule was to force everyone to simply obey and not speak out against him, by decreeing even how people could write, what they could believe, and what they should do. The society was centralized to the point that every dissenter against the rule of the court was destroyed or sent for forced labor, and most literature was destroyed. Even Qin Shihuang's own son was demoted and sent to construct the Great Wall because he dissented against him. He succeeded in molding the people to become more similar, to build massively, and to conquer more territory. The absolute power that they wanted for themselves corrupted them, and the dynasty quickly ended in foolish policies and the people rebelled.

During their rule, they made the first Great Wall on their northern borders that was a high wall and a fortification to keep out northern tribes like the Xiongnu. They built countless roads and canals for the transport of troops and supplies, as well as the Qin Mausoleum and Terracotta Army. The Qin court succeeded in unifying the empire and retaining control for 15 years; they standardized the writing system, money, and measurements and built a lot of infrastructure that helped the big region prosper later; and by destroying the ideas and teachers who they were against, they established the dominant philosophies of their big region.

He killed many scholars and officials, and imposed his harsh rule. It wasn't hard to see why many people hated Qin Shihuang; hence there were many assassination attempts against him. He wanted to live forever, and rumors say he may have taken poisonous substances from Daoists to try to gain immortality.

The Qin Dynasty ended in suicide and death. But during their short reign starting from their wars for conquests, they destroyed more than half of the population (estimated to have dropped from 40 to 18 million within their reign) and much of the culture, literature and scholarship of the Zhou era. In carrying out their plans, they caused enormous misery and destruction. There was a standardized written language for the whole empire that was promulgated by Li Si. This writing system became the common literary language for the whole region afterwards until the modern era. By standardizing aspects like writing and religion, they laid the foundation for later empires. But, the conspiracy is that there was no explanation as to why the Terracotta Warriors was built.

Conspiracy of Terracotta Warriors

At the beginning of this text, it is mentioned that a lot of historians believe the construction of Terracotta Warriors is due to the following reasons:

- As a show of Qin Shihuang's glory,
- To remember the army that triumphed over the other Warring States to unite China, and
- Because it was believed that objects like statues can be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army.

But, it's hard to believe these statements with such little evidence. When doing research on the Terracotta Warriors as well as Qin Shihuang and Qin Dynasty, it is hard for one to agree with the reasons above.

As a show of Qin Shihuang's glory

He could have had a tomb made of gold, or filled to the brim with jewelry to do show this power.

To remember the army that triumphed over the other Warring States to unite China

Then the warriors wouldn't need to be life-size and also wouldn't need to be scattered in different locations. At least, real weapons shouldn't be held.

Because it was believed that objects like statues can be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army

This sounds more reasonable but China has already been united, thus why would he require an after-death army?

Up until now one may be very curious about this information. Besides the Terracotta Warriors, Qin Shihuang also did few remarkable historical events:

A. The burning of books and burying of scholars (Chinese: 焚書坑儒) refers to the supposed burning of texts in 213 BC and burial alive of 460 Confucian scholars in 210 BC by the First Emperor of the Qin dynasty of ancient China. The event caused the loss of many philosophical treatises of the Hundred Schools of Thought.

B. The Great Wall of China is a series of fortifications made of many materials, generally built along an east-to-west line across the historical northern borders of China to protect the Chinese states and empires against the invasions of the various nomadic groups of the Eurasian Steppe. Several walls were being built as early as the 7th century BC; these, later joined together and made bigger and stronger, are now collectively referred to as the Great Wall. The Great Wall has on and off been rebuilt/enhanced; the majority of the existing wall is from the Ming Dynasty.

King Zheng of Qin conquered the last of his opponents and unified China as the First Emperor of the Qin dynasty ("Qin Shihuang") in 221 BC. Intending to impose centralized rule and prevent the resurgence of feudal lords, he ordered the destruction of the sections of the walls that divided his empire among the former states. To position the empire against the Xiongnu people from the north, however, he ordered the building of new walls to connect the remaining fortifications along the empire's northern frontier. Stones from the mountains were used over mountain ranges, while rammed earth was used for construction in the plains. There are no surviving historical records indicating the exact length and course of the Qin walls. Most of the ancient walls have eroded away over the centuries, and very few sections remain today. The human cost of the construction is unknown, but it has been estimated by some authors that hundreds of thousands, if not up to a million, workers died building the Qin wall. Later, the Han, the Sui, and the Northern dynasties all repaired, rebuilt, or expanded sections of the Great Wall at great cost to defend themselves against northern invaders. The Liao, Jin, and Yuan dynasties, who ruled Northern China throughout most of the 10th–13th centuries, constructed defensive walls in the 12th century but those were located much to the north of the Great Wall as we know it, within China's province of Inner Mongolia and in Mongolia itself.

Just by roughly calculating the number of people who died in these two events, it may now be classified as disaster. Qin Shihuang, the ruler who had absolute power, also knew that he had killed thousands to millions of innocents. But, there is no single reason why he should kill the scholars and push the construction laborers to death for the Great Wall.

Having said that, it seems as if the building of the Terracotta Warriors was to protect him

after death. He needed a full troop to protect him, because he killed too many people.

Qin Dynasty believed in Daoism, which regards life as the most valuable thing and pursues immortality. Life can be prolonged through meditation and exercise. To achieve this, Daoism stresses the need for a peaceful and harmonious environment as a very important external condition. Since Qin Shihuang somehow did a number of decisions which was totally opposite to Daoism, he was worried about his life after death.

Chinese believes that the law of cause and effect underlies the workings of all phenomena. Positive thoughts, words and actions create positive effects in the lives of individuals, leading to happiness. Negative thoughts, words and actions on the other hand – those that in some way undermine the dignity of life – lead to unhappiness. This is the general principle of Chinese and its religions.

If this assumption is correct, then it can answer why (1) the Warriors are built miles away from his tomb, and (2) Why the Warriors are facing Qin Shihuang rather than to the enemies (outward).

Daoism (the national religious of Qin), Confucianism and Chinese folk religion stem from similar roots, so they share a perspective on life after death. Actually, some people even say religions like Daoism and Confucianism are not spiritual in orientation; rather they are ethical systems for how to run society and behave in good conduct. It could be said that Confucianism focuses on social and moral guidelines, while Daoism emphasizes the individual, mystical side of life.

Even though spirits, ancestors and deities are believed to exist, Daoism and others in its religious family emphasize living in the here and now much more than what will happen when we die. Upon dying, the Dao says that a person transforms from yang to yin, or from being to non-being. Death and ceasing to be are merely part of the reality of life.

Daoism focuses on transformation rather than death, but the after-world does have blissful and suffering states. For instance, Daoists who have followed the “way” during life are more likely to become important ancestors in the afterlife, helping humans on earth. Those who have failed to live the deeper life will be banished to the nine stages of Hell, a place of purgatory and agony.

Because all opposites are relative and interdependent, Daoism emphasizes living in harmony with the flow of reality. An important philosophical concept is wu-wei, or non-action. It is believed that actions and decisions can be avoided, made very simple or even almost invisible in order to allow for the natural flow to persist. It’s only when we struggle and fight that suffering begins. It follows that ideas about death, dying and passing into the after-world aren’t frightening topics for Daoists. The most important point is for a person is to avoid any wrongdoing during his life. If you don’t want to walk the shadow of Qin Shihuang, scare of after-death life, try not to do anything wrong or hurt anyone during your life. After all this information, the following can be concluded:

Great victories involves lost of life

Great constructions involve great destructions

All in all, the conclusion to this research can refer to the Daoism symbol – the “yin yang”. Its meaning and symbol date back to ancient China and represent the belief that everything in the universe consists of two forces that are opposing but complementary. In a nutshell, Chinese Yin Yang symbols represent perfect balance. Seemingly, the whole of Chinese philosophy stems from the concept of Yin and Yang – opposites interacting and supposedly the seed of all things. For example, evil results from an imbalance in Yin and Yang, and good comes from the two being in harmonic balance. The evil deeds performed by Qin Shihuang

overpowered the Yin, hence creating an imbalance. Hopefully the world will have a perfect balance, where everyone respects each other and all wars stop. Then, there will not be other Terracotta Warriors (or Terracotta Worriers) in the world.

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