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Global - Mr.Badgley

#29 The Unification of China

1. *Analects* - A book that contained the words of Confucius that were collected by his students.  
The Great Silk Road - A series of trade and cultural transmission routes that were crucial to intercultural interaction throughout east and west Asia. The path started in China and went west until it hit the area around Anxi. There, the path split into two to skirt the edges of the Taklimakan Desert. The paths recombined in Kashgar and split off again. They recombined at around Merv. The Path continued until it hit a portion of the Euphrates river. The path split off into two, passing Damascus and Tyre on one path and passing Antioch on another path. Both eventually led to the Mediterranean Sea.  
Filial piety is the respect for ones parents and ancestors, a relationship Confuscius stressed that children should practice. According to Confucius, filial piety was the devotion of oneself to one's parents during their lifetimes. The devotion continued after death as descendents were required to honor their memories after death and perform certain rituals.  
Confucius was (according to McDougal Littell's *World History Patterns of Interaction*) China's most influential scholar. He was born in 551 B.C.E, a time when the Zhou Dynasty was in decline. Confucius led a scholarly life that involved studying history, teaching history, music, and moral character.

2. Shih Huangdi reached his goals as a ruler through Legalist, militaristic, and autocratic ideas. The first goal he reaches was stopping internal battles and expanding his territory. He does this by defeating invaders and crushing resistance. He did not appear to use anything but his military. The second goal he reached was crushing political opposition. To do this, he brought many noble families to the capital city to watch them while seizing their land. Shih Huandi had no respect for the land the nobles held, a punishment that arose from suspicion. The third goal Shih Huangdi succeeded in was preventing criticism. This was done in a militaristic, autocratic, and Legalist manner by murdering hundreds of Confucian scholars and ordering Confucian books to be burned. The fourth goal Shih Huandi achieved were infrastructure improvements. He standardized writing, law, currency, weights, and measurements of things such as car axle length. New irrigation projects increased farm production and a new road system promoted trade. However, harsh taxes and a repressive government were used to accomplish this. To construct the Great Wall of China, workers either died because they refused work or chose to work on the wall.   
Shih Huandi's most important achievement was bringing order and constructing infrastructure upgrades. Halting inner battles stops the country from losing even more people. A country in chaos is an easier target for other countries. Constructing infrastructure upgrades also improves the overall quality of the country, even after the death of the leader who ordered the upgrades.

3.Confucious's concept of an ideal state is one where every man is educated because education was criticall important to career advancement in the bureaucracy. An educated man was a gentleman. A gentleman followed the four virtues, in private conduct, he is virtuous, in serving his master, he was punctilious, in providing for the needs of the people, he gave them even more, in exacting service from people, he was just. Through these virtues, one can infer that Confucius's ideal state is one of respect and generosity. A ruler would act with respect, be generous, and never demand anything ridiculous.

4. If one were to choose a quote to give to President Obama to help him govern the United States from Confucius, one would choose “The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.” One would choose this quote because Obama tends to define these large goals. Like many politicians, Obama does this, and is asked why he does this. However, rarely do people ask how exactly Obama intends on accomplishing this plan. If Obama laid out his plans and kept the public well informed of each step of his plans, then the public may point out loopholes or faults in his plans. That way, the government will mess up less.i