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Ideological Unity of Chin Dynasty

Many current and ancient historians believe Chin Shi huangdi was a prominent emperor but a tyrant mostly because his famous action of “burning of books and burying of scholars.” Buckley criticized it, “China lost much of its heritage”(61). However, the real outcome of his govern was completing an influencing unification of thinking of the whole country. In the beginning of Qin, there were so-called “Hundred Schools of Thought,” the public thus had divided into many different thoughts, which made the public much harder to be regulated. Confucian scholars also suggested Chin utilizing feudalism of Zhou. Conceive the same ideology is the fundamental of unifying a country. Therefore, Shi huangdi chose to eliminate other thoughts by burning the books, supposed Legalism. Additionally, he imposed uniformity on standard writing script. Burn books and utilize the same characters are two major reforms help the unification of thought of Chin, they also provided positive effects to the later dynasties. Due to this, I argued that the Chin dynasty finished the first influencing ideological unity of the public by burning the books and unify the characters in ancient China.

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