

## CHAPTER

## 3

## SECTION 5

## Note Taking Study Guide

## STRONG RULERS UNITE CHINA

**Focus Question:** How did powerful emperors unite much of China and bring about a golden age of cultural achievement?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to sequence the important events of the Qin and Han periods.*

Event					
Date					

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## Section Summary

## STRONG RULERS UNITE CHINA

The Qin Dynasty began in 221 B.C. when the leader of the Qin conquered the Zhou and proclaimed himself **Shi Huangdi**, or First Emperor. He centralized his power by adhering to Legalism, a philosophy that said that strength, not goodness, was a ruler's greatest virtue. He tortured and killed any who opposed his rule. Shi Huangdi replaced feudal states with military districts headed by loyal officials. To promote unity, he standardized weights and measures, coins, and Chinese writing. Under his orders, thousands of workers connected shorter walls to form the one Great Wall against invaders from the north.

The Han Dynasty began in 202 B.C. The most famous Han emperor, **Wudi**, ruled from 141 B.C. to 87 B.C. Instead of Legalism, Wudi made Confucianism the official belief system of the state. He improved transportation, controlled prices, and created a government **monopoly** on iron and salt. His policy of **expansionism** increased the land under Chinese rule. He also opened a network of trade routes, later called the Silk Road.

Han rulers chose Confucian scholars as government officials, or **civil servants**. Young men could advance in government through skill, rather than family influence. They might be tested on their knowledge of the Five Classics, a collection of histories, poems, and handbooks compiled from the works of Confucius and others.

The Han dynasty was a golden age for Chinese culture. Han scientists wrote texts on chemistry, zoology, and botany. The Han invented the seismograph, suspension bridge, rudder, and paper from wood pulp. Medical treatment included **acupuncture** to relieve pain or treat illness. Artisans created products from jade, ceramics, bronze, and silk. Poets and historians wrote about the grandeur of Han cities.

As the Han dynasty aged, emperors could no longer control **warlords**, or local military rulers. Peasants rebelled. The last emperor was overthrown in A.D. 220, after 400 years of Han rule.

Buddhism had spread from India to China by about A.D. 100. It became increasingly popular during the times of crisis that followed the fall of the Han, and by A.D. 400 it had spread throughout China.

## Review Questions

1. How did Legalism influence the rule of Shi Huangdi?

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2. How was the Han dynasty a golden age for China?

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## READING CHECK

Which emperor had the Great Wall built?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *compiled* mean in the underlined sentence? Note that the Five Classics contain the works of several people. Use this context clue to help you figure out what *compiled* means.

## READING SKILL

**Recognize Sequence** Sequence the following events:

Buddhism spreads throughout China; warlords overthrow the Han Dynasty; Shi Huangdi standardizes weights, measures, and coins

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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