7-3 Notes

* Qin Shihuangdi declared himself the first emperor of China and made changes in China’s government that would last for 2000 years.
* Qin based his rule on the ideas of Legalism and had everyone who opposed him punished or killed.
* Qin appointed censors, government officials that worked to make sure all officials did their jobs.
* Qin connected the Chang Jiang in central China to the city of Guangzhou which he used to ship supplies to his troops in far-off territories.
* Qin forced farmers to work on connecting and strengthening walls that would protect the Chinese from the northern fighting group the Xiongnu. This became known as the Great Wall of China.
* After Qin’s death, Liu Bang declared himself Han Gaozu, “Exalted Emperor of Han” and created the Han dynasty. He stopped many harsh Qin practices.
* The Han dynasty reached its peak under the leadership of Han Wudi. He wanted talented people to fill government posts so he created difficult tests called civil service examinations to test men’s ability. He also drove Xiongnu back into the Gobi desert.
* Many new inventions, like waterwheels, steel, rudders, sails for ships, and paper were created during the Han dynasty and helped Chinese workers produce more than ever.
* Chinese medicine also improved during the Han dynasty. Acupuncture, a treatment where body pain is eased by sticking thin needles into patients’ skin.
* The Silk Road was a 4000 mile trade route in China which merchants used camels to carry goods across deserts and mountains. Merchants had to pay taxes to carry goods on the road, so they only carried high-priced goods such as SILK, spices, tea and porcelain.
* Wars and rebellions put an end to the Han dynasty, causing many Chinese to be frightened. Buddhist ideas helped people cope with the stress of their fear.