

## Qin Dynasty Project

Qin Xi Huang, also known as Ying Zheng, his given name, has done many heroic and villainous things. He was a vicious warrior. The problem with his “heroic” deeds, is he used villainous traits to become more powerful. I believe he was mostly a villain, and his people believed he had lost the Mandate of Heaven. The Mandate of Heaven means that everything under the sky belongs to you. It is really hard to determine if he is a villain or a hero, because he had traits of both kinds.

Qin's search for power ended when he was 35. He became king, and was king for 11 years. He was a power hungry man, and he was very sure that he was right in every case. People were forced to believe his to, unless they would like to have a terrible death by being thrown in a snake pit, or worse. Unless someone shared an opinion with him, they were wrong in his eyes. For 11 years, that is how anyone in China lived. I know if I lived like that, I would live in fear. I wonder how much longer it would have taken for the Qin dynasty to be overthrown if Qin lived on. I wonder how long this would have lasted in our current time, shorter, hopefully, but it may have lasted longer, because Qin could have lived longer, or known that “the elixir of life”, mercury pills would kill him.

In those 11 years he did many villainous things. He banned Confucianism, and burned every book that was not about magic, medicine or agriculture. He thought that the other subjects weren't “practical”. He killed many Confucian scholars that tried to

protect books on Confucianism. He even buried around 460 of the scholars alive. He also wanted to kill them because they were the people who knew about different things and he wanted everyone to think he was right. He used slave labor, and killed anyone with an opposing opinion to his own.

He also did heroic things, like build the Great Wall of China, to protect the border, though it wasn't really him. He used slave labor, and thousands of people died while making the wall. He united China, but killed tons of people in the process. He designed a law system, and a common language. He gave protection to China, though I'm sure the people didn't feel fully protected, because their leader killed people on a regular basis.

These are some of the reasons why Qin was good and bad, and studying Qin Xi Huang gave me a larger understanding of heroic and villainous leaders. I believe that this will help me figure out how to determine characteristics in other leaders, and whether or not they did thing for good or for bad. That is why I think it's important to study Qin, because it will give us a deeper understanding of heroes and villains.

I believe that Qin Xi Huang was a villainous and heroic leader, but he did more villainous things. Every good thing came from some bad thing, and all Qin really wanted was power. His dynasty lasted 14 years, and he died 3 years before the dynasty was overthrown, and turned into the Han. People have many opinions on the way the Qin dynasty fell. People think the Qin dynasty fell because Qin was not able to contain the power he had, but the most logical is that after the death of Qin Xi Huang, the dynasty was not strong enough to continue.