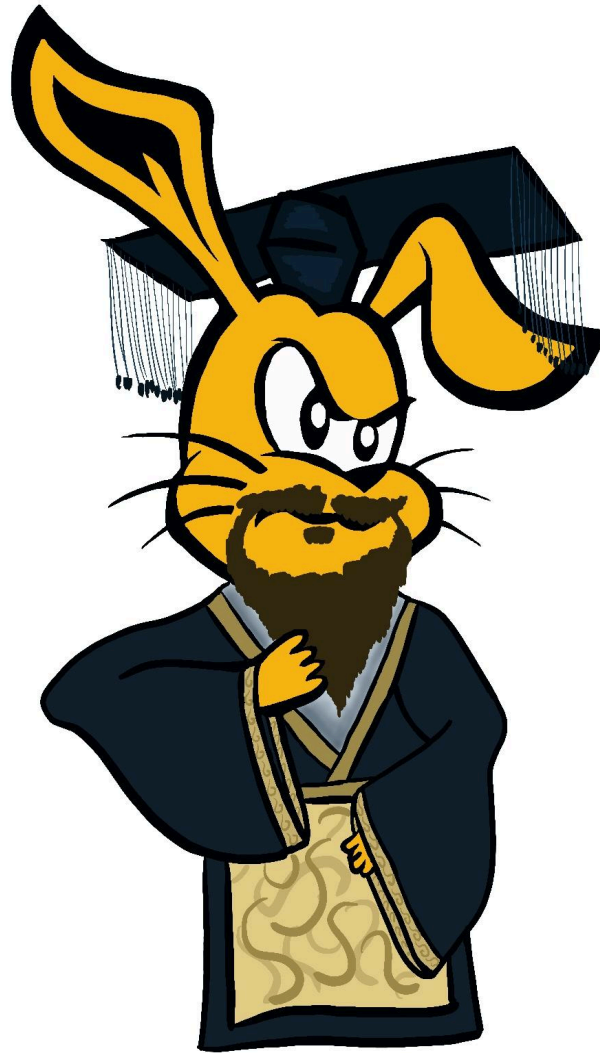


Background Guide

Crisis: Court of Qin Shi Huang



JACKRABBIT MUN VI

L.B. POLY - MAY 25th, 2024

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello Delegates!

My name is Eva, and I am so excited to be one of your co-chairs. I am a senior and have been participating in MUN for the last three years. I have previously been a rapporteur many times and served as a co-chair of the Sentient Android Revolution Crisis at Jackrabbit V.

Aside from MUN, I enjoy playing tennis, singing, and listening to podcasts and music. Although I have gone through phases of music that expand beyond pop, Taylor Swift is an almost constant installment in my music. One of my newer loves is Spanish pop music. In the rare moments when I have an excess of time, I also enjoy baking, crocheting, reading, and running with my dog.

I am excited to be part of the reanimation of the Court of Qin Shi Huang. I appreciate the chance this room gave me to jump across oceans and time periods, and I hope you feel the same. I look forward to seeing your solutions, ideas, plots, and diplomacy. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eva Christy

Court of Qin Shi Huang | Co-Head Chair

evaaprilchristy@gmail.com



CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello delegates!

My name is Mackenzie Mathieu and I am thrilled to be one of your co-chairs in the Court of Qin Shi Huang room this year! I am currently a junior and joined MUN this year. MUN has given me the opportunity to understand different countries and cultures and I love how every committee helps me learn more about things going on in the world.

I enjoy crocheting, reading, playing water polo, writing in an online newspaper, and being involved in clubs like Speech and Debate, Pace Club and Mentorship, and Female Leadership Academy.

Historical crises are always so interesting to me, and I am so excited to see where you take this room. The life of Qin Shi Huang is fascinating and I hope you all enjoy taking a deep dive into this part of history! My only advice is to really commit to your character policy and I think this committee will be super interesting and we will all have a lot of fun! Good luck everyone!

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Mathieu

Court of Qin Shi Huang | Co-Head Chair

mackenziegmathieu@gmail.com



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 19th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers can be submitted through the committee email:
 - **QSHCourt@gmail.com**.
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
 - United States
 - First Last
 - School Name
 - Crisis: Court of Qin Shi Huang
- Papers should be emailed as a PDF file
 - Paper content should also be copied and pasted into the body of the email so it can still be graded in the event of any technical difficulties
 - Please name the file and subject line of the email [Committee_Country]
 - Ex. **Court of Qin Shi Huang_Li Si**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background
 - Position of your Character
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

It's 221 BCE and Qin Shi Huang has ended the Period of Warring States by a series of military victories. He has called together advisors—government officials, scholars, and philosophers—to address internal unrest, social reform, defense, food production and agriculture, and how to preserve their new unified nation. This committee will address internal and external threats to China. Delegates will choose how China will proceed by developing policy together. Will the delegates construct lasting infrastructure and systems? Will scholars be cast out or revered? Will China be a great empire, or fade away?



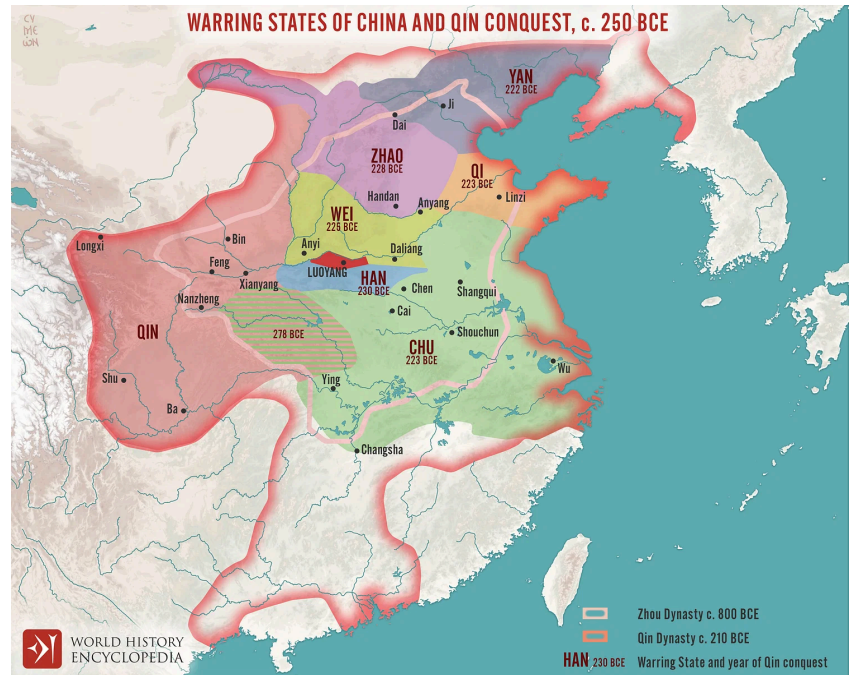
BACKGROUND

Historical Situation:

The Zhou dynasty, which ruled over China starting in 1050 BCE, began to weaken around 400 BCE. It had a decentralized government structure, with a king that had little control over the powerful dukes that each ruled over a large region of land. The dukes eventually began to increase their own power by fighting with and absorbing

nearby territories, while the king's power waned. Some dukes began to consider themselves as kings of their respective regions, and by 475 BCE, any semblance of a unified Zhou kingdom was gone and five major states remained. Thus, the Period of Warring States began. The different states each wanted full control of China and were willing to fight endlessly to get it. China had never before had a centralized government because of its large size, but each duke knew that if they didn't take control of all of China, they would eventually be forced to give up their power to another duke.

In 403 BCE, one of the five remaining territories, the Jin state, split into three regions– the Han, Wei, and Zhao states. The now-seven regions became known as the



Seven Warring States: Qin, Chu, Yan, Qi, Han, Wei, and Zhao. The states fought



continuously, utilizing new warfare tactics such as cavalry armies, universal conscription, iron weapons, and modernized armor. The Qin state in western China made use of the Qinling mountain range in its east as a natural barrier against other states while it took over new territory to the south. In the mid-300s BCE, the Qin leader Duke Xiao hired a legal advisor originally from the Wei

state, Shang Yang. Together, they adopted a new state government based on the philosophy of Legalism.

The reforms Shang Yang created were strict—they included unified punishments for crimes, meaning that disobeying an order from the duke would be punishable by execution, regardless of social status. Shang Yang ensured that all men, even landed gentry, were required to fight for the Qin army. All of the states researched metalworking in attempts to gain a weaponry advantage over the others. However, the Qin state gained an advantage because Shang Yang also focused on increasing agricultural output and reforming society as a whole under the Legalist system. He also oversaw the transformation of the city Xianyang into the Qin capital. Because of the government's efficient structure and lack of tolerance for disobedience, the Qin state's power grew exponentially.

The Qin army was divided into a system of 20 levels and achievements in battle enabled even peasants to move up levels and acquire land, which provided many opportunities for social mobility. It enlisted approximately 1 million men total, and



since battles between states could last months with a focus on total annihilation of the enemy's military, the army's size gave the Qin state the upper hand over smaller states like Yan, Han, Wei, and Zhao. When the Qin state finally took over the Chu state in 223 BCE, they were able to win against the few remaining territories in two years. China was fully unified under the new Qin dynasty in 221 BCE under its first-ever emperor, Qin Shi Huang.

Qin Shi Huang, born Zhao Zheng in 259 BCE, is the son of a rich merchant and a concubine. His mother placed him directly in line to inherit the Qin state at 21 and he immediately began annexing rival states with the help of his generals and his adviser, Li Si. He continues to expand upon



the Legalist policies of his predecessors after his unification of China. Qin Shi Huang is planning to standardize China's currency, weights, and measurements, and improve China's infrastructure by building new roads, canals, and walls. Additionally, he plans to lay out territories for appointed officials under him to govern, but he wants to avoid the mistakes of the Zhou dynasty which let the officials grow too powerful. He wants to keep power centralized in Xianyang, and plans to do this by controlling speech and literature, forcing nobles to live in the capital city, and executing those that plot against him. He has, however, allowed for a system of 36 commanderies, which have local

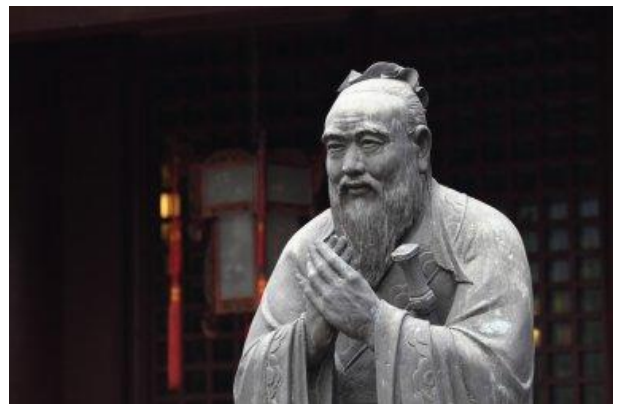


administrators. This allows Qin Shi Huang to retain order in his empire and get word of local concerns.

Contemporary Schools of Thought:

Philosophical thought was abundant throughout the Spring and Autumn Period (the later part of the Zhou dynasty) and the Warring States Period. The philosophies that have been crystalized in this era of Chinese philosophy are collectively referred to as The Hundred Schools of Thought. Discussions and texts from this time address everything from diplomacy to war.

Confucianism refers to a philosophy (and some would say a religion) founded by Confucius, a philosopher from about 500 BCE, whose thoughts were well documented by his disciples. His teachings were of traditional Chinese knowledge. Confucius taught the importance of having good moral character and believed that education was important to create virtuous character in individuals. Confucius believed that people are essentially good, meaning that people know right from wrong and are naturally inclined to right, but that people choose to do wrong when they are misguided or ignorant. “Filial piety,” or devotion to family, is also a core principle of Confucianism. This encompasses acts such as ancestor worship and submission to parental authority. Among families and wider society Confucianism also reinforced patriarchal ideas. Confucius believed that strong families and individuals with good moral education would strengthen the whole surrounding society.



Although his teachings were broad, he generally taught people to treat others the way they would want to be treated.

Confucian's teachings have evolved in the few hundred years since his time, and both Mencius and Xunzi have added to the sphere of Confucian thought. Mo Zi, another follower of Confucius, has created the less-well-known philosophy of Mohism. Although Confucianism is relatively popular across China, Qin Shi Huang's rhetoric is increasingly harsh toward Confucian ideas.

Daoism is another system of beliefs in China that is considered to be a religion by some and a philosophy by others. It is connected with Lao Tzu, a man who is credited with writing the main book of Daoism called *Tao Te Ching* around 500 BCE. One truth of Daoism is that humans and animals should live in balance with the Dao, or the natural way of the universe. Daoists believe the energy guiding everything in the



universe is called ch'i. This energy is not a god, but many Daoists believe in gods, which are part of the Dao (like all living things). They also believe that spirits join the universe after death. Daoists often believe that if people stop seeking selfish things like wealth and glory, there would be lessened war and suffering. Taoists have temples,

monasteries, and priests. These are also prevalent in the newly-unified Chinese empire, but are frowned upon by Qin Shi Huang.

Legalism, the philosophy that is fully endorsed by Qin Shi Huang, is based on the idea that people are naturally selfish and need a strong leader and strict laws to



direct them to being good people. Its practical application includes widely publicized and well enforced laws, management techniques, and manipulation of political purchase. Legalism was popularized by Han Feizi around 250 BCE in the state of Qin. Han Feizi drew on the works of Xunzi, the Confucian reformer, and Shang Yang, a Qin statesman. Shang Yang is credited with the total war tactics that have allowed the Qin state to emerge from the Period of Warring States as the victor. This controlling strategy is intertwined with the ideas of Legalism, and with the ideas from Sun-Tzu's treatise on military strategy, *The Art of War*.

Unification:

The recent unification of China follows years of war between different states. The newly formed Qin dynasty needs to take action to not only keep the border towns attached to the empire and protect itself against foreign attacks but also promote a unified cultural and national identity. It would not do for this newly-minted empire which should be the pride and glory of all Chinese people to fall apart just after it came to be.

Border Security

Today, the Qin border is rather sparsely guarded, only by small, isolated walls and garrisons that have not been relieved in recent memory. This patchwork defense offers some protection from disorganized Xiongnu, a nomadic group based in the far northern regions, raider bands but will not stand up to a more serious incursion by them or another power. While things seem quiet for the present, the Xiongnu are not to be trifled with; they



have formidable forces of horseback archers. There are also some existing fortifications between Chinese states that have not yet been taken down.

The towns on the borders of China are loosely attached to the new empire. Although the state of Qin's laws have been clear and definitive, these laws have not been adequately related to some of the furthest reaches of China. It is difficult to keep some of the more remote and distant places connected to the central government because of the time it takes to travel across such a large land mass and because of non-uniform regional scripts. Additionally, China is separated by various regional climates, diets, and lifestyles.

National pride

Before China's unification, the seven warring states had been fighting for about 250 years. Acting as completely separate states, their people learned different kinds of artistry and technological work. Artists learned to produce pieces made of jade and lacquer, poetry, and other extravagant goods. At the same time, inventors created better tools to aid irrigation efforts and other useful technology. While some of these advancements were common among all seven main states, their coming together marked major changes in the lives of their people. To create a fully integrated state the Chinese government needs to find a way to convince their citizens with vastly different art and culture to mix into a single whole.

In addition, while the Qin state defeated all others through strong military efforts, people still hold some allegiance to their states. Qin Shi Huang, in his early attempts to unify the nation, has cracked down on those who would oppose his heavenly rule and has begun to bring Qin culture to all corners of his empire. The state



of the newly founded Chinese government is in precarious standing and is tasked with reducing the desire for a rebellion.

The Qin Empire has already begun standardizing weights and other units of measurement along with instating a common language across China, even though the languages were much more diverse before. In addition, the length of cart axles and the size of minted coins have just been made uniform. Other than these, many of the technologies used before unification remain different amongst the states, challenging the feeling of unity amongst Chinese people. The government must decide what new policies to put into effect as integration among the different cultural groups continues.



Allocation of Funds:

Due to the bloody wars of unification, the Qin Dynasty has extremely limited funds. Until the Court finds a way to create new revenue streams or strengthen the old ones, government spending must be frugal. Many different sectors require funds, particularly education, national defense, and food production. The Court must decide which of these is the most pressing and what programs can be implemented to make most efficient use of the available funds, as well as how to generate more wealth.

Education

Formal schools were first established in China during the Xia dynasty (2100 BCE-1600 BCE) and grew increasingly prominent during the Zhou dynasty (1046 BCE-256 BCE), where they were called Xu. At first they were organized into the East Xu



and West Xu. The East Xu was highly prestigious and only ever recruited the children of nobles, whereas West Xu, which was comparable to modern elementary schools, was available to the vast majority of ordinary people. Later, during the Zhou dynasty, schools were split into state schools and village schools. State schools provided ample education for young people of nobility, though village schools could occasionally



provide social mobility for children that performed well. In 360 BC during the Period of Warring States, Jixia Academy was established in the capital of the state of Qi. This scholarly district became

highly influential, assembling all of the greatest masters at the time to pass down knowledge to the next generation of Qi government officials.

What was taught in these schools initially varied from martial arts to philosophy, focusing on the Schools of Thought. However, Qin Shi Huang is known to be a strict legalist, following advice from his secretary, Li Si. His view of any non-utilitarian thought has become more harsh as he has moved away from Confucianism. In maintaining his authoritarian control over the people, and attempting to move away from Confucianism, Qin Shi Huang is looking to ban all private schools, so that the government can control the curriculum. These views and initiatives are currently unpopular among the general population.



National Defense

Qin Shi Huang needed a strong military to unify China, and this strength has carried into his reign as emperor. The Qin army is composed of four divisions: infantry, chariot, archers, and cavalry. Qin crossbowmen are especially known to be skilled and dangerous on the battlefield. However, the cavalry significantly aid in each Qin victory. Initially adopted from nomadic warriors, these horseback soldiers can scout and survey enemy territory, cut off enemy roads, or strike the opposition at unexpected times.

Soldiers join the army through a draft, where each household is required to send one man to join the military. They are then put into units of roughly ten men where unit leaders serve and are responsible for their men, and the men are responsible for serving their leader. Each unit is intended to act autonomously on the battlefield in the aims of defeating the enemy, and is held together by honor and threat of execution for defying military law. If one member of the unit commits a crime, his colleagues are expected to report the wrongdoing. If a soldier is killed, the other men are meant to avenge his death by taking the head of an enemy. Weapons of war are made by enslaved prisoners of war and criminals, among other men.

Qin Shi Huang is carrying these structures into his reign and is setting reforms in place to prevent corruption within military ranks. Generals are given tallies cast in metal to keep track of the number of soldiers that they can raise. The general will receive half of his tallies and half of his men upon being appointed to his position, and receives the other half when the central government approves the strike. This orderly system has the potential to create one of the most powerful armies in the world if Qin Shi Huang chooses to keep expanding it.



Agriculture and Food Production

The economic power of the Qin dynasty is centralized through control over land and natural resources. The central government has started to chip away from the power of aristocrats and landowners to gain direct administrative control over the peasantry who comprise the majority of the population and labor force. This control is not widely popular, but gives Qin Shi Huang a labor force with the potential to carry out large infrastructure projects or other manual labor. Qin Shi Huang's system of administering people and land has also greatly increased the power of the government to transform the landscape and environment of East Asia. Qin Shi Huang is also currently building irrigation canals that will support higher agricultural production and larger populations.

The state of Qin has recently experienced high agricultural yields because of the construction of the Dujiangyan irrigation system, which controls the flow of the Minjiang River, allowing farmers to grow crops in the fertile Chengdu Plain without flooding. This has supported population growth. The Qin state's high agricultural yield does not, however, guarantee food security for the whole Chinese empire.



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This committee takes place in the year 221 BCE, just after King Zheng of Qin proclaimed himself the first emperor of China—Qin Shi Huang. **Please remember this in your research because some of the key monuments and accomplishments associated with Qin Shi Huang—most notably the Great Wall and the Terracotta Army—do not exist yet.** There are minimal breaks in the timeline for some of the individual characters, which are clearly notated below. As delegates, you will receive various crisis updates throughout committee, where our dais or crisis staff will deliver new information pertinent to the events of committee. Time jumps may occur. **Since this committee begins in 221 BCE, we understand that critical events within several character’s lives may not yet have occurred. Nonetheless, please abide by your character’s original historical timeline.** We recommend making a basic timeline for your character that you can refer to during debate.

When it comes to directives, we allow group (also known as joint private), personal, and committee directives, as well as communiques and press releases. These directives will be collected by a Google Form, and responses will be conveyed through a virtual crisis notebook, allowing ease of both submission and response and a faster flow of committee.

All committee directives will be handed to the chair, then read and voted on by committee. When the committee passes a directive, it is possible that Qin Shi Huang himself may veto the directive. The committee will learn if Qin Shi Huang chooses to implement their directive in the next crisis update.



In addition, on the day of the conference you will be given a folder with a portfolio power. These portfolio powers are secret—only you will know what your portfolio power is—and include two major things: plots and powers. Plots are secret objectives a delegate is trying to accomplish or secret information that only one delegate or a group of delegates would be privy to. For instance, an example of a plot is how in our Red Scare room last year, multiple delegates were Communists and plotted with each other to overthrow the United States. Powers are special actions that delegates can take. These can range from the ability to “OBJECT!” to another delegate’s speech to a secret task force of spies and analysts that a delegate can command to gather intelligence on their adversaries to the ability to call a general strike and cripple key infrastructure.

Please be advised that at JackrabbitMUN we deny directives to assassinate fellow delegates. We also will not entertain directives that involve genocide or nuclear weapons. Thank you so much for signing up and we look forward to meeting you on the 25th!



CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES

Li Si

Li Si was originally a scholar in the state of Chu, but moved to the state of Qin to become a politician. He eventually rose to serve as chancellor to Qin Shi Huang. Li Si worked as a political advisor to Qin Shi Huang as he conquered the other Chinese states. He is a proponent of education, especially on the topics of medicine and agriculture, but fears the power of free thinking political scholars. He believes only state-run schools should own political books and that the state alone should be responsible for educating the next generation of politicians. He is also a supporter of bureaucracy and organization in government, calling for economic unification as well as political unification.

Meng Tian

Meng Tian was appointed to be Vice Commander-in-Chief of Qin Shi Huang's army to conquer the Qi and Shu states during the Qin dynasty unification. After unification, he was then put in charge of a 300,000 soldier army in order to drive off the invading Xiongnu people. As commander of this army, Meng Tian is responsible for securing the Chinese border against these hostile forces, and has the authority to lead construction of possible border defenses. Qin Shi Huang regards the Meng family, especially Meng Tian and his younger brother, Meng Yi very highly,



Meng Yi

Meng Yi is the younger brother of Meng Tian, renowned Qin dynasty general and is held in Qin Shi Huang's high esteem. He is a skilled general and was instrumental in the conquest of Chu during the Warring States as a deputy to Wang Jian. He was appointed to the position of Minister in Qin Shi Huang's court after Chinese unification and is a close advisor to the emperor.

Zhao Gao

Zhao Gao began his career as Prefect of the Office of Imperial Carriages. He also served as an attendant and tutor to Hu Hai (Qin Shi Huang's younger son), and is now the chief eunuch to Qin Shi Huang. He handles Qin Shi Huang's communications to the empire. Zhao Gao is one of Qin Shi Huang's closest confidants and is often privy to important and sensitive information.

Prince Fusu

Crown Prince Fusu is the eldest son of Qin Shi Huang. He often suggests different courses of action to his father on military and court affairs, to varying degrees of success. He is rational and clear headed, and his policies reflect this. Prince Fusu is heir apparent to the Qin dynasty throne and many members of the court are already attempting to garner his favor.

Prince Hu Hai

Qin Er Shi is one of Qin Shi Huang's younger sons. His mother is Hi Ji. He is quietly jealous of Fusu because Fusu stands between him and the throne and is consulted for real, important tasks. Hu Hai appears to be weak-willed and young to a majority of the



court and thus is often overlooked. He trusts Zhao Gao, who was his attendant and tutor.

Liu Bang

Born into a peasant family, Liu Bang has worked his way up. He started as a law enforcement officer in Pei County in the state of Chu, and has become a respected official, both by members of the elite and by the broader laboring community. He is outspoken and charismatic, remnants from his time as a mischievous youth. He has made no attempt to hide his claims that he descended from Emperor Yao and the Yellow Emperor, both of whom are legendary Chinese rulers. He has developed a friendship with Xiang Yu, a military officer who is also from the state of Chu.

Lu Jia

Lu Jia is a philosopher who believes that a land cannot be conquered by only generals; scholars must have a part in creating the laws for an empire to be kept in control. He is not particularly well known, but his ideas are beginning to draw attention from leaders strategizing about how to establish a strong Qin dynasty. He has a fledgling friendship with Liu Bang.

Wang Jian

Wang Jian is a general under Qin Shi Huang who played an important role in the conquest of multiple states. He is an expert militarist and strategist. He is also familiar with the world of politics. Wang Jian is married to Qin Shi Huang's eldest daughter, Ying Yuanman. He is close to the royal family and trusted by Qin Shi Huang.



Meng Wu

Meng Wu was a Qin general during the Warring States period and played a major part in the conquest of Chu. Since unification, Meng Wu has lived in the south of China and created Kuaiji Commandery in the Hangzhou Bay area. He runs this local government by keeping the peace among the many tribes in the region, and through his access to the Yangtze as well as Hangzhou Bay, he is in a prime position to facilitate trade and commerce within his commandery. He has a closer relationship with the people of China than many of the ministers and does what he can to support them.

Xiang Liang

During the period of warring states, Xiang Liang's father led a famous Chu army against the Qin invaders. Following in his father's footsteps, Xiang Liang is well versed in military strategy. While he is resistant to the Qin dynasty, believes that military funding is very important. He lives as a commoner but is still an advocate for the military education of the young people around him, and the people of China. With little current power, Liang is looking for a way to make his voice heard among the new state.

Minister of Ceremonies

In addition to power over ancestral temples, the Minister of Ceremonies is in charge of a series of workers who manage many of the court's educational dealings. His position overlooks astrology, astronomy, daily records of the Emperor's activities, the Imperial physicians, facilitating the written exam for government officials, and the Imperial Academy. Although he has some sway in all sections of the government, much of his work focuses on academia and ensuring the complete education of government



officials, making him a strong supporter of allowing more resources to the education system.

Commandant of Guards

The Commandant of Guards is in charge of the Imperial Guards, a group of adults drafted from the common population to serve the imperial family for one year. He emphatically supports advancements to the military system because his fleet of Imperial Guards had decreased by half in recent years and he worries for the safety of the emperor.

Commandant of Justice

The Commandant of Justice is in charge of ruling on any lawsuits that the local governments did not establish. For this, he has a very clear understanding of the law and a book called the Law of the Commandment of Justice documents all of his decisions. The Commandant of Justice has major power in the unified state because, along with the Chancellor, he has the power to rule in line with his own beliefs. He is also in charge of ruling on military law which adds to his power in the legal system.

Director of the Imperial Clan

The Director of the Imperial Clan is in charge of keeping a record of all the members of the imperial family. He also has people under him who are in charge of making accounts in the same nature of the relatives of the family. Along with keeping records he is in charge of monitoring the information of the dynasty that is shown to the public. As the director attempts to make sure the country looks favorably on the imperial family, he desires distribution of funds in a way that will please the people



and increase satisfaction. In addition, the director is one of the most important ways news about the imperial family travels to the rest of the country and therefore holds power in the way information is spread.

Grand Minister of Finance

The Grand Minister of Finance advises Qin Shi Huang on the taxes, monopolies, and granaries recommended for the state. With the possibility of new national improvement projects upcoming, the minister is aware that this could lead to an increase to taxes on the still new state. The Grand Minister believes that if this money is spent with care it will be made worthwhile, but that there needs to be intentionality in the implementation of these projects. In addition, he is in support of the expansion of agricultural yields as he is in charge of ensuring grain supplies exist in case of famine. By recommending specific courses of action to the emperor, much of the Grand Minister's intentions can be found already in the state's legislation and this will most likely be continued.

Small Treasurer

The small treasurer of the Qin dynasty manages the finances of the imperial family. Working with the Grand Minister of Finance, the Small Treasurer advocates for less spending by the country of any kind. Their goal is to maintain the comfort of the imperial family and, therefore, keep them enriched. This being said, unless major projects take place the Small Treasurer is content with the current state of affairs, especially because China unified so recently. He is, however, worried that with more time and projects done by the emperor and his family, this prosperous state of affairs will be short-lived.



Grand Herald

The Grand Herald is the minister in charge of barbarians who have submitted to the state. His role was also to control the affairs of the marquises and overlook the ritual sacrifices when they took place. Because of this, the Grand Herald primarily acts to connect with the members of the state who are not yet convinced by the actions of the Qin state. As debates about the allocation of funds continue, the Herald should be careful about what he supports, knowing that a misstep could lead to the upset of those outside of the consolidated state. His role primarily focuses on keeping the peace between the Qin people and those they have conquered.

Hi Ji

Hi Ji is the mother of Hu Hai, the younger son of Qin Shi Huang, and several other children. Known as the Hu barbarian princess, she is one of the emperor's many wives. The people of the dynasty view her as an outsider because she is not Han and came from a nomadic group in the steppes of China. Because of her role in nurturing the children of the emperor, she has power in influencing the future of China. Hi Ji is less worried about the good of the common Chinese and stays within her elite world, ensuring the comfort of herself and her children. She also is within close proximity to Qin Shi Huang and is able to petition her interests as she finds it necessary.



Lu Sheng

Qin Shi Huang wants to rule his newly formed empire forever and is searching for a way to achieve immortality. Lu Sheng, known as a necromancer, has been sent to the ends of the kingdom to find anything to ensure this. The herbs and elixirs Lu Sheng has brought back so far have not been effective but they still hope for a breakthrough. He has vast knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine and advises the emperor on matters of health and wellness. He supports investment into agriculture in hopes that a new herb will lead him to the source of immortality. He is also supportive of more education to advance the medical field and is willing to go to extremes to satisfy the emperor's wishes. Lu Sheng has the ability to influence Qin Shi Huang's more personal decisions, and uses his sway to advance his own beliefs.

Lin Xi

Lin Xi served under Qin Shi Huang as a military general in the state of Qin during the period of Warring States. Since the unification of the Qin dynasty, Xin has retired and chosen to live in the modern areas of China called Gansu. His honorable title of "Marquis of Longxi," holds symbolic power. Knowing what violence and war can look like, Xi is in strong support of keeping a strong national government prepared for any moment. He was able to rise through the ranks of the military and because of this, believes in the values of hard work and discipline. Lin Xi was a masterful general; he was particularly brilliant at creating sneak attacks. He now continues to use his brilliant mind to wage war on the battlefield of philosophical debate in his retirement.



Xunzi

Xunzi is a Confucian philosopher who studied in the state of Qi and has traveled to most of the other states in China. Unlike some of his predecessors, he believes that human nature is evil and this evil must be restrained. This leads him to develop a firm belief in the power of rituals and social norms. He believes that people should be educated in the Way of Heaven, or the dao, so that they can learn moral principles.

Han Fei

Han Fei is a Legalist philosopher who wrote the *Han Feizi*, an anthology that collects the Legalist teachings of his predecessors. Han Fei was also one of the princes of the state of Han that has since been conquered. Court rumors say that Qin Shi Huang went to war with the Han state because he wanted to have a discussion with Han Fei, but Qin Shi Huang has now imprisoned him. Han Fei is not in favor of the Qin dynasty's unification, especially after seeing the effects on his home state. Even from prison Han Fei's teachings have been spread and many Chinese who were conquered wonder if his teachings could be a new path to education, instead of the legalist approach promoted by Qin Shi Huang's.

* In this room Han Fei did not commit suicide in prison; he is still alive. The rest of his information will be historically accurate.

Guiguzi

Guiguzi, known as “the Sage of Ghost Valley,” is a mysterious writer, teacher and—some say—military strategist. He operates the first ever school of diplomacy in Guigu Valley with many loyal students. He is somewhat elusive and isolated, and



almost never ventures from his school. His writings are largely tied to Daoism, but focus specifically on diplomacy and rhetoric.

* Guiguzi may not have been a singular person, but this committee takes the liberty of assuming that he is a single person, alive in the year 221 BCE.

Concubine Zheng

The wife of Qin Shi Huang, Concubine Zheng is one of the few parts of the emperor's personal life to be public. Along with birthing many children, Zheng is involved in court life, separate from the common state. While Zheng is not involved in the allocation of funds, her goal is to remain in her life of the elite and supports actions that will keep Qin Shi Huang in power. She has little official role in the state's government but is willing to advocate for her interests by communicating with others inside the court.

Li Bing

Li Bing is an engineer who is currently celebrated for his work on the Dujiangyan irrigation system. He has been called to this meeting because he is an expert in infrastructure building. Li Bing is pushing for the court to invest significantly into new infrastructure, including more advanced water controls and systems, a defense wall or walls, and more standardized and developed road systems. Li Bing has gained such great respect for his work creating the Dujiangyan irrigation system, that people have begun to view him as an almost religious figure with mystical powers. He feels pressured to fit this image.



Li Chong

Li Chong is the Longxi Commandery Administrator. Li Chong is much closer to the people than many of the other officials in this room. He is an advocate for the issues that matter to the people in his state, many of whom are farmers and laborers. He is also looking to secure his family's position of power and wealth within the Longxi Commandery by proposing money be spent to develop technology and efficient systems to make the food supply more stable. He thinks this will be popular with the farmers in his commandery and will please Qin Shi Huang, who wants to create a stable empire. He is also concerned with developing more widespread education.

Xiang Yu

Xiang Yu is a rising military officer. He was born to a prominent family in the state of Chu, and remains most loyal to the Chu state and people. He is closely tied to Liu Bang, who is also from the state of Chu. As a military officer, Xiang Yu has been vocal about defense for the empire, and is, in fact, extremely enthusiastic about diverting much of the military force from the capital and other large cities and focusing only on the border. Xiang Yu is firm and proud, and cannot stand any small insult to his personal dignity.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What system of thought does your character subscribe to? How does this influence their opinions on what the government should prioritize?
2. Where should government funds be directed?
3. How would your character recommend China preserve national unity?
4. How should the education system in China be structured?
5. What laws should be enacted to make sure the basic needs of citizens are met?



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