China’s First Emperor, Qin Shihuang, planned to spend his afterlife buried in a palatial tomb, surrounded by all his worldly treasures. To guard his mausoleum, he commissioned an army of terracotta warriors unlike anything seen before or since.

The Terracotta Army was constructed to protect the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huangdi, in his afterlife. Standing guard around the tomb of Qin Shihuangdi, the ranks of a terracotta army bear silent witness to the vast power of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, who unified China in 221 BCE. Six thousand warriors and horses make up the army, while chariots, a military guard, and a command post complete the host.

The Terracotta Army: The History of China’s Terracotta Soldiers

For centuries, Qin Shi Huang’s massive mausoleum remained undetected. However, in 1974, workers stumbled upon a large forerunner of the terracotta army. They soon discovered a pit containing thousands of similar soldiers. In 1975, archaeologists began to explore the area, resulting in the discovery of thousands more soldiers in four pits. In 1987, the Terracotta Army was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The First Emperor: China’s Terracotta Army

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The Terracotta Army: Loyal to China’s Emperor even in death...

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The Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor in China | US...

Discovered one mile east of the known burial site of the First Emperor of China (r. 221–210 BC), or Qin Shihuang, the terracotta army was created to accompany the emperor to the afterlife. The Terracotta Army is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China (259–210 BCE), from approximately the late third century BCE, were discovered in 1974 by local farmers in Lintong County, outside Xi'an, Shaanxi Province.

Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China | US...

Terracotta soldiers from the mausoleum of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihuang, c. 221-206 BCE, Qin Dynasty, painted terracotta, Terracotta Warriors and Museum, Shaanxi, China. The seventy terracotta figures are approximately 80 cm high. They have a saddle but stirrups were not in use at this time, photo: The Roht Photo Library via Getty Images.

Qin Shi Huang - Wikipedia

Qin Shi Huang (Chinese: 秦始皇; lit.: 'First Emperor of Qin', pronunciation (help · info); 18 February 259 BC – 10 September 210 BC) was the founder of the Qin dynasty and the first Emperor of China. He came to the throne in 238 BC at the age of 13 and was crowned emperor in 221 BC, at the age of 19. He died in 210 BC at the age of 49, after conquering six warring states to create the first unified China.

Terracotta Warriors The First Emperor, Qin Shihuang (259–210 BCE) conquered much in this life, but his driving purpose was even greater: He sought to conquer death. The Terracotta Army as a model for how Qin Shi Huangdi prepared his formidable troops for battle and was able to unify the city states.

The Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor in China | US...

China’s Terracotta Warriors: The First Emperor’s Legacy...

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The First Emperor: China’s Terracotta Army

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The First Emperor: China’s Terracotta Army

The Terracotta Army: Earthen Soldiers of China’s First Emperor Chinese archaeologists discovered numerous graves with thousands of terracotta soldiers and horses. After tracing the city-states’ period (475 BCE-221 BCE), large-scale sacrifices became impractical, as manpower was necessary to fight the ongoing wars.

Why China’s First Emperor Built, Then Buried, a 7,000 ...

Still, Qin’s legacy lives on: China’s name derives from his own. Indeed, modern China owes much of its ancient, founding spirit to the Terracotta Army as a model for how Qin Shi Huangdi prepared his formidable troops for battle and was able to unify the city states.

The Secret Tomb of China’s 1st Emperor: Will We Ever See ...

The tomb holds the secrets of China’s first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, who died on Sept. 10, 210 BC, after conquering six warring states to create the first unified nation of China.

The Exquisite Terracotta Army Of China's First Emperor

Inside the tomb, no less than 8,000 statues — each unique. The statues range from life-size to just a few centimeters long. Some are as small as a person’s thumb, while others measure 18 feet (five meters) tall. They include representations of people, animals, and objects.

The First Emperor: China’s Terracotta Army

Qin Shi Huangdi (秦始皇帝), the first emperor of unified China, is best known today for the thousands of terracotta warriors buried near his mausoleum. These three titles cover diverse aspects of his life, death, and legacy.

The First Emperor: China’s Terracotta Army

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China's First Emperor and His Terracotta Warriors by ...