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Strong Rulers Unite China

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As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Understand how Shi Huangdi unified China and established a Legalist government.
- Outline why the Han period is considered a Golden Age of Chinese civilization.
- Analyze how the Silk Road facilitated the spread of ideas and trade in China.
- Analyze why Buddhism spread through China.

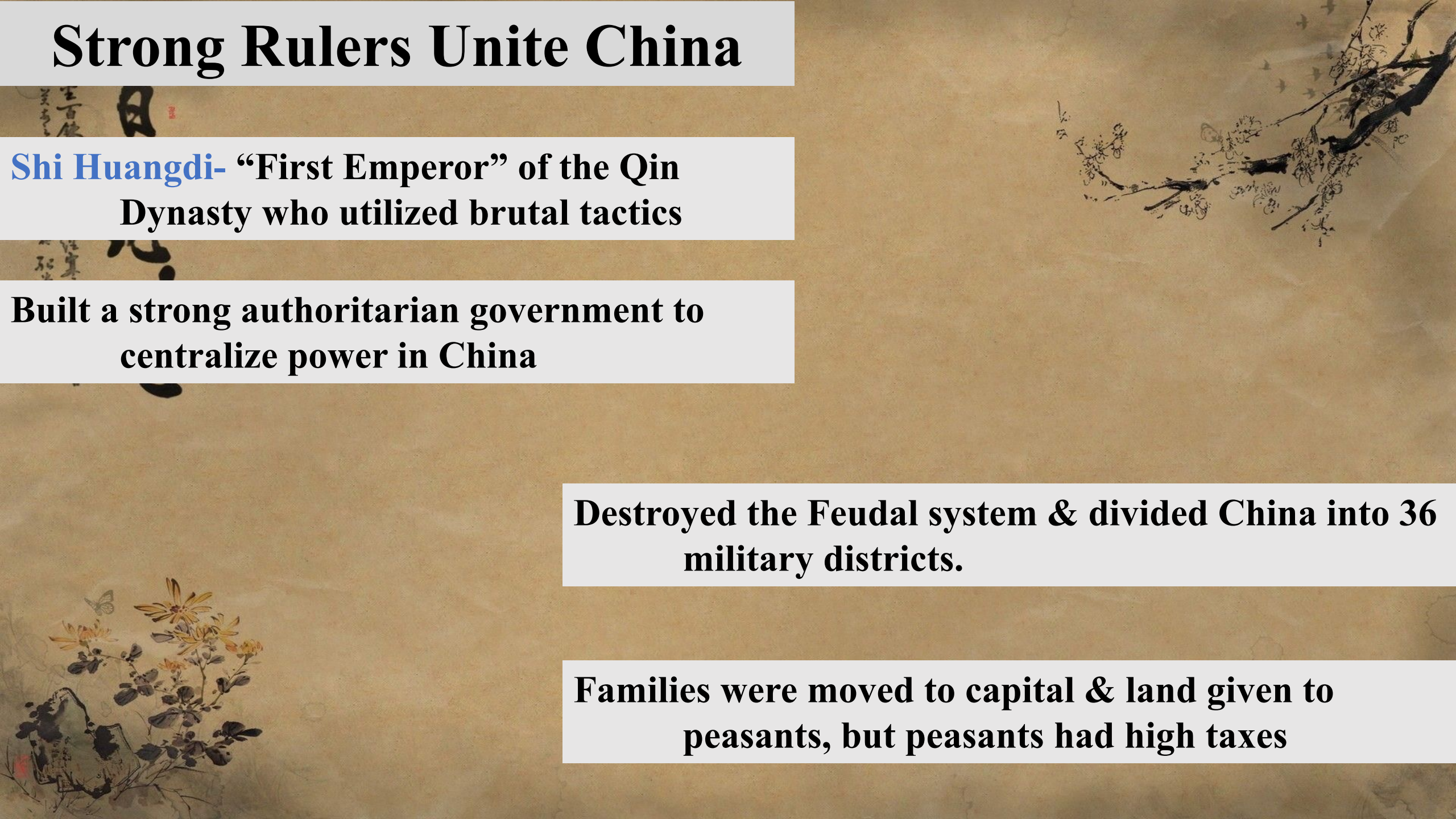
Strong Rulers Unite China

Shi Huangdi- “First Emperor” of the Qin Dynasty who utilized brutal tactics

Built a strong authoritarian government to centralize power in China

Destroyed the Feudal system & divided China into 36 military districts.

Families were moved to capital & land given to peasants, but peasants had high taxes



Goals of the Qin

Unity in roads, money, & weights, measurements, & writing brought the country in control

The idea of legalism was used. Strength was more powerful than “goodness”

Shi Huangdi had harsh punishments & ordered book burnings (except those on medicine & agriculture)

Most costly achievement was the Great Wall to try & keep invaders out

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笑矣之秋日書于碧山石室

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The Han Dynasty

Liu Bang- peasant leader who defeated Qin armies & reinstates Mandate of Heaven

He takes the title of Gao Zu & eased legalist policies & placed Confucian scholars as advisors

Wudi- Emperor who builds a university & set up granaries in the country

Brought about huge economic boosts to the country

Changes

Monopoly- Complete control of a product or business by one person or group

Government took control on iron & salt

Expansionism- Expanding ones own country into other territories

Nomads were attacked to spread China's power & Wudi arranged marriages

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The Silk Road

**Trade routes linking China with the West,
trading silk for new foods & items**

**Trade was set up with interconnecting roads
towards the west**

**Cultural exchanges & ideas spread across the eastern
land mass**

**Scholars run the government & bureaucracy is
needed to handle the trade routes presented**

Service & Impact

Civil servants- government officials who gain positions by merit rather than by family

China used exams to test knowledge to find brilliant people to run the government

Warlords- local military rulers, eventually toppled the Han emperors & invaders came in

Country broke up, but slowly reformed back into separate kingdoms

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Golden Age

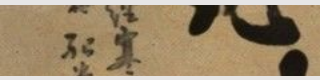
People referred to themselves as the Han & rulers began a golden age

Scientists wrote on many issues such as chemistry & even invented the seismograph

Acupuncture- remedy to insert needles into the skin at specific points to relieve pain or treat illness

The invention of paper was also developed during this time

Fishing reels, wheelbarrows, & suspension bridges came out of China



Art & Buddhism

Artisans would use jade, ivory, & ceramic to make fine art pieces.

Records of the Grand Historian wrote on the history of the country & *Lessons for Women* wrote about women's etiquette

Buddhism came into China from India & began to flourish

Confucian & Daoist traditions were mixed into the belief & monasteries grew in popularity

