

## THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

Stretching over 8,800 kilometers from the mountains of Korea to the Gobi Desert, the Great Wall of China is the longest structure built by human hands, and the only massive construction visible to astronauts orbiting in space.

Building of the wall began over 8,000 years ago and was often hundreds of miles of isolated fortifications built by various rulers of China's independent states. But around 220 B.C., the Huang Di became the first emperor of a united China and decided that the separate walls needed to be linked and joined together. He ordered thousands of craftsmen to be built to make his and 12 square miles of that time. wall stones of granite joining them.

The wall obviously is massive and sturdy, and covered thousands of paths. Over the 2,000 centuries, various and political empires were dragged off to build the wall. Many died from destruction, fighting, or bad plans. Although before even getting to the construction sites, it is estimated that some of the castles buried in the foundations of the wall to wait off and space.

Further walking workers, the problem they faced was the ever-changing terrain as they traveled north. They used almost rock walls, so they used earth and stone that they could find. It was hard to other things like hills were so close that walls couldn't come up in the background, so the castles were built on the sides of their bases. In the desert, the wall was built very wide, public, and open.

But why go to all the trouble? The obvious answer is protection. Keeping armies of the emperor, although, at the time, the emperor had begun, China didn't have any powerful armies. Besides, the wall would require far too many people to build it. It seems the wall may have been built more as a way of keeping the Chinese people in than as a way of keeping armies out. But some say the wall was built to satisfy the emperor's paranoia and his love of grandiose schemes. And that his officials supported the emperor's idea as a way of a great way to keep themselves.

Today, The Wall is considered one of the great wonders of the world. UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a symbol of Chinese civilization. It is the world's longest wall, and it is a great way to keep ourselves.

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