



The First Emperor of China

By Jonathan Clements

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The First Emperor In 1974, Chinese peasants made the discovery of the century... Thousands of terracotta soldiers guarding the tomb of a tyrant. Ying Zheng was born to rule the world, claiming descent from gods, crowned king while still a child. He was the product of a heartless, brutal regime devoted to domination, groomed from an early age to become the First Emperor of China after a century of scheming by his ancestors. He faked a foreign threat to justify an invasion. He ruled a nation under 24-hour surveillance. He ordered his interrogators to torture suspects. He boiled his critics alive. He buried dissenting scholars. He declared war on death itself. Jonathan Clements uses modern archaeology and ancient texts to outline the First Emperor's career and the grand schemes that followed unification: the Great Wall that guarded his frontiers and the famous Terracotta Army that watches over his tomb. Published in 2015, this revised edition includes updates from a further decade of publications, archaeology and fictional adaptations, plus the author's encounter with Yang Zhifa, the man who discovered the Terracotta Army.

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About the Author

Jonathan Clements is a Visiting Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University, China. His other books include biographies of Confucius, Khubilai Khan and Empress Wu, and a new translation of Sun Tzu's Art of War.

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