

superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The two represented opposing views of how to harness economic power and what role the individual should play compared to the national good. However, there was a great difference between them. America wielded not only its superior military power but its “soft power” as well. The Soviets, meanwhile, developed a military force to reckon with, but its soft power was a joke by comparison. In the end, the Soviet economic system proved to be a fantastic failure and America emerged as the world’s remaining superpower.

The fact the China has symbolically become the world’s greatest economy need not trigger panic. Even if it was real there need not necessarily be panic. First, its growth has not come at the expense of America’s. If anything, it is a result of America’s economic growth. And if China grows faster it will purchase more American products, benefitting America.

Second, such changes are slow and are not felt overnight. Americans can go to sleep and wake up tomorrow knowing that they


are far wealthier and better off than most people in emerging markets like China.

Still, it is not pleasant to consider the role of world economic superpower transferring to China—either now or in the future. Despite the increasingly capitalistic nature of China’s economy, politically she retains the totalitarian nature of a typical communist state in many ways. What is gained, if the rise of China economically comes at the cost of freedom?

For the past 200 years, the world has been dominated by England and America, two countries that have been the flag-bearers of democracy and constitutional rights. And although no system is perfect, it is the best the world at large has ever known. As Winston Churchill said, “Democracy is the worst form of government—except all the others....”

People in the West can only hope that we and our leaders continue to receive the *siyaata dishmaya* necessary to preserve our freedoms so that we may live our lives with hope and in accordance with the values that make life worth living. ■

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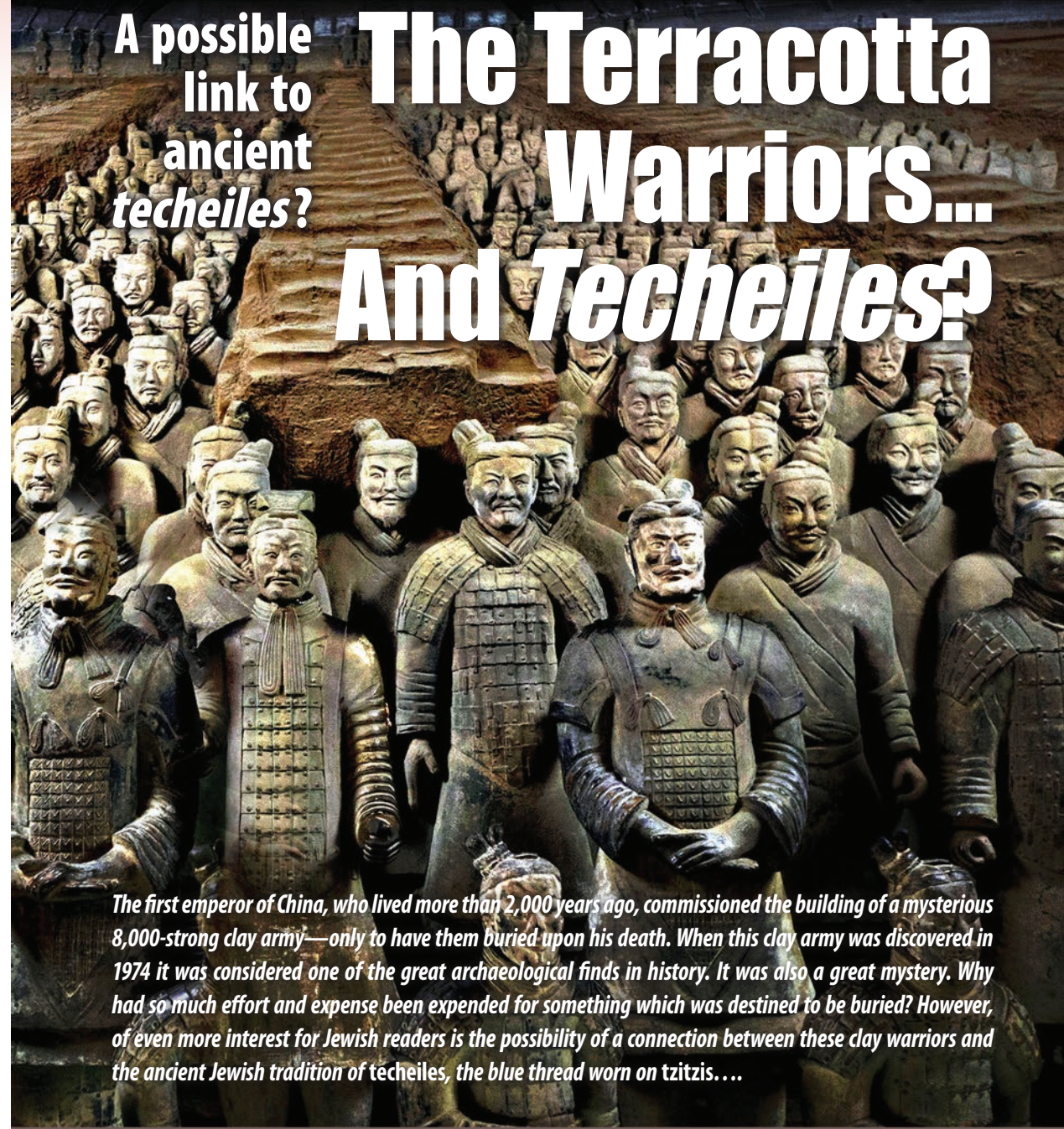
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A possible link to ancient techeiles?

The Terracotta Warriors... And Techeiles?

The first emperor of China, who lived more than 2,000 years ago, commissioned the building of a mysterious 8,000-strong clay army—only to have them buried upon his death. When this clay army was discovered in 1974 it was considered one of the great archaeological finds in history. It was also a great mystery. Why had so much effort and expense been expended for something which was destined to be buried? However, of even more interest for Jewish readers is the possibility of a connection between these clay warriors and the ancient Jewish tradition of techeiles, the blue thread worn on tzitzis...

The year is 1974. A simple farmer digging a well near the Chinese city of Xian (Shi-ahn) sees something strange in the soil. It is a fragment of clay. Then he finds others. They seem to be sculpted in human form.

He alerts the local authorities. Within a

short time, Chinese archeologists converge on the area and carefully excavate the soil. In time, they make a staggering discovery: an ancient army, 8,000 clay soldiers strong, each warrior unique and sculpted by hand. The 8,000 warriors—the terracotta warriors, as they will soon come to be known—are

buried in three large pits. Infantry, archers, generals and cavalry are all represented in this bizarre burial field.

Who are they?

The first clue is that they are buried near the tomb of one of history's most powerful men—Qin Shihuangdi, also known as the First Emperor of China. He built himself an extraordinary tomb, one that dwarfed the ancient Egyptian pharaohs' pyramids. A Chinese author recording the splendors of that tomb writes of its rivers and oceans made of mercury, its replicas of palaces fully reproducing the emperor's earthly realm. However, there was no mention of an underground army in this ancient text.

Why did he make them? And once made, why did he bury them? Who made them and how were they made? These are some of the mysteries scientists began to explore almost immediately upon making the astonishing discovery.

The First Emperor

The year is 221 BCE. In Mexico, the city of Teotihuacan is expanding, on track to becoming ancient America's greatest metropolis. In Egypt, the city of Alexandria boasts a 400-foot-tall lighthouse, one of the tallest buildings in the world at that time. The Roman Empire, as we know it, does not exist. In China, a team of craftsmen begins an incredible feat.



Qin Shihuangdi, the First Emperor of China.

A brilliant soldier and ruthless conqueror named Qin Shihuangdi has unified seven warring kingdoms into a single empire called China, giving himself the title of First Emperor. On a day forever lost to history, the emperor gives orders to build 8,000 unique clay figures,



The ancient Terracotta Army was discovered in 1974 by a peasant digging a well. It represents one of the greatest archaeological finds of modern times.

all to be ready on the unknown day when he will die. All of them will have to be strong enough to survive an eternity underground. And all of them have to be beautiful and realistic enough to please the imperial eye. The emperor demands perfection and woe to the person who dares to disappoint him.

Each soldier would stand six feet tall and weigh more than 600 pounds. The undertaking would cost a fortune only an emperor could afford. The task required years of work, and endless ingenuity, as workers struggled to make clay statues on a scale never attempted before.

The figures are life size, and no two are alike. Their shoes, their bodies, and especially their faces all are different. Each represents a unique individual. It is a mystery whether they are portraits of the emperor's soldiers or products of the warrior-makers' imaginations. But one thing is clear: creating 8,000 clay individuals made the job of producing the terracotta warriors even more difficult.

Qin Shihuangdi went to enormous trouble and expense to create these statues, statues that would never be seen by human eyes after his death. Why they were made is a mystery. Even how he made them is mystery.

How did they do it?

Today in China there is a market for all types of souvenirs. One of the most popular and iconic is terracotta (i.e. clay) warrior figurines. Factories churn out thousands

of terracotta warrior replicas every year, exporting them to countries like the United States, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and France. One factory manufactures around 50,000 small terracotta warriors each year and about 200 full-size figures.

Yet, even with modern technology reproducing the ancient clay warriors is a challenge. Like their ancient predecessors, today's souvenir makers had to figure out warrior making step by step, through trial and error.

The first challenge was simply choosing the right material. Bricks for a tomb figurine can be made out of just about any clay, but a typical terracotta warrior stands six to six-and-a-half feet tall and weighs up to 650 pounds. Using the right material can make the difference between a fierce warrior and a pile of broken pottery. The right clay must be dense and sticky enough to hold together, as it loses water and dries out, but not so dense that the inside of the statue cannot

dry. Today, as it was 2000 years ago, success depends on finding a clay that is tough enough to make a life-sized warrior.

They use something called red clay, a clay that is sticky and strong and found in abundance in the area surrounding the Terracotta Army.

For the First Emperor's craftsmen, finding the right clay would have solved the first



Each terracotta soldier stood a good six feet tall and weighed more than 600 pounds.



Terracotta warriors today as seen in one of the museum's several exhibition pits.