

The Great Wall of China: Should It Be Called Great?

When people think of China they think of Chinese food, samurai warriors, paper, and gunpowder, but most of all they think of the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall is a huge icon of China and gets tourists from all around the world. But as surprising as this sounds, many people don't believe the Great Wall of China should have as much popularity as it has, or even be considered an icon. Here's why.

The first reason why the Great Wall of China should not be considered an icon is because the building of the Great Wall caused suffering and famine throughout China. Many of the soldiers and wall builders sent to build and protect the wall had terrible deaths. Many of these people died due to extreme heat or cold. Also many of them died because of starvation. There was starvation, not only near the wall, but all through China because there was no one to harvest the rice. This caused famine. Another example of suffering is that families, convicts and slaves were forced to leave their homes and move close to the wall to make cities. Many people believe that the Great Wall of China prevented more suffering than it caused but, obviously after what you just read you can see that that is clearly not true.

Another reason why the Great Wall of China should not be considered an icon is because of trade. Many people think that the Great Wall was worth being built because it helped trade, but that is not true because the trade China gained only helped the wealthy, and the trade didn't really need the Great Wall to grow. Proof that the trade didn't really need the Great Wall to grow is that the wall was very easy to get by so it didn't really matter if the wall was there or not. Plus, the trade that China gained only really helped the wealthy, so it didn't benefit most of China.

Many people believe that the Great Wall of China gave protection to the people, but this is not true because guards of the Great Wall could easily be bribed including one occasion when an invading army bribed the guards and conquered China. Also, the Great Wall was not one solid wall. The Great Wall was many different walls spread out. Knowing this, all you really had to do to get by the "Great" Wall and invade China was go along the wall far enough until there was a gap in the wall. So, clearly, the Great Wall of China could not do the one job it was made for. To protect China.

The Great Wall of China couldn't really protect China, and the trade it didn't really need to protect only helped the small, wealthy class of China. After reading all this you can clearly see that the building of the Great Wall of China was not worth the

death and suffering of thousands of Chinese people. You could say that the *Great* Wall of China isn't so, *Great*.