



長城

Rebuilding of the Great Wall

The building of the Great Wall of China, one of the legendary seven wonders of the world, began in 221 B.C. Eight hundred years later, the Sui Emperor Yang Di began a huge project of repairing the ancient wall. The costs and benefits of building and rebuilding the wall were enormous. The Great Wall's construction involved the forced labor of hundreds of thousands of Chinese, many of whom died from the harsh working conditions and were buried in the wall itself. Another 700 years later, in 1368, Ming Emperor Tai Zu decided to rebuild the ancient wall yet again. Tai Zu's project focused on the use of the wall for defense against attackers. Fifteen-thousand defense towers and forts along the wall that had become old and weak were reconstructed. Peasant army troops were stationed at different points behind the wall to provide additional security against attack. During the Ming dynasty, much of the 3,665-mile wall—which stretches from Inner Mongolia to the sea—was strengthened and rebuilt. It remains the largest structure ever built anywhere in the world, and is the only human made work on earth visible to the naked eye from the moon.