

SYNOPSIS



The Great Wall

Die Große Mauer

The Great Wall played a major role in the rise and the fall of empires and dynasties. It determined the volatile history of China - and the entire world. But how did the Great Wall become the wonder it is today? How did it influence history and culture in China and in turn in the rest of the world?

The two-part documentary, with high-quality re-enactments, tells the story of the two greatest emperors in Chinese history. Qin Shi Huang Di (260 - 210 BC) was a megalomaniac who fought bloody wars to forge the first unified Chinese empire. He linked several regional Walls from 600 BC to protect his empire against foreign invaders. This was the first Great Wall. Nearly a million people slaved on its construction. Hundreds of thousands died from starvation, fatigue or brutal punishments. Many workers were buried in the wall itself. When he died their emperor entombed his concubines alive and created the legendary Terracotta Army to fight his battles after death.

The Ming Emperor Yongle (1360-1424 AD) overthrew his nephew, made Beijing his new capital and built the legendary Forbidden City. The move north brought the center of Chinese power close to the Empire of China's arch-enemies, the Mongols. It became vital for the Ming Dynasty to extend The Great Wall to the 21.196,18 kilometers we know today. By now it was an engineering masterpiece, precisely calculated and planned. But what does its breathtaking scale tell us about 3,000 years of Chinese culture and history? Did it really keep China safe? This series explores the legend of the Great Wall and reveals incredible discoveries - like the crucial role of Climate Change in the Wall's story!

Run-Time: 2 x 52 min.

Directed by Martin Betz and Liang Renhong

A production of CITVC Phoenix Publishing and Media Group Beijing Keying Media Co., Ltd in coproduction with BTV Produced by: pre tv, Gesellschaft fuer Film- und Videoproduktion mbH

Worldwide excluding Asia, Africa, Germany and France

Languages: German (ORIGINAL) , English (DUBBED)

Format: 16:9

HD

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SYNOPSIS



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