Power and Belief

Trace how conquest and religion changed governments and communities.

SS24.8.8a "Explain the political and cultural consequences of the Crusades, the Reconquista, the Spanish Inquisition, and the establishment of the Ottoman Empire."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one political consequence and circle one cultural consequence for each development. Number your marks 1 for the Crusades, 2 for the Reconquista, 3 for the Spanish Inquisition, and 4 for the Ottoman Empire.

Who Ruled, and Who Belonged?

1. In 1095, Pope Urban II called on western European Christians to fight for control of Jerusalem, a city sacred to Christians, Muslims, and Jews. The Crusades brought armies into the eastern Mediterranean. Crusaders captured Jerusalem in 1099 and founded states in the region, but Muslim forces later retook the city. These wars briefly increased the pope's influence and gave some European nobles land and power in new states. Merchants also carried goods and ideas between regions. This contact expanded European interest in eastern Mediterranean trade, even as violence deepened religious mistrust.

2. On the Iberian Peninsula, Christian kingdoms gradually took territory from Muslim-ruled states in a long series of campaigns called the Reconquista. In 1492, the rulers of Castile and Aragon captured Granada, the last Muslim-ruled kingdom there. The victory strengthened their power and linked their rule to Catholic identity. That year, they ordered Jews who refused baptism to leave their kingdoms. The Spanish Inquisition, established in 1478, investigated baptized Christians suspected of practicing other religions in secret. Its trials helped rulers enforce religious uniformity and spread fear, weakening communities with diverse traditions.

3. Farther east, the Ottoman Empire grew from a small state in Anatolia into a powerful Muslim-ruled empire. In 1453, Ottoman forces captured Constantinople, ending the Byzantine Empire. They made the city, later called Istanbul, their capital and a major center of government and trade. Ottoman rulers allowed many Christian and Jewish communities to worship and manage community affairs, though these groups faced special taxes and limits. The empire also brought together Turkish, Arab, Greek, and other traditions. This approach contrasted with Spain's push for religious uniformity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Crusades change political power and cultural contact in the eastern Mediterranean?

2. What political and cultural changes followed the Reconquista's final victory in 1492?

3. How did the Spanish Inquisition help rulers govern, and how did its trials affect communities?

4. How did the Ottoman capture of Constantinople change political control, and how did Ottoman rule shape life for different religious groups?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence exhibit label comparing Spain's push for religious uniformity with the Ottoman approach to religious difference. Explain how each approach shaped political power, give one cultural effect of each, and identify a key difference.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Belief

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.8a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one political consequence and circle one cultural consequence for each development. Number your marks 1 for the Crusades, 2 for the Reconquista, 3 for the Spanish Inquisition, and 4 for the Ottoman Empire. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Crusades change political power and cultural contact in the eastern Mediterranean?	**The Crusades briefly increased the pope's influence and gave some European nobles land and power. Trade and the exchange of ideas grew, but violence also deepened religious mistrust.**
2	What political and cultural changes followed the Reconquista's final victory in 1492?	**Taking Granada strengthened the rulers of Castile and Aragon and linked their rule to Catholic identity. That year, they ordered Jews who refused baptism to leave their kingdoms.**
3	How did the Spanish Inquisition help rulers govern, and how did its trials affect communities?	**Its investigations helped rulers enforce religious uniformity. Its trials spread fear and weakened communities with diverse traditions.**
4	How did the Ottoman capture of Constantinople change political control, and how did Ottoman rule shape life for different religious groups?	**The capture ended the Byzantine Empire, and the Ottomans made the city their capital. Many Christian and Jewish communities could worship and manage community affairs, but they faced special taxes and limits.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Spain, rulers used the Inquisition to strengthen control by investigating baptized Christians suspected of secretly following another religion. Its trials spread fear and weakened communities with different traditions. Ottoman rulers built power by making Constantinople their capital, while allowing many Christian and Jewish communities to manage community affairs despite special taxes and limits. Spain pressed for religious uniformity, while the Ottoman Empire governed communities that kept different faiths.

Accept other accurate political and cultural consequences stated in the passage. Responses should distinguish Ottoman permission to practice different religions from equal treatment.