

Power Across Empires

Trace how rulers built and held authority.

9.3b "Empires used belief systems, systems of law, forms of government, military forces, and social hierarchies to consolidate and expand power."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Label bold phrases B (belief), L (law), G (government), M (military), or S (social rank). More than one label may fit if you explain why.

Tools of Imperial Control

- ① After the Kalinga war, Mauryan emperor Ashoka promoted dhamma, a shared moral message. His **edicts urged tolerance, nonviolence, and respect for parents**. He still relied on **provincial governors and officials collecting taxes and enforcing rules**, as well as **an army guarding imperial territory**. **Elite officials and local leaders held more authority than most farmers and laborers**. Moral appeals, administration, force, and social rank helped connect communities to imperial rule.
- ② Qin Shi Huang unified warring states in China in 221 BCE. Qin policies reflected **Legalist ideas emphasizing rules, rewards, and punishments**. **Laws prescribed harsh penalties**, and **appointed officials carried out the emperor's commands in districts**. **Armies conquered territory**, while **the emperor and officials exercised authority over other social groups**. Standardized weights, measures, writing, and coinage made administration more uniform across the empire.
- ③ Rome combined force and institutions. **Legions conquered territory and defended frontiers**. **Roman law defined citizenship and different groups' rights**, linking communities to Roman rule. **Magistrates, governors, and later emperors administered territory**. **Public rituals honored gods and, in some periods, emperors**. **Wealthy elites held more influence than poorer people, and enslaved people lacked freedom**. Roman government changed over time, but rulers repeatedly combined military power, law, belief, and hierarchy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Ashoka's edicts help him consolidate power, according to the passage?

2 How were the Qin legal code and Qin appointed officials two different tools of control?

3 How did Roman law help connect communities to Roman rule?

4 Identify one military method used by both the Mauryan and Roman empires. What was each military force used to do?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the Mauryan, Qin, or Roman Empire. Write four sentences explaining how two different bolded methods worked together to help that empire expand or maintain power.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Label bold phrases B (belief), L (law), G (government), M (military), or S (social rank). More than one label may fit if you explain why. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Ashoka's edicts help him consolidate power, according to the passage?	They spread dhamma, a shared moral message urging tolerance, nonviolence, and respect for parents.
2	How were the Qin legal code and Qin appointed officials two different tools of control?	The legal code set harsh penalties for offenses. Appointed officials carried out the emperor's commands in districts.
3	How did Roman law help connect communities to Roman rule?	It defined citizenship and the rights of different groups, tying many communities to Roman rule.
4	Identify one military method used by both the Mauryan and Roman empires. What was each military force used to do?	Both used armies to guard territory. The Mauryan army guarded imperial territory, while Roman legions conquered territory and defended frontiers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rome used legions to conquer territory and defend frontiers. It also used Roman law to define citizenship and the rights of different groups. The legions extended and protected Roman control, while the law tied many communities to Roman rule. Together, force and law helped Rome expand and maintain power.

Accept defensible labels, including overlaps between law, government and belief. For example, edicts can express beliefs while serving government. The open response should explain two distinct methods and how they worked together.