

Trade Builds Power

Trace how control of trade routes strengthened states and empires.

9.4d "Control of transregional trade and economic growth contributed to the emergence and expansion of political states."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions used to control trade. Circle sources or uses of revenue. Mark P beside details showing greater political power.

Routes, Revenue, and Rule

- ① Medieval Ghana grew powerful near routes linking West African gold-producing regions with North African markets. This kingdom was not located in the modern country of Ghana. Its rulers controlled trading centers and taxed goods entering and leaving their territory. Gold, salt, and other products moved through these centers. Revenue supported officials and soldiers. Rulers could protect merchants, demand loyalty from nearby communities, and strengthen their state. Trade income and political authority reinforced each other.
- ② In the thirteenth century, Sundiata Keita founded the Mali Empire. Mali expanded over important trading centers and gold-producing areas. Its rulers taxed trade and used revenue to support soldiers and provincial government. Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca in the fourteenth century made Mali's gold wealth widely known. This wealth helped rulers govern a large territory, although trade was not the only source of power. Armies, alliances, and local political relationships also mattered.
- ③ The Ottoman state likewise benefited from trade as it expanded. Ottoman forces captured Constantinople in 1453 and made it their imperial capital. The city overlooked the Bosphorus, part of the sea passage connecting the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. Ottoman rulers collected customs duties from commerce through their territories. Revenues helped pay troops and administrators. Control of ports and routes increased influence, while military conquest brought more territory under Ottoman rule. Trade supported expansion but did not cause it alone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Ghanaian rulers gain money from trans-Saharan trade, and what did they use that money to support?

2 Explain how Mali used trade revenue to expand and govern its territory.

3 What trade location did the Ottomans control, and how did its revenues strengthen the empire?

4 What link between trade revenue and political power appears in all three examples? Give one difference between their trade locations.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a ruler gains control of a mountain pass used by merchants traveling between two regions. Write four sentences explaining how control of the pass could increase wealth and help the ruler strengthen or expand a political state.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions used to control trade. Circle sources or uses of revenue. Mark P beside details showing greater political power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Ghanaian rulers gain money from trans-Saharan trade, and what did they use that money to support?	They controlled trading centers and taxed goods entering and leaving their territory. The revenue supported officials and soldiers.
2	Explain how Mali used trade revenue to expand and govern its territory.	Trade taxes helped pay soldiers and support provincial government, giving rulers resources to govern a larger territory.
3	What trade location did the Ottomans control, and how did its revenues strengthen the empire?	The Ottomans controlled Constantinople and the Bosphorus passage. Customs revenues from trade supported troops and administrators.
4	What link between trade revenue and political power appears in all three examples? Give one difference between their trade locations.	Revenue supported soldiers and government. Ghana and Mali controlled Saharan trade centers; the Ottomans controlled Constantinople and sea passages.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The ruler could charge a toll on merchants passing through. Revenue could pay guards to protect the route. It could also support officials and soldiers who govern nearby territory. If trade continued, this income could help strengthen or expand the state.

Accept responses that clearly connect control of a trade route to revenue or economic growth and then to political power, such as officials, armies, protection, governing territory, or expansion. Students may use a toll, tax, customs duty, or another accurate method of collecting trade revenue.