

Claims to Lead

Religious disagreements often shaped political power.

9.6a "Internal tensions and challenges grew as disputes over authority and power arose between and among religious and political leaders."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline claims to religious or political authority. Circle effects of disputes on communities or political events.

Who Has the Right to Rule?

- ① After Muhammad died in 632, Muslims disputed who should lead their community. Abu Bakr became the first caliph. Sunni tradition later recognized him and the next three caliphs as rightful early leaders. Supporters of Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, emphasized his family's claim. Shia traditions developed around Ali and certain descendants recognized as imams with spiritual authority. The division developed over time, through political conflicts and differing ideas about leadership. Religious and political authority were closely connected.
- ② In medieval Christianity, the pope in Rome claimed authority over the whole Church. Leaders in Constantinople honored Rome's senior standing but rejected universal papal control. Churches also differed in language, worship, and teachings. In 1054, papal representatives and the patriarch's side issued excommunications against particular opponents. This episode marked a stage in the longer Great Schism, rather than an instant separation of all Christians. Political rivalry also increased mistrust between eastern and western churches.
- ③ These divisions shaped political relationships. Sunni Abbasid caliphs in Baghdad and Shia Fatimid caliphs in Cairo each claimed legitimate leadership. Their rival governments linked religious allegiance with political authority. In Christian Europe, popes promoted crusades while Byzantine emperors pursued their own security goals. The Fourth Crusade captured Constantinople in 1204, deepening hostility between eastern and western Christians. Religious and political disputes could divide communities and complicate alliances, though motives and loyalties varied.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why was the disagreement after Muhammad's death both a religious and a political dispute?

2 How did leaders in Constantinople disagree with the pope's claim to authority?

3 How does the passage explain the significance of 1054 for the Great Schism?

4 Give two examples from the passage of authority disputes affecting political events or relationships.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

In four sentences, explain how one conflict in the passage connected religious authority and political power. State a claim, use two passage details, and explain a consequence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline claims to religious or political authority. Circle effects of disputes on communities or political events. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the disagreement after Muhammad's death both a religious and a political dispute?	The dispute concerned leadership of the Muslim community and spiritual authority as well as political rule.
2	How did leaders in Constantinople disagree with the pope's claim to authority?	They accepted Rome as an honored center but rejected the pope's claim to universal control over the Christian Church.
3	How does the passage explain the significance of 1054 for the Great Schism?	The excommunications marked one stage in a longer division between eastern and western churches, not an instant separation of all Christians.
4	Give two examples from the passage of authority disputes affecting political events or relationships.	Accept two: Abbasid and Fatimid caliphs each claimed legitimate rule; popes called for Crusades while Byzantine emperors pursued security goals; the Fourth Crusade captured Constantinople and deepened hostility.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rival caliphal claims show a connection between religious and political authority. The Abbasids in Baghdad claimed legitimate leadership. The Fatimids in Cairo made a competing claim tied to Shia allegiance. These claims divided political authority between rival governments.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a claim to lead a religious community with control of political power. For the open response, accept either the Sunni-Shia division or the Great Schism if the student uses two accurate details and explains a consequence.