

Belief and Power

Trace how ideas shaped governments and centers of power.

9.7a "Three belief systems influenced numerous, powerful states and empires across the Eastern Hemisphere."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline ways beliefs shaped government or power. Circle related states, empires, or political centers.

Ideas That Reached Rulers

- ① Around 1400, Islam linked communities across North Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, and parts of South and Southeast Asia. Muslim rulers supported religious law, mosques, schools, and charities in varied ways. The Ottoman state held territory in Anatolia and the Balkans. Its sultans presented themselves as Muslim rulers while governing Christians and others. Merchants and scholars carried Islamic ideas along trade routes. Religious influence stretched across many states; it did not make them one government.
- ② The Ming Dynasty, founded in China in 1368, used Neo-Confucian ideas in government and society. These teachings emphasized moral conduct, education, family duties, and proper relationships. Many civil officials qualified through examinations based on Confucian learning. Officials were expected to model good conduct and serve the emperor. Neo-Confucianism also influenced nearby societies, especially Korea's Joseon kingdom. Its importance did not mean everyone held identical beliefs: Buddhism, Daoism, and other traditions continued.
- ③ Christianity shaped Europe and parts of the eastern Mediterranean. The Roman Catholic Church linked western kingdoms through shared beliefs, clergy, and institutions. Popes influenced rulers, but kings and nobles pursued their own goals. The Byzantine Empire centered on Constantinople and upheld Eastern Orthodox Christianity; by 1400 its territory was much reduced. Christian institutions could support political authority without uniting all Christians under one ruler. Comparing these realms requires distinguishing religious influence from state borders and military power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What feature helped Islam influence cities far from the Ottoman state?

2 How did the Ming government use Neo-Confucian learning to choose many officials?

3 Identify one way Ottoman sultans and Ming emperors both connected belief systems to political power.

4 Why did shared Christianity not mean one unified government?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, compare how Islam and Neo-Confucianism supported political power. Include one role for each belief system, one difference, and two passage details.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline ways beliefs shaped government or power. Circle related states, empires, or political centers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What feature helped Islam influence cities far from the Ottoman state?	Merchants and scholars carried Islamic ideas along trade routes.
2	How did the Ming government use Neo-Confucian learning to choose many officials?	It selected many officials through demanding examinations based on Confucian learning.
3	Identify one way Ottoman sultans and Ming emperors both connected belief systems to political power.	Ottoman sultans presented themselves as Muslim rulers, while Ming emperors used Neo-Confucian ideas and a Confucian-trained bureaucracy to reinforce their authority.
4	Why did shared Christianity not mean one unified government?	Western kingdoms had separate rulers linked by the Catholic Church, while the Byzantine Empire upheld Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Rulers pursued their own goals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ottoman sultans connected political authority with their role as Muslim rulers. Ming officials studied Confucian texts and were expected to serve the emperor with proper conduct. Islam linked communities across many states, while Neo-Confucian learning shaped Ming official examinations. Both influenced government without making everyone's beliefs identical.

Accept equivalent explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a clear comparison, one political role for each belief system, one difference, and at least two accurate passage details.