

How did empires wield power and authority?

## What's the **BIG** deal?

- Power is the ability, strength, and capacity to do something. Authority is the right to use power to enforce rules or give orders. Empires in Era 3 wielded power and authority in different ways.
- The global pattern of development for human societies during Era 3 included the emergence of large empires in most of which an individual ruler held most of the power.
- Not every major society existed as an empire. Both empires and other types of civilizations during Era 3 organized power and authority in different forms including democracy, republics, and oligarchy.
- Empires exercised power and authority over vast geographic areas and many, many people during Era 3, thereby having an enormous impact on the development of civilization in general.