

From Religious Tolerance to Book Burning – Leadership in the Empires

What's the **BIG** deal?

- The authority of emperors during Era 3 was generally absolute, but how they used their power differed from one ruler to the next.
- Emperors justified their power in different ways, but assumed they had the right or obligation to rule. Most emperors claimed a divine, or God-given, right to rule.
- Some emperors obtained power from being born into a specific family; they inherited their power based on the idea of hereditary succession.
- Emperors sought to manage their people and societies through different means. Sometimes they used rewards, and other times they used force and punishment.