

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Learning Targets: SWBAT:

- 1. Analyze how political upheaval, the plague, and dissension within the Empire led to Rome's decline.*
- 2. Examine the consequences of building your empire too big that the leaders are unable to control the actions of their citizens.*

DO NOW: Describe two reasons that would make a civilization collapse.

The Roman Republic & Empire: A Brief Overview

Rome began as a _____ that was heavily influenced by Greek culture. By 509 B.C.E.,

Rome was ruled by elected _____ who served in the Roman Republic.

The Roman Republic

During the Republic, Rome _____ by defeating Carthage in the _____

and later under generals like Julius Caesar. The Republic weakened due to _____,

civil wars, and the _____ of Caesar in 44 B.C.E.

The Roman Empire

After Julius Caesar's death, Rome became an _____ ruled by the Emperor Augustus.

Under Augustus, Rome entered an era of _____ known as the _____. After

207 years of prosperity during the PAX Romana, the empire began to _____ and was

_____ in 476 C.E.

The Decline of the Roman Empire

The decline and _____ of the Roman Empire happened _____, in three stages.

FIRST STAGE: _____ with politics, the economy, and the military began an

era of decline. **SECOND STAGE:** there was a brief period of revival as Emperors _____ and _____ enacted reforms; however, some of these reforms would help bring the _____ end. **THIRD STAGE:** repeated invasions by _____ “barbarian” tribes would lead to the conquest of Rome, and bringing the Roman Empire to an end.

Rome’s Internal Problem’s POLITICAL and SOCIAL

The empire was _____ for one emperor to control. Emperors after the Pax Romana were _____. Citizens experienced a _____ of confidence, patriotism, and _____ to the Roman government.

Rome’s Internal Problems ECONOMIC

Outside groups _____ trade. Poor harvests led to _____. Rome had a _____ (they bought more than they produced). The government _____ and minted new coins which led to inflation. The economic decline left many Romans very _____.

Rome’s Internal Problems: MILITARY

_____ from Northern Europe, outside the Roman Empire, were gaining strength. The Roman military was growing ineffective due to _____: generals had their own interests and were challenging the authority of the emperors. To save money, Rome found it cheaper to hire _____ instead of employing more Romans; these “_____” were not truly loyal to Rome.

The Decline of the Roman Empire

The decline and the fall of the Roman Empire happened gradually, in three stages.

FIRST STAGE: internal problems with politics, the economy, and the military began an era of decline.

SECOND STAGE: there was a brief period of _____ as Emperors Diocletian and Constantine enacted _____; however, some of these reforms would help bring about the Empire's end.

THIRD STAGE: repeated invasions by Germanic "barbarian" tribes would lead to the conquest of Rome, bringing the Roman Empire to an end.

Attempts to Reform the Roman Empire: EMPEROR DIOCLETIAN

In 284 CE, Emperor _____ came to power; he began a series of reforms that temporarily _____ Rome's decline. To fix the problems of the military, he _____ the size of the Roman army. To help the economy and stop inflation, he fixed the _____ of certain goods. In an attempt to do something about the lack of loyalty and patriotism of many Roman citizens, Diocletian presented himself as a _____ leader. He wanted to boost the prestige of the position of _____, so he claimed descent from the gods and had numerous ceremonies to _____ himself. Diocletian's most important reform was _____ the Roman Empire into two parts: the _____ and the _____. The Roman Empire was divided by _____: the mostly _____ Western half and the mostly _____ Eastern half. However, the Empire was also divided by wealth: the _____ was far _____ than the West because it contained more major cities and the _____. Diocletian's reasons for the _____: he believed that the empire had grown too large and too complex for one ruler. He took the Eastern half for himself and appointed a ____-_____ to run the West; however, Diocletian had _____ of the Empire.

Attempts to Reform the Roman Empire: EMPEROR CONSTATINE

After Diocletian's death there was a _____ among several men who

wanted to rule the Empire. Emerging victorious and becoming the _____ of the West was _____. Constantine continued many of Diocletian's reforms, but he reversed the biggest reform: he _____ the East and the Roman Empire once again had a _____. Constantine made other changes: wanting to unify Rome and recognizing that _____ was on the rise and could not be destroyed, he ended the persecutions of Christians and made it a _____. Constantine later _____ to Christianity himself. The emperor after him would go on to make Christianity the _____ of Rome; this would have unexpected consequences. In 330 C.E., Constantine made a change that would have far reaching consequences for the world: he moved the _____ of the Roman Empire and his _____ from Rome to a Greek city called _____. Given its location on the Bosphorus Strait, the city was also in a more _____ position from the Northern invaders than Rome was. Byzantium was perfectly located to be the _____ between East and West. When it was constructed, Byzantium had a strong Greek and Christian influence; the new capital was soon protected by _____ and later was the home to many great new structures built in the _____. Byzantium eventually took on a new name: _____ (or city of Constantine). After Diocletian and Constantine died, the _____ of the Empire continued to grow _____ and more powerful. The _____ on the other hand, once again began to decline.

The Decline of the Roman Empire

Reasons why the Western side of the Roman Empire once again slid into decline: political _____, weakening _____, and terrible _____. Also, Roman citizens were less concerned with the fate of the Roman Empire and more

_____ with thoughts of the afterlife (because of the dominance of Christianity). All of these made the Western Roman Empire _____ and _____ (open to attack). The decline and the fall of the Roman Empire happened gradually, in three stages.

FIRST STAGE: internal problems with politics, the economy, and the military began an era of decline. **SECOND STAGE:** there was a brief period of revival as Emperors Diocletian and Constantine enacted reforms; however, some of these reforms would help bring about the Empire's end.

THIRD STAGE: repeated invasions by Germanic "barbarian" tribes would lead to the conquest of Rome, bringing the Roman Empire to an end. By 370 C.E., "barbarian tribes from _____ and _____ were attacking both halves of the Empire. The Eastern half was _____ - _____, organized, _____, and prosperous; it fought off the invaders. The _____ half was vulnerable, disorganized, and weak; it could _____ from the invaders. A marauding tribe from _____ called the _____ began the invasions. The Huns swept into Northern Europe _____ all in their path. When the Huns invaded Northern Europe, they were so _____ that they even made the _____ want to avoid them. To _____ the Huns, the Germanic tribes moved south into the Western Roman Empire's territory. These Germanic groups (such as the Vandals, Goths, Visigoths, Franks, and Ostrogoths) did not move into Roman territory _____. They repeatedly _____ the Western Romans. When a vicious new leader named _____ united the Hun tribes, the Huns also attacked _____ of the Roman Empire. The _____ side, centered around Constantinople, _____ fought off the attacking Huns. The _____ side, attacked at several places by the Huns and Germanic tribes,

_____ and was conquered. The city of Rome itself was captured and _____ by the _____ in 410 C.E. The German warrior _____ removed the last Roman Emperor from power. A _____ Western Roman Army could do little to stop the invasions; by 476 C.E., Germanic barbarians took over the city of Rome and _____ the West. The once-united Western Roman Empire _____ into numerous smaller _____ and territories, each ruled over by different Germanic groups. The fall of the Western Roman Empire and the emergence of numerous small kingdoms led Europe to the _____. The Eastern Roman Empire, now known as the _____, not only remained together, but survived for nearly a _____ more years.

The Importance of the Byzantine Empire

The combination of Greek, Roman, and Hellenistic (the blend of Greek and Asian cultures) achievements are known as _____. The Byzantine Empire _____ the cultural achievements of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome at the same time as Han China and Gupta India were creating their own civilizations. If the Byzantine Empire also fell, it is possible that the great _____ and achievements of these great civilizations could have been _____. Greco-Roman achievements are the foundation of _____, the culture _____ live in today