

WHY DO EMPIRES FALL?

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Global History



- Reasons are both internal and external, but may include.....

SOCIAL CAUSES

- The way people lived and acted started to change

SOCIAL CAUSES

1. Decline in good behavior and Actions

- Examples:
 - Crime rates going up
 - Alcohol use on the rise
 - In Rome, gruesome gladiator fights becoming more popular

SOCIAL CAUSES

2. Public Health

- People started to live in unhealthy ways leading to them becoming sick and dying sooner than would be expected

SOCIAL CAUSES

3. Decay in the cities

- Conditions in the cities were generally very poor
- Run down housing and overcrowding in apartments led to people living in filthy conditions

ECONOMIC CAUSES

- Bad economy = people suffering
- Can lead people to revolt against the government.
- Other nations can also take over the empire easier.

ECONOMIC CAUSES

1. Unemployment

- Unemployment rates can lead to unrest in an empire. If people have no way of making money they blame it on the government
- Also the government cannot make as much from taxes as they had in the past if people are not working.

ECONOMIC CAUSES

2. Inflation

- Inflation is the rise in prices on goods and services
- Example: In 1996 the average price of a movie ticket was \$4.42. Present day the price is \$8.61

ECONOMIC CAUSES

- If prices are rising and people are making the same amount of money or not working at all, people have less money to spend on extra goods that they don't need to live.

POLITICAL CAUSES

- If the government is not strong, the empire is not strong

POLITICAL CAUSES

1. Weak Emperors

- If the emperor can't make decisions, other people will start making them for him.
- He will also be easier to overthrow. Typically when emperors have a short time as rulers, the government will weaken.
- When military rulers become too strong, they have the power to take over a weak emperor.

POLITICAL CAUSES

2. Corruption

- When people are in positions of power, they can be dishonest about what is going on
- They can sell positions of power to the person who can pay the most money.
- Also, they can make decisions that will benefit only them and not the empire

MILITARY WEAKNESS

- One of the most important characteristics of an empire is their strong military. Without that it is hard to keep the empire going.

MILITARY WEAKNESS

1. Cost of maintaining the military

- It is expensive to have a standing army. The empire had to pay for the troops and the weapons to conquer more land.

MILITARY WEAKNESS – INTERNAL CAUSES

- Economic troubles = no money for troops and weapons
- The size of the empire plays a huge role in the cost of the military.
 - Too large = military has a lot of area to defend but not a lot of resources to do it

MILITARY WEAKNESS – EXTERNAL CAUSE

2. Attack from other empires

- Weak empires = vulnerable to attack from other empires or countries.
- Weak military = empire cannot defend itself from outside attacks and it will slowly lose land.
- Eventually the enemy will take over most of the empire and overthrow the government.