

Example:
Fall of Rome

Rome's Fall from Glory (Creative Title)

Your Name



Paper Date Due

Mrs. Ingles

CP World History Period ?

Rome's Fall from Glory

2-4 sentences
Background info.

The Roman Empire was one of the largest and most powerful of its time. At its height, it controlled parts of the Middle East, northern Africa, and much of Europe during a period of peace and prosperity called Pax Romana. Yet, its great power eventually came to an end. The fall of the Roman Empire was limitedly impacted by economic weakness in the empire had a due to higher taxes and inflation. Yet, to a great extent the fall was caused by the political weakness that was created by having two capitals as well as the corruption among the leaders. The greatest factor in the fall of Rome was the weakening of the army because it ultimately led to the end of the empire; one way the army was weakened was by hiring mercenaries soldiers who did not feel invested in Rome instead of the government employing actual Roman citizens.

Thesis
sentences

1st point in
thesis

The economic weaknesses in the empire had a limited impact on how and when Rome fell. One aspect that had an impact was that trade was disrupted within the empire. The economy was weakened by Germanic tribes disrupting trade at the borders as well as pirates attacking Roman merchant ships in the Mediterranean Sea (Beck 173). When the Germanic tribes were actively disrupting the borders, it made trade with other people outside of Rome difficult and in some cases impossible. The pirates who attacked ships with Roman goods to be sold also had halting impact on trade. This threatened the integrity of the economy and slowed down the economic growth. Also, the Roman government's increase in taxes led to inflation. The economy was impacted by factors such as inflation, high rate of taxation, foreigners gaining Roman land or money via battles, and civil war in Roman itself. Many began to leave the urban city areas and move to the countryside to escaped urban troubles (Lovano). This resulted the economies of the urban areas losing support of the wealthy which led to their demise. Due to the financial despair

Citation of
quotes/paraphrases

of the empire, the Roman government raised taxes on the people causing more unrest (Beck 173). The people did not want an increase and taxes, and most could not afford this it since the Roman government asked too much of its citizens in way of taxes. Most of the money from taxes only went to support the Roman military and the already wealthy government administrators (Lovano).

2nd point in thesis

Another factor that had a great impact on the fall was political weakness. A major issue was the development of two capitals in the empire. After the development of two capitals of the Roman Empire, it began apparent that this was causing struggles in the government. Having two seats of government was dangerous as it weakened the strength of both of them and created issues with two reigning cities (Gibbons 408-409). With two separate capitals in one empire, it caused confusion and led to competition between the two at times. In the eastern portion the emperors were not concerned about the welfare of those in the west and at times even helped and supported the attack of barbarians in the west to ensure their own side of the empire remained strong (“Rome, A History of”). This lack of cooperation between the east and west emperors led to the east allowing the fall of the western portion of the empire. Another political struggle was the poor leadership. In 235 C.E. a “50-year period of instability during which more than 20 different emperors reigned. Most rose quickly, ruled briefly, and died violently. Rome nearly collapsed during this period” (“Rome, A History of”). It is difficult for an empire to thrive when rulers are threatened by others who want to take their place. During the last 25 years of the empire in the west weak emperor after weak emperor ruled but were basically just puppets of the barbarians (“Rome, A History of”).

3rd point in thesis

Yet, the fall of Rome was caused by greatest extent due to army weakness. The government began to hire mercenary soldiers instead of Roman citizens to defend the empire. The Roman

soldiers were less disciplined and loyal so the government began to recruit mercenaries, foreign soldiers who empire would pay for their services (Beck 173). These soldiers felt less loyalty to Rome, which led to even greater military issues. “Roman emperors had made a habit of recruiting Germanic warriors as mercenaries in the frontier garrisons. Germanic tribesmen would often fight for Rome for a price, but they could not necessarily be counted on in battle against related tribesmen” (Lovano). When the empire’s own soldiers felt more of a loyalty to the people they are fighting against verses the people they are fighting for, it led massive losses in battle and ultimately the empire itself. Another issue had to do with the lack of armor that some soldiers were wearing. The Roman legions had important armor that included breastplates and helmets. A Roman court official and military expert, Vegetius wrote that around the year 400 CE, many began to abandon wearing them since “the customary armor began to seem heavy since soldiers rarely wore it” (qtd in Vegetius 58). They began fighting the Germanic tribes without proper protection which led to massive military losses as well as many men who abandoned their posts in the military. The Roman military did not fight well against foreign invaders and also would often have internal strife among themselves (Lovano). The army had been fighting within itself which led to more unrest and left the empire unprotected. The Roman Empire struggled with the military weaknesses. Roman legions who were to protect the borders along the Rhine and Danube Rivers could not defeat and defend the borders against the Germanic tribes’ attacks (Lovano). They were not strong enough to defend the empire against these repeated invasions and raids because of so much internal struggle within the army. In 476 C.E. Odoacer, a leader of the Ostrgoths (a Germanic tribe), took over the throne from the emperor Romulus Augustulus to which caused the western portion of the Roman Empire to end (“Rome, A History of”). This brought an official end to the Roman Empire.

DBQ source



**Conclusion:
2-4 sentences
that bring closure**

What began as one of history's most powerful and key empires, was decimated by 476 C.E. The internal weaknesses such as a poor economic, political difficulties, and military weakness ultimately led to the end of an era. Yet, the eastern portion of the empire continued on into the 1450s as the Byzantine Empire.

Alpha order (by 1st word)

Works Cited Page

All sources MUST be used in the paper!

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