

THE FALL OF ROME

POLITICAL CAUSES

Political problems contributed to Rome's decline, because the government became more oppressive and authoritarian

This caused it to lose the support of its people.

Corrupt officials undermined loyalty, dividing the country when it was under attack and weakening it beyond repair.

ECONOMIC CAUSES

The Empire suffered as more and more taxes were required to support the large government bureaucracy and large military establishment.

Farmers had to abandon their land and the middle class sank into poverty. This caused the wealth of the empire to dwindle.

Reliance on slave labor discouraged the Romans from exploring new technology.

The population declined from war and epidemic diseases that swept the empire

THE END OF GREATNESS

MILITARY

The most obvious cause of the fall of Rome was the Germanic invasions.

They were successful because the Roman legions of the late empire lacked the discipline and training of its predecessors.

Rome hired mercenaries. They were foreign soldiers who were paid to defend its borders. Many were German warriors who may have felt little loyalty to Rome.

SOCIAL

The Roman Empire was built on values such as patriotism, discipline and devotion to duty. The decline in these principles was another reason for the fall of Rome.

Instead of providing leaders, the upper class devoted itself to luxury and self-interest.

This behavior was expensive to Rome and may have undermined the self-reliance of the masses.