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What do you think caused the breakup of the Roman Empire and why?

The Roman Empire existed for over 1,100 years. It was one of the most successful empires ever. It brought many new and different things to the world. From the arts, to science, to sport and education. Though eventually like all other empires, it collapsed. What goes up, must come down. Though the empire didn't collapse in just one day. Nor was it only one thing that caused it to fall, it was many.

As the Empire grew in size, so did its ideas. Every time they invaded a country, it would take their best fighters and ideas. The ideas they took helped develop and make the Romans incredibly strong. Two of the major ideas they had for their army were, the tortoise. which is, when they are in battle, the soldiers lock their shields together to create a barrier over their bodies and heads. This prevented being hit by arrows and spears. They would also have swords and spears poking out of their shields. The other idea they had was a red mohawk like mane the leader of the battalion would wear on his helmet. This would mean the soldiers could see their leader in battle when looking for directions.

Ideas like these are what made the Roman Empire grow to the size it was. It made the Romans feel as if they were indistructable. They were wrong.

It turned out, one of the most substantial reasons of why the empire fell was because of money. Everyone was greedy when it came to money which meant in the end they ran out of it.

So many people joined the army because the

Romans were the first army to start paying people. Money would be sent out from the heart of Rome and passed through checkpoints. At each checkpoint the leader of that area would take a small part of the money then pass it on to the next checkpoint. Some of the leaders took more than their share of the money. This meant by the time it got to the last checkpoint, there wouldn't be enough money to pay the soldiers. A lot of soldiers would swap sides and join the barbarians who they were fighting against. This meant they had less soldiers to defend so people like the barbarians could attack easily.

✓ The barbarians didn't fight for land. They were more interested in money. The first time the barbarians attacked the Romans, they won. They didn't take the land. They just took things they wanted and made a treaty with the Romans saying the Romans would have to pay them a certain amount of money each year. They fought each other three times and every time the barbarians won and increased the money the Romans paid them. This made the Romans lose heaps of money.

The Roman Empire was made up of 80% peasants and slaves. With so many people not allowed to have an opinion, as other countries grew, Rome did not. If you don't have an equal society it's hard for things to grow and change. The Roman culture depended highly on slaves. When the Romans took over other countries they could take people to be slaves. Eventually the Romans couldn't invade anymore countries, so there weren't enough slaves. If you spend your life highly depending

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on other people to do work for you. When you start doing things for yourself, you're not used to it and for the Romans they didn't cope well at all.

The Roman Emperors were a significant part in the fall of the Roman Empire. They were the men who made the decisions, like if you were to go to war, if you should spend all that money on roads. With this power, a lot of leaders were greedy and preferred to spend all the money on themselves. This meant a lot of things went downhill.

So many times they sent off men to go clear land, chop down all the trees and build things in their place. This, a part that seems small was actually very significant. Because when they cut down all the trees, people became sick from malaria. And lots of people dying from the disease reduced the overall population. *

The Roman fell for many reasons. Each point affecting another. Like a domino effect. So much money was spent on the barbarian treaty and keeping the army up and running. A lot of important things were forgotten. Like health, housing and roads. The Romans were greedy and the Roman land decreased and their supplies got smaller as people started attacking the empire. Eventually the Romans fell into darkness.