

Decline, Division, and Invasion

Decline:

- “Pax Romana” added with the reign of Marcus Aurelius in about 161 C.E. ruling until 180 C.E.
- A rebellion broke out in 167 C.E.
- Aurelius defends Rome from invasions by the Germanic tribes.
- Commodus becomes emperor following Aurelius ruling until his death in 192 C.E.
- From 235-284, 25 emperors ruled Rome, most of their reigns ended in bloodshed, civil war, instability and overthrow.
- From 250-264, a deadly plague and disease struck the empire killing more than 5000 a day.
- By the end of the 200’s, Rome was in serious decline.
- At the end of the 200’s, Diocletian becomes emperor, placed there by his troops.
- Diocletian declares that Rome is too large for any one man to rule and begins to seek ways to divide the empire.
- Diocletian divides the empire in two, placing his friend Maximian in charge of the western half and he ruled the eastern half.
- Began reforms to bring in strong leaders-> stops decline for some sometime.
- Constantine becomes emperor in 318, wresting away control of the empire from his brother-in-law.
- Constantine reunites the empire, ruling from Rome and later from Constantinople (present day Istanbul).
- Constantine declared Christianity a legal religion in Rome.
- As emperor, Constantine took an active part in the affairs of the Catholic Christian Church, even calling for the first ecumenical council of Nicea to settle disputes over the nature of Jesus the Christ.
- After Constantine’s death, his sons fight for control of the empire, eventually dividing it in half once again.

Invasion:

- First invasions come from the east in Asia. Rome is able to defend itself against these assaults.
 - Second wave of invasions come from the north by the Germanic tribes.
 - Germanic tribes were often viewed as foreigners and barbarians, thought to be uncivilized.
 - In need of clothing, food, ect. the Germanic tribes began to invade the Roman lands. By the late 370's the Germanic tribes had made headway into Roman lands.
 - Germanic tribes land were also being invaded.= Period of History known as "Migration of Nations"
 - This the End...the END
 - o In 400 C.E., Huns invaded the land belonging to the Germanic tribe known as the Goths. The resulting aftermath forced the Visigoths into the Western Roman Empire.
 - o Proceeding tribes like the Vandals invaded other areas of the empire=re including North Africa.
 - o By 455 C.E., the Vandals attacked the City of Rome.
 - o After several attacks and raids, Rome finally fell in 476 C.E.
- 476 C.E. is seen as the official end of the Roman Empire.
- o By 500's, most of Western Europe was controlled by Germanic tribes...
 - o Vandals – North Africa/Rome
 - o Anglo Saxons – Britain (England)
 - o Franks – Gaul (France)
 - o Lombards – Italian Peninsula

Destruction of Rome leads to a redefining of Europe.

Legacies of Ancient Rome

- Language –Latin -> Romance Languages
- - Architecture
- - Government, as a republic
- - Overall success as a nation, "Pax Romana"
- - Laws
- - City Planning
- - Art
- - Military Strength
- - Loyalty to one's nation/people
- - Sport/Game/Competition