

Fall of Rome

- how could the strongest empire the western world had ever seen collapse so drastically?
- was a combination of many things:
 - o invasions and external conflict
 - o internal conflict

Invasions

- for centuries, the Roman army was successful keeping groups from invading the empire
- however, by 161 CE, enemies had broken through
 - o why?
 - Rome was stretched too thin
 - too much territory, not enough good people to run and police it all
- people living on the borders of the empire were known as **barbarians**
 - o called this because they sounded like they were saying “bar bar” when they talked (not Latin)
- more and more barbarians began to flood into the Roman empire
 - o seeking safety from the Huns in the late 300s CE
 - a group of nomadic warriors from Asia who were destroying everything in their path
- Roman border patrols were unable to limit how many Barbarian people entered
 - o both friendly, and not friendly
 - o kept their weapons...

Internal Conflict

- politics were extremely unstable after 193 CE
 - many people tried to illegally take over the empire
 - o usually generals with armies
 - o also, Roman emperors were more often than not insane and caused more problems than good

 - the countryside could not grow enough food to feed everyone in the empire
 - o invasions
 - o armies marching all over – stole food to feed the soldiers
 - o bad weather
 - food became very expensive

 - to help stop rising prices, Rome made more coins, but made them out of cheap metals
 - as a result, prices went up even more
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