

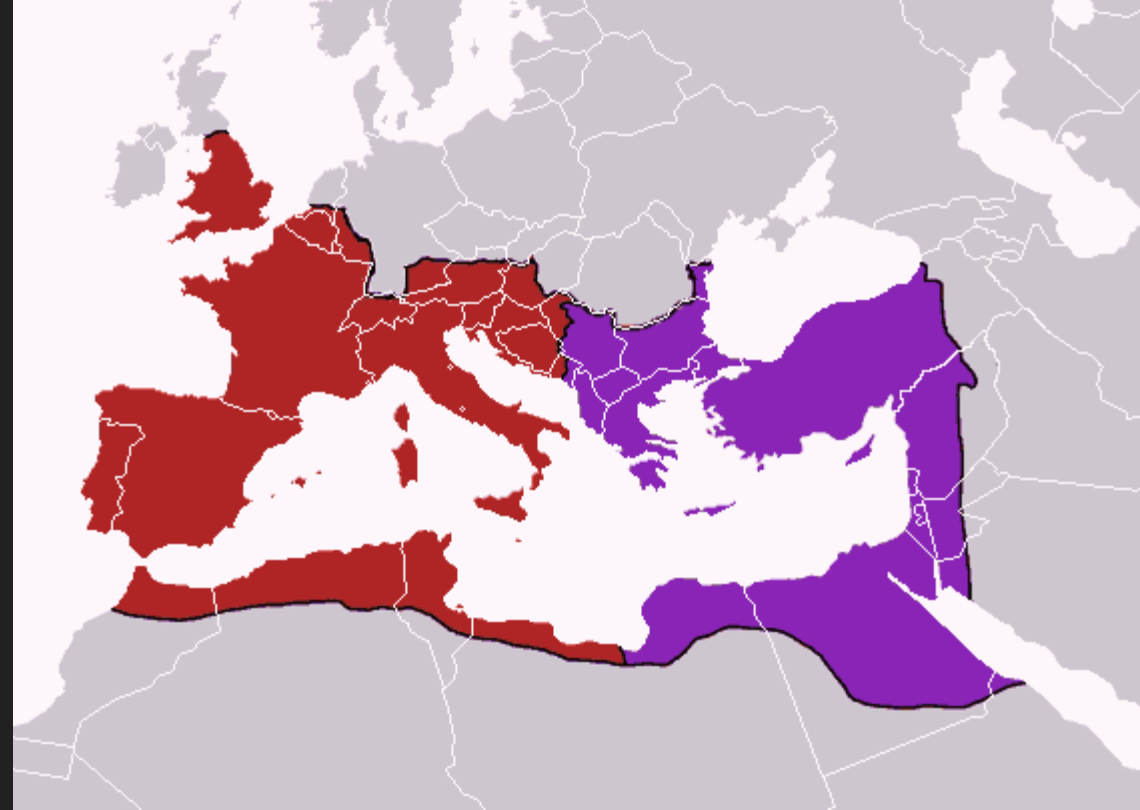
# Why did the Western Roman Empire Collapse?

○ Perspective #1

**Division of the Empire**

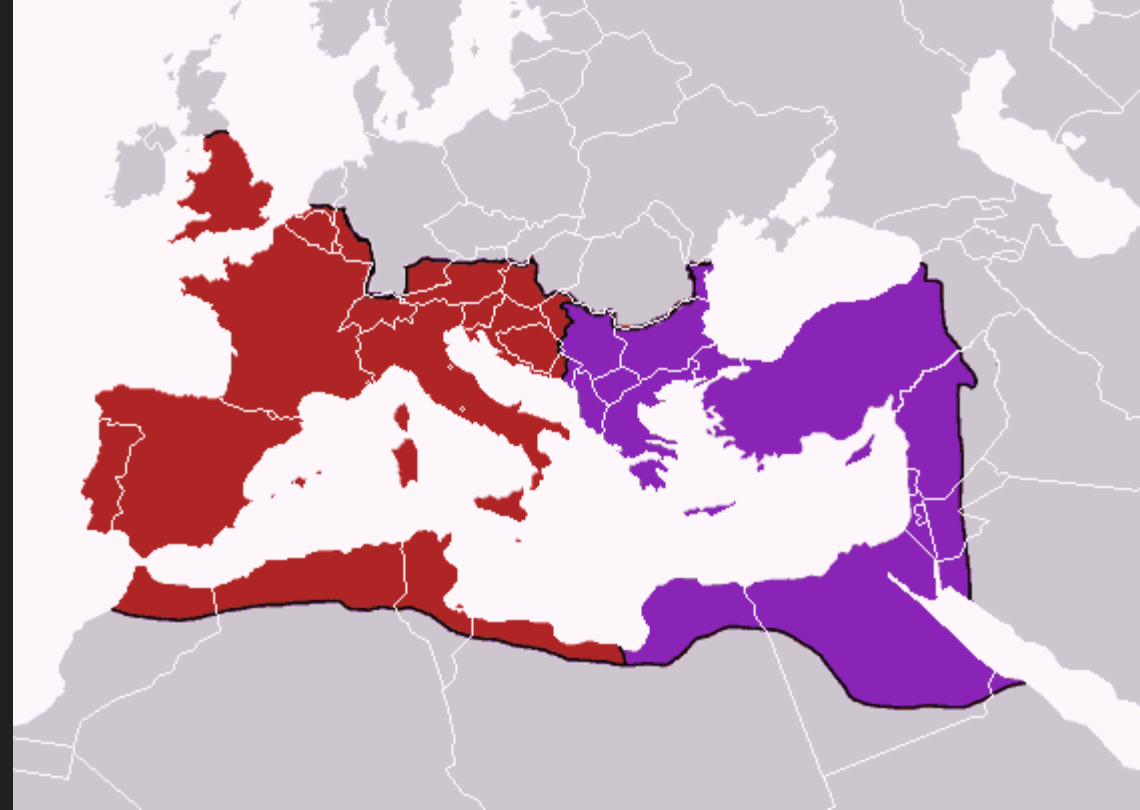
# Division of the Empire

- Rome was divided in 395 AD in an effort to make it easier to govern.
- Rome and most of Rome's most famous and ancient cities were in the Western Empire.



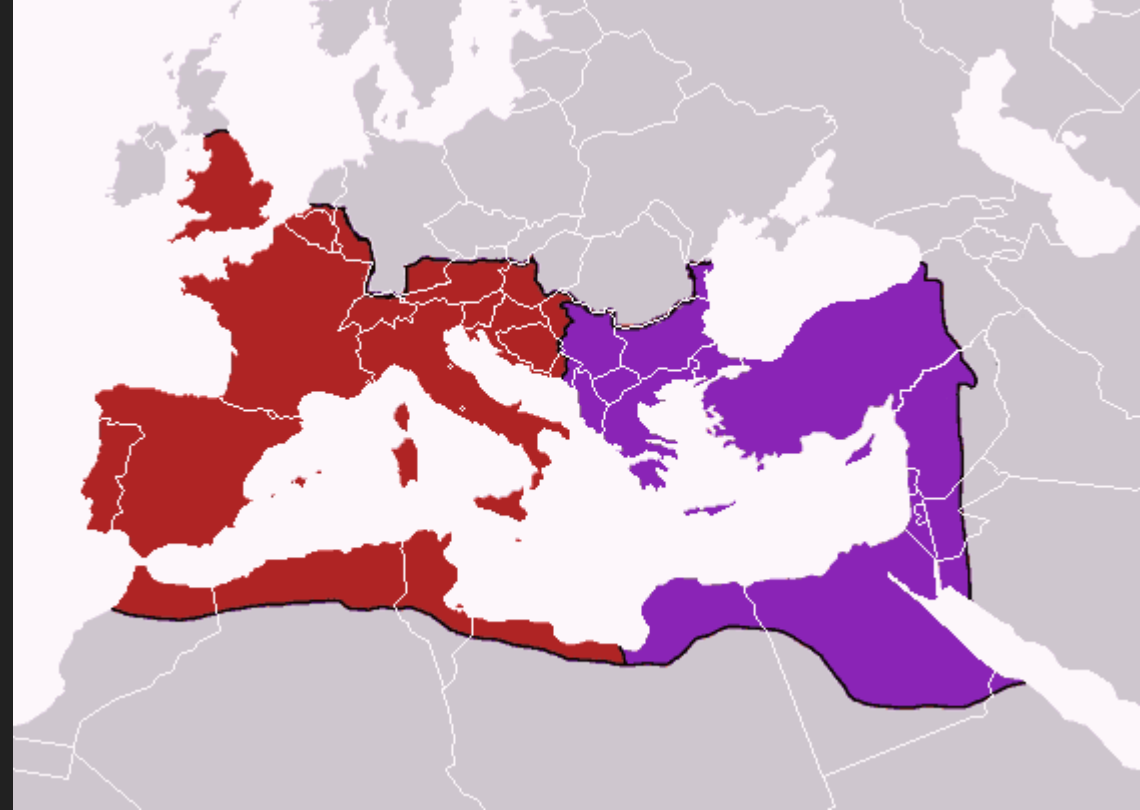
# Division of the Empire

- However, the wealthiest parts of the empire were in the east.
- Constantinople, Antioch, and Alexandria were all wealthier than the city of Rome.



# Division of the Empire

- Rome had always relied on the wealth of the East to keep its armies running.
- When that was taken away, the Western Roman Empire was doomed.
- It didn't have enough money and so the army grew weak, eventually unable to expel barbarian conquerors.



# Division of the Empire

- End

- Take a moment to fill out your sheet

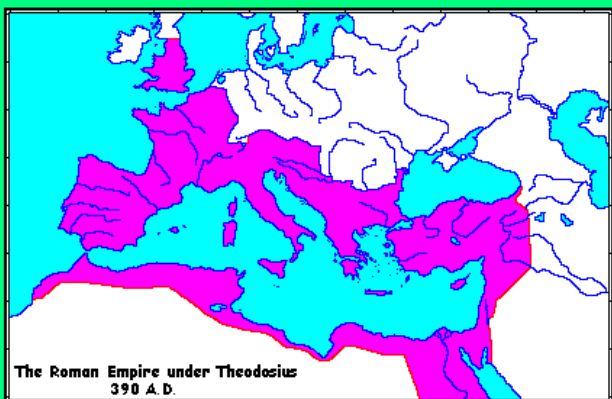
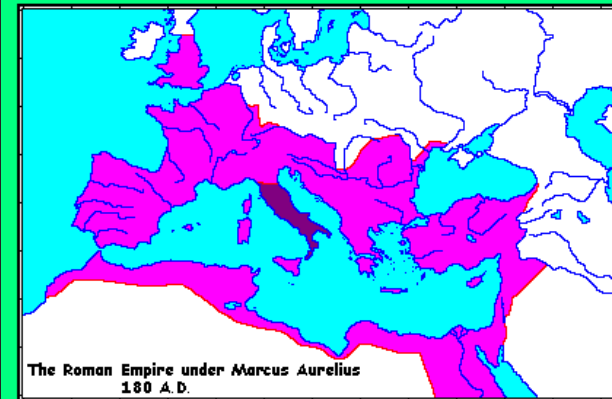
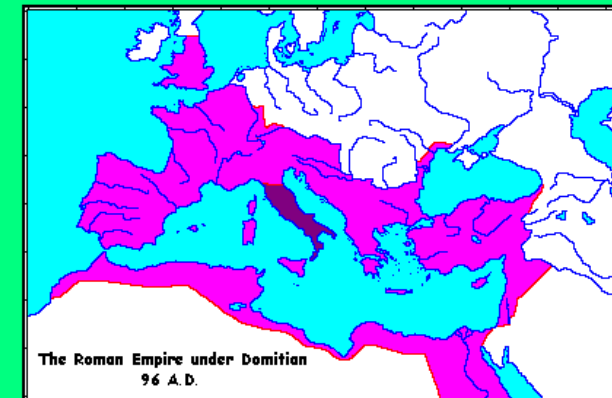
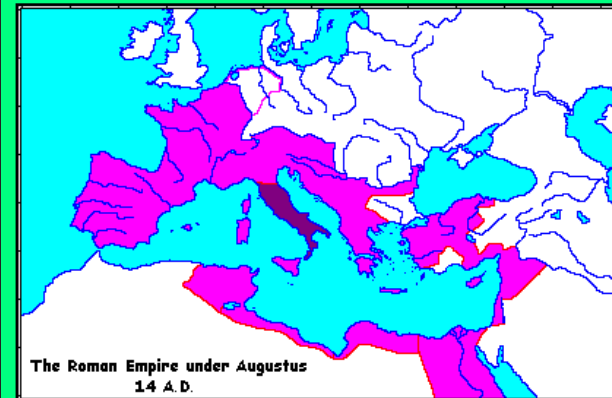
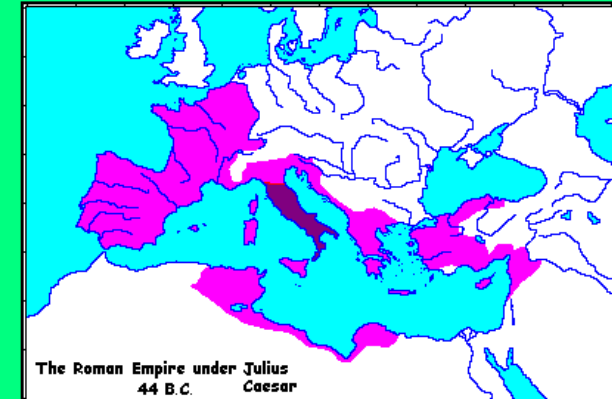
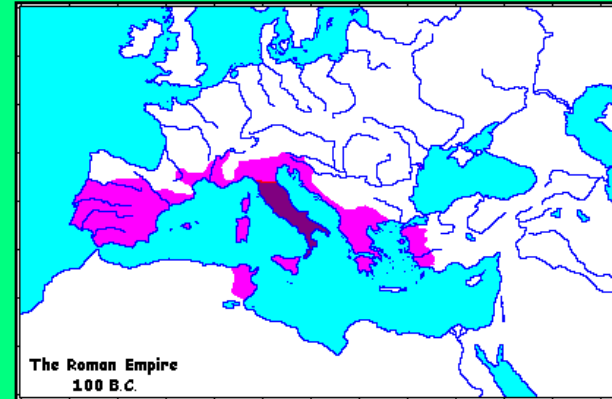
# Why did the Western Roman Empire Collapse?

○ Perspective #2

**The End of Conquest**

# End of Conquest

- Rome was built on Conquest. When the conquest stopped, Rome's fall was destined.
- Rome relied on its army to provide fresh slaves to the Empire.
- From 400BC to 200AD, conquest was more than enough to provide slaves.



# End of Conquest

- After 230 AD, Rome conquered no more.
- After 230 AD, the Roman army grew weak due to economic crises and growing reliance on foreign mercenaries named Foederati—rather than actual Roman soldiers.





# End of Conquest

- The main problem was slaves. Without new slaves, Rome's economy collapsed.
- Increasingly, poor roman citizens were turned into slaves, reducing the value of roman citizenship.



# End of Conquest

- End
- Take a moment to fill out your sheet

# Why did the Western Roman Empire Collapse?

○ Perspective #3

**Cultural Struggle**

# Cultural Struggle

- What it meant to be a “Roman” was always very fluid.
- You did not have to be ethnically Latin to be Roman.
- The Romans spent considerable effort to Latinize those they conquered to make them more culturally Roman.



# Cultural Struggle

- Rome had been allied to several German tribal groups for centuries.
- During the economic crisis of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Rome began to fill its army with Germans called “foederati”
- They were excellent soldiers but Rome never really Latinized them.



Germans of the Cherusci tribe attack a Roman baggage train. Teutoburgian Forest, AD 9.

# Cultural Struggle

- Rome always treated the Germans as barbarians, rather than embracing them as they had other tribes.
- Having never been made Roman, these Germans continued to give their loyalty to their tribal chiefs and kings rather than Rome.



# Cultural Struggle

- Eventually, most of Rome's army was German and when Rome lost the loyalty of their army, that was the end.



# Cultural Struggle

- End

- Take a moment to fill out your sheet



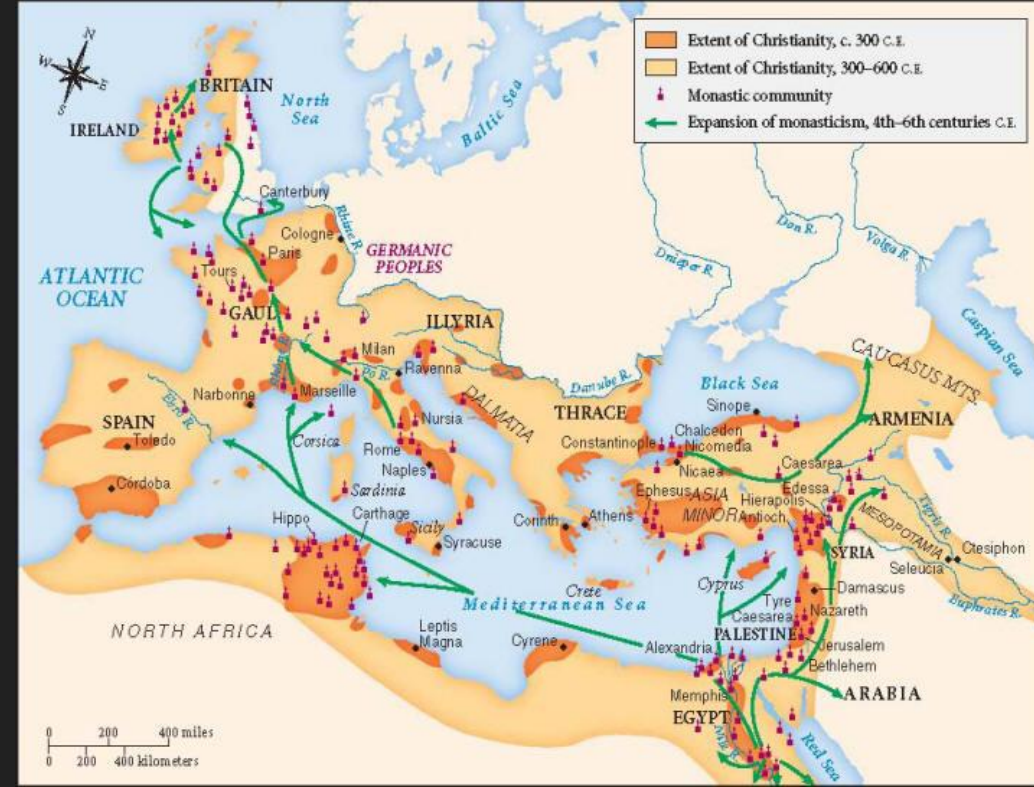
# Why did the Western Roman Empire Collapse?

○ Perspective #4

**Christianity**

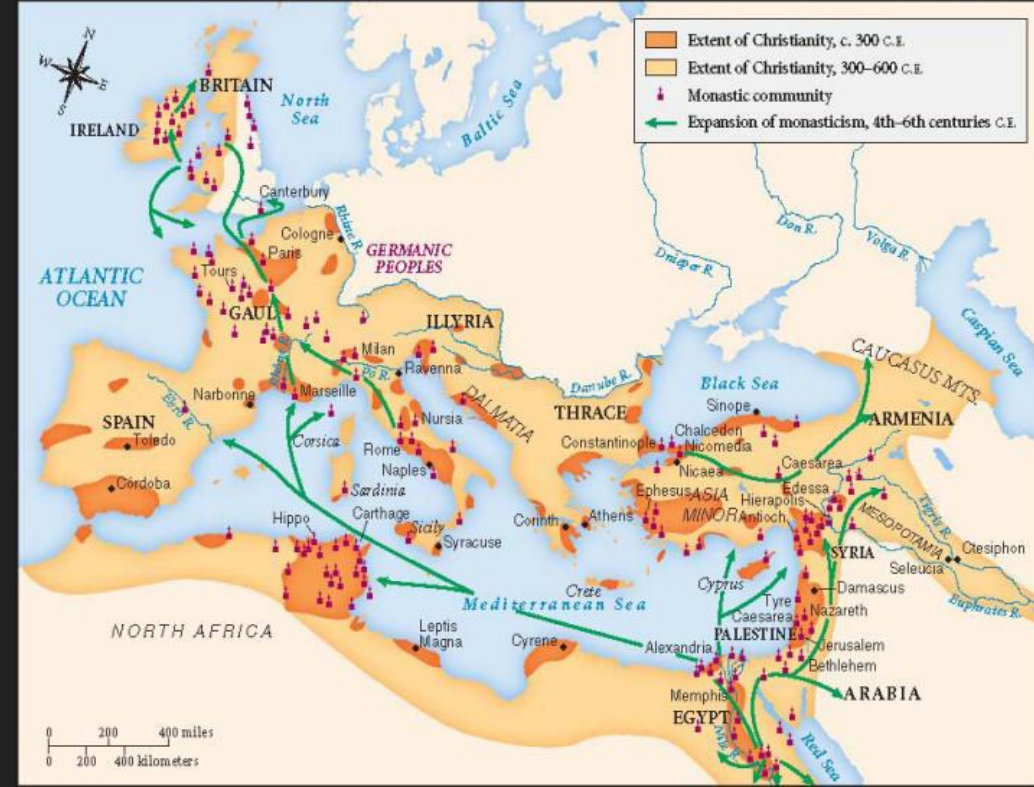
# Christianity

- Roman Paganism encouraged loyalty to the empire.
- The great emperors were treated as gods.
- Loyalty to the government was one of the great virtues



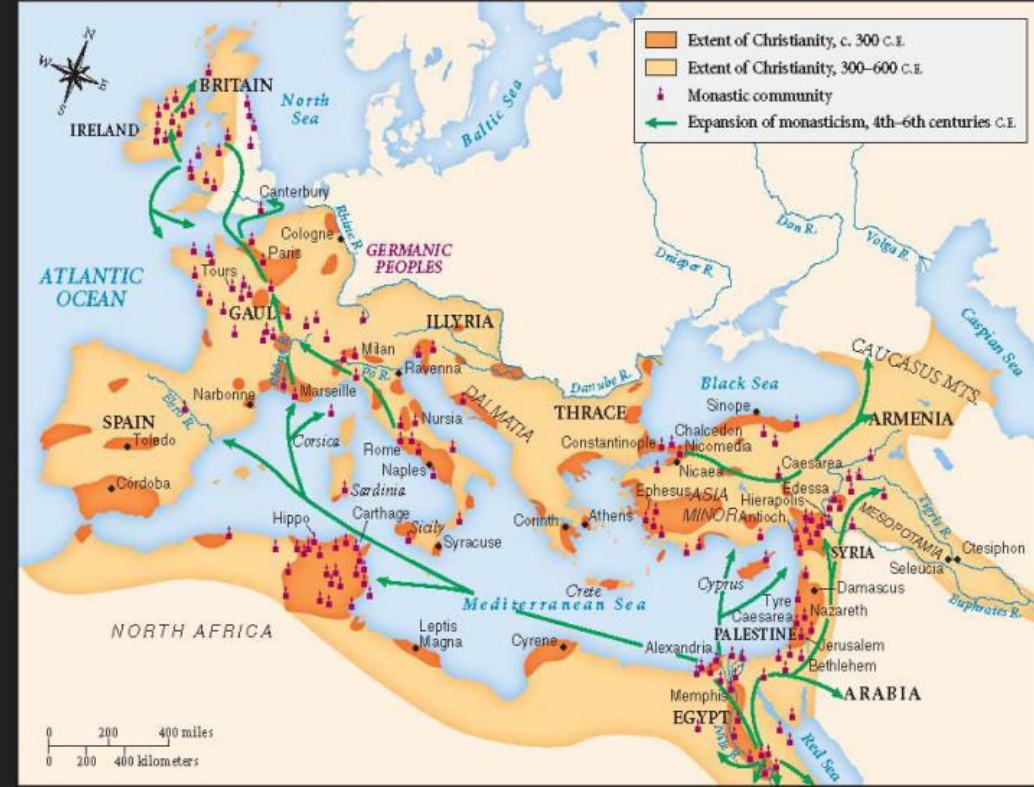
# Christianity

- Christianity did not put loyalty to the government as part of its faith.
- In fact, Christianity had been an enemy of Rome in the years before 300 AD.
- As more people became Christian, loyalty to the Empire declined.



# Christianity

- The empire mostly collapsed because its citizens stopped giving loyalty to the central government.
- Once the empire started to divide, it became easier for the Germans to conquer it.



# Christianity

- End

- Take a moment to fill out your sheet

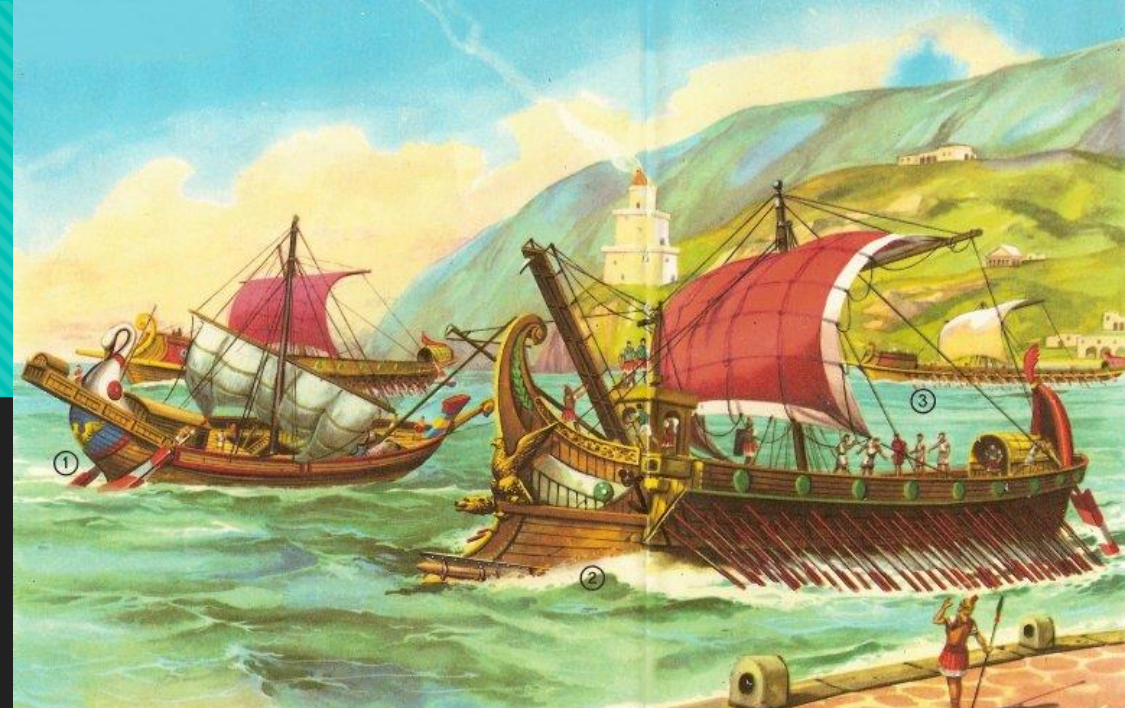
# Why did the Western Roman Empire Collapse?

○ Perspective #5

**It didn't**

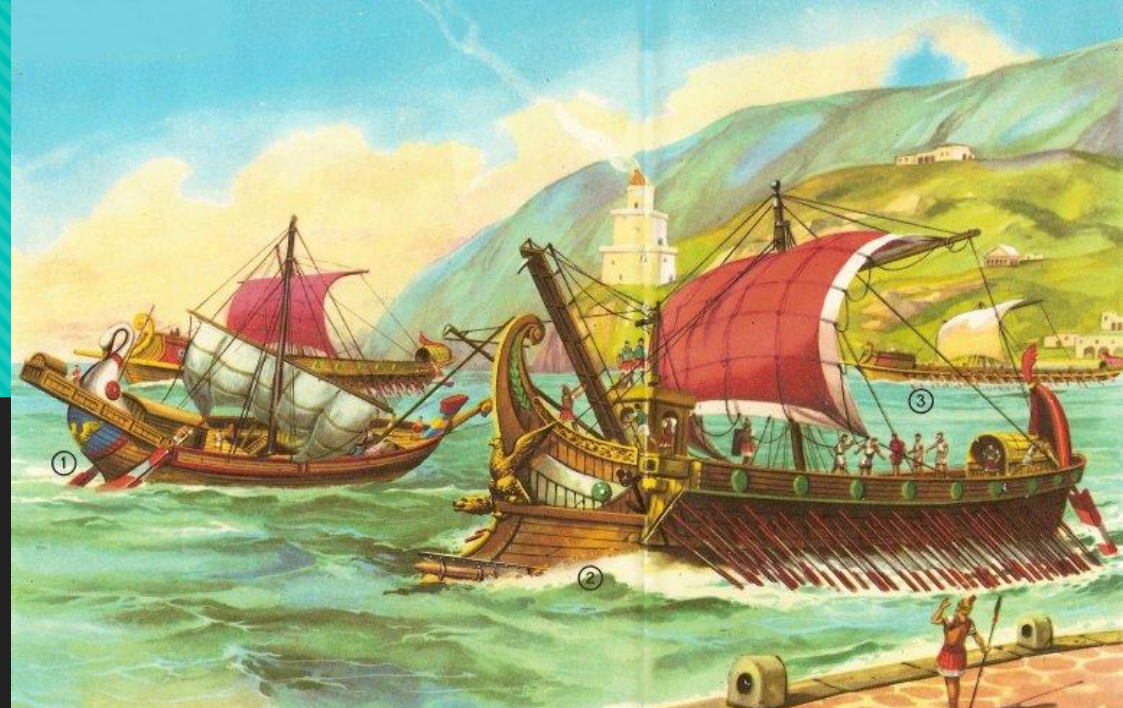
# Rome Didn't Collapse

- The last Roman Emperor in Rome was 476 but there was still a Roman Emperor until 1453 in Constantinople.
- Furthermore, Roman life in the provinces of the Roman Empire was basically unchanged after the takeover by Germans.



# Rome Didn't Collapse

- There was a change from Central government to decentralized government but this has started long before the Germans took over.
- If anything, Rome oversaw a relatively smooth transition from centralized Latin government to decentralized German government.





# Rome Didn't Collapse

- The Germans who took over imagined themselves the leaders of Rome and mostly acted in the same way.
- Rome didn't really end when the Germans took over.
- The Western Roman system didn't end until the Islamic Caliphate and the Frankish Kingdom took over between 700-800.



# Rome Didn't Collapse

- End

- Take a moment to fill out your sheet