

# The Great Empires

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<p><b>The Roman Empire (509 BC – 1453 AD):</b> the city of Rome and the empire that would eventually hold its name ruled the Mediterranean Sea for hundreds of years. From 29 BC to 409 AD, no part of the Mediterranean was under the control of any other state.</p>	
<p><b>Legacies of Rome:</b> Rome defined the region we now call “Europe.” It created the first planned roads in most parts of Europe. It created the first covered sewers in many cities and brought fresh water into cities for the first time. Rome’s language had a huge impact on French, Italian, Spanish, English, Greek, German, and many others. Much of how Europeans still discuss math, science, and the world around them is with Latin terms. It was instrumental in spreading Christianity throughout Europe. It founded many of the important cities in Europe such as Paris, Barcelona, Vienna, and London. And finally, it created the model for the European Republics of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p>	<p><b>List at least 5 Roman Legacies</b></p>
<p><b>Roman Strengths:</b> Rome was able to rule such a large empire because of three things. 1) Roman citizenship did not require people to be Latin or even speak Latin. Anyone who lived within the empire and who contributed to it could become Roman Citizens. This encouraged people to think of themselves as Romans rather than non-Romans. This reduced how many people resisted the Empire. 2) Rome was very prosperous. Rome loved public works projects and so people conquered by Rome would soon after be treated to aqueducts, baths, sewers, paved roads, and plenty of other material benefits. 3) Rome’s army was very capable. Even after horrific defeats, the Roman army recovered and learned from their mistakes. Because of this, the Empire very rarely lost wars—even if they frequently lost battles.</p>	<p><b>Why did roman citizenship rules make it easier to govern?</b></p> <p><b>Why do things like aqueducts inspire loyalty?</b></p> <p><b>What made Rome’s army strong?</b></p>
<p><b>The Chinese Empire (221 BC – 1912 AD):</b> the Chinese Empire ruled what is now Eastern China for over 2000 years. It is the longest lasting empire in history. However, there is no single Chinese Empire. The empire collapsed many times in its history, only to be soon-after replaced by something similar. In all, China had 8 great dynasties—most significantly different than the dynasty that came before.</p>	<p><b>What makes the Chinese Dynasties different empires?</b></p>
<p><b>Chinese Legacies:</b> the great legacy of the Empire of China is in creating the Chinese ethnic group. The people who now consider themselves were originally of dozens of different ethnic groups—Han, Xia, Yuezhi, Huaxia, Yelang, Xianbei, Dian, Jie, and others. After thousands of years, most of those people abandoned their ethnic identity to become Han Chinese. Beyond this, the Empire put education as its highest aim and for over a thousand</p>	<p><b>List and explain one legacy of the Chinese Empire:</b></p>

<p>years, China was the most innovative region on Earth, contributing technology from printing to gunpowder to the construction of materials like silk, steel, ceramics, and paper.</p>	<p><b>List and explain another:</b></p>
<p><b>Chinese Strengths:</b> the great strength of the Chinese Empire was its bureaucracy. Chinese officials were extremely educated and their moral philosophies encouraged proper action and loyalty to the government as key virtues. Because of this, China was typically well run. So even after the empire fell (as it did more than once), people longed for a return to such efficiency. They were therefore eager to accept new empires as they rose. Lastly, like Rome, China was very good at encouraging people to become Chinese—thereby eliminating resistance to the government.</p>	<p><b>Why did people continue to accept new Chinese Empires?</b></p>
<p><b>The Caliphates (632-1924 AD):</b> The Caliphate is not really a single empire. Instead, the Caliphate is the title for the leading Islamic government—the one that serves as the successor to Muhammed himself. The empires that bore that name defined the Middle East as separate from either Europe on the one side and Asia on the other.</p>	<p><b>What is the Caliphate?</b></p>
<p><b>Caliphal Legacy:</b> the Caliphates have 2 extremely important legacies. Firstly, the Caliphates spread Islam throughout the area they ruled. Almost all majority Muslim countries today were under the Caliphate at some point. Islam, in turn, inspired a focus on law and education entirely different from the regions around the Caliphate. Lastly, the Caliphate also became the center of world learning. Modern math, astronomy, physics, biology, and medicine all rest heavily on the contributions of the Caliphate.</p>	<p><b>Name and explain the two great caliphal legacies:</b></p>
<p><b>Caliphal Strengths:</b> unlike Rome or China, the Caliphates are not remarkable in terms of political strength. Instead, the strength of the Caliphates was primarily religious, economic, and cultural. The Caliphates were the heart of the world economy for almost a thousand years. The Caliphates saw success not really because of their military strength but because they were wealthy and because their people were typically well-governed, with a strong focus on law and moral rectitude.</p>	<p><b>What made the Caliphates strong?</b></p>

<p><b>Name 3 ways these empires are similar:</b></p>	<p><b>What is one thing that makes each unique?</b></p>
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