

FALL OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

Document-based question activity

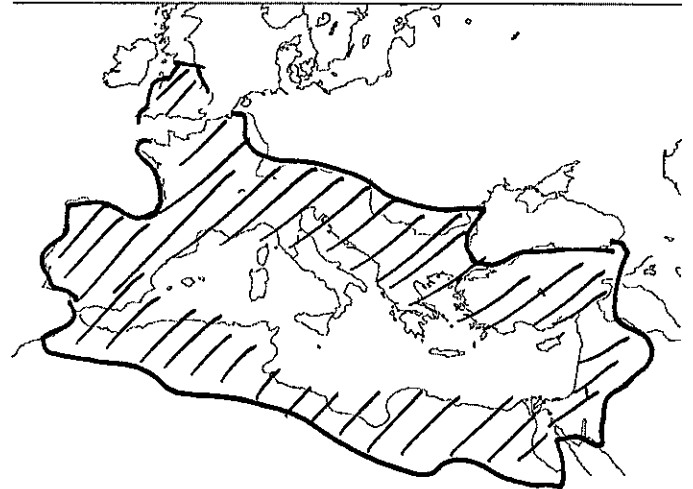
Directions: using the documents from the packet, answer the questions on this page. As you read through each document, circle which PIECES theme(s) the documents could fall under. You do not need to write in complete sentences, unless you ask me if you need to, in which case you must, or else I will take points off. Please get in the habit of reading directions ☺

**EUROPE**

1. What empire is specifically being referred to in this section?

1pt Roman Empire

2. Draw and label the empire on the map to the right.



Document 1:

Pol Inn Env Cul Econ Soc

1. According to Vegetius, what are at least two military problems experienced in the Roman Empire?

- no discipline
  - laziness/sloth
  - negligence
  - tired
  - worn out
  - fatigued
- } etc.

Document 2:

Pol Inn Env Cul Econ Soc

1. Summarize the main idea in your own words.

- People in the Roman empire are spending money on luxury goods - money going out from Rome
  - Commercial + industrial classes disappeared in West
  - Eastern merchants take over
- } trade is disrupted

Document 3:

Pol Inn Env Cul Econ Soc

1. How did Christianity become a dividing factor within the Roman Empire? Consider other religions present.

- led to conflicts with other religions (sects)
- monks/church leaders corrupt ("the abuse of Christianity")
- a lot of money went to church activities ↑  
+ wasn't always well utilized

Document 4:

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1. Were these invasions unified? Use evidence from the map to justify your answer.

- NOPE! Many different groups (Franks, Vandals, Goths, etc) invading at different times throughout the empire
- \* BUT! they were pushed inward bc of the Huns!

GIST: In your own words, and in complete sentences, explain factors that contributed to Rome's fall.

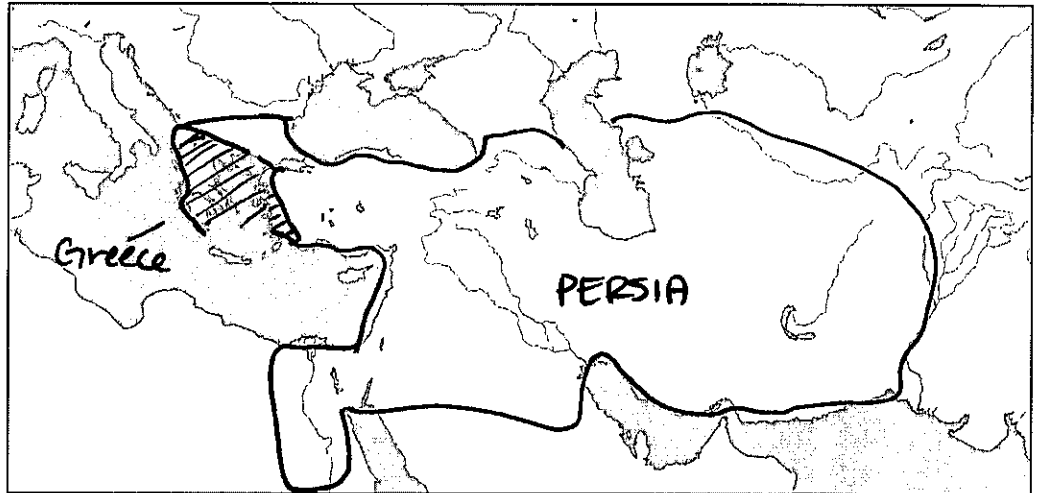
Rome fell due to economic troubles, religious conflicts, military and political decay, and ultimately, invasions.

**SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA**

1. What civilizations are specifically being referred to in this section?

Greece + Persia

2. Draw and label the civilizations on the map to the right.



Document 1:

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1. Contextualize: who was Alexander the Great? What did his father, Philip II of Macedon, do?

- King of Maudon, son of Philip II, who conquered most of Greece after the Peloponnesian War.

2. How quickly did Alexander conquer Persia?

334 - 326 BCE = EIGHT YEARS WOW

GIST: In your own words, and in complete sentences, explain at least one factor that contributed to both Persia and Greece's fall.

- Alexander the Great conquered all of the Persian Empire, leading to its fall.
- Philip II conquered the weakened Greek polis after the Peloponnesian War, leading to the fall of Greece.

**SOUTH ASIA**

1. What empire is specifically being referred to in this section?

Maurya + Gupta

2. Draw and label the empire on the map to the right.



Document 1:

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Soc

1. Gupta emperors relied on local princes to help the empire function. Synthesize (connect this to something else we have learned about)! What other empire did this?

- Persia + satrapies ruled by satraps

2. How did the Huns change India's military and political characteristics?

- invaded

- entered into the Kshatriya caste - formed new ruling groups that fought against each other, leading to regional kingdoms

Document 2:

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Soc

1. After Skanda Gupta's death, what politically happened to the empire?

- conflict within his family led to regional fighting - and the Huns seized the opportunity to invade + take over

2. How did the Huns take advantage of the situation explained above?

seized the weakness + fighting - kept invading

3. What were the effects of the Hunnic invasions in India?

India fragmented into regional kingdoms - no unified empire

GIST: In your own words, and in complete sentences, explain at least one factor that contributed to the fall of the Gupta Dynasty.

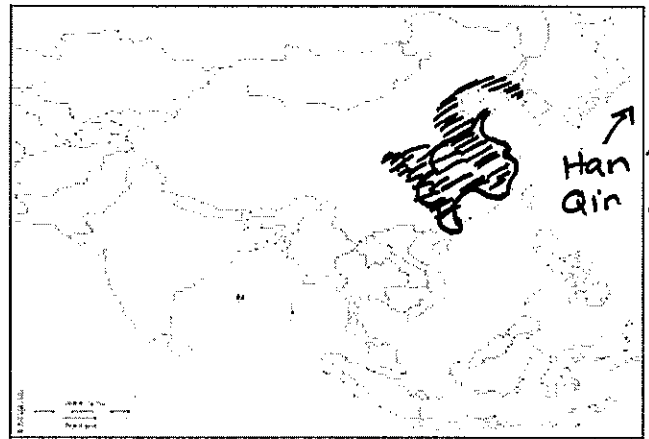
The invasions from the white Huns + subsequent weak rulers (and further invasions) led to the fall of the Gupta.

**EAST ASIA**

1. What empire is specifically being referred to in this section?

Qin/Han China

2. Draw and label the empire on the map to the right.



Document 1:

Pol

Inn

Env

Cul

Econ

Soc

1. Why did the Han Empire have to impose heavier taxes?

- military raids + protection → against invasions

2. What was the result of this increase in taxes?

PEASANT REVOLTS!!! + move South to avoid taxes - population shift

Document 2:

Pol

Inn

Env

Cul

Econ

Soc

1. Why did these paramilitary groups grow in strength?

- govt is too weak

- LIKE ROME: generals create peasant armies + fight each other

Document 3:

Pol

Inn

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Econ

Soc

1. What were weaknesses within the Han Dynasty?

- huge army + many gov. workers = \$\$\$ = spending a lot of money

1) PEASANT REVOLTS!

2) HEAVY TAXES ↗

Document 4:

Pol

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Env

Cul

Econ

Soc

1. What were problems faced by the peasants in China?

• taxes

2. What did those problems lead to?

• revolts - by Daoists! Interesting...

↗ Against the wealth of gov. officials

GIST: In your own words, and in complete sentences, explain at least two factors that led to the Han Dynasty's fall.

Invasions from the north were a constant source of conflict. In order to quell those invasions, gov. raised taxes to pay for military, leading to angry peasants!

**THE AMERICAS**

1. What civilization is specifically being referred to in this section?

Maya

2. Draw and label the civilization on the map to the right.



Document 1: Pol Inn **Env** Cul Econ Soc

1. Why does Mann believe the Maya fell?

- carrying capacity: lack of resources ⇒ starvation, thirst, fleeing to other civs
- env probs: deforestation, erosion, over-farming

Document 2: Pol Inn **Env** Cul Econ Soc

1. What did the Maya depend on for their success?

- rainfall \* unlike river valley civs - need rainfall \*
- no rainfall = no food

Document 3: **Pol** Inn Env Cul Econ Soc

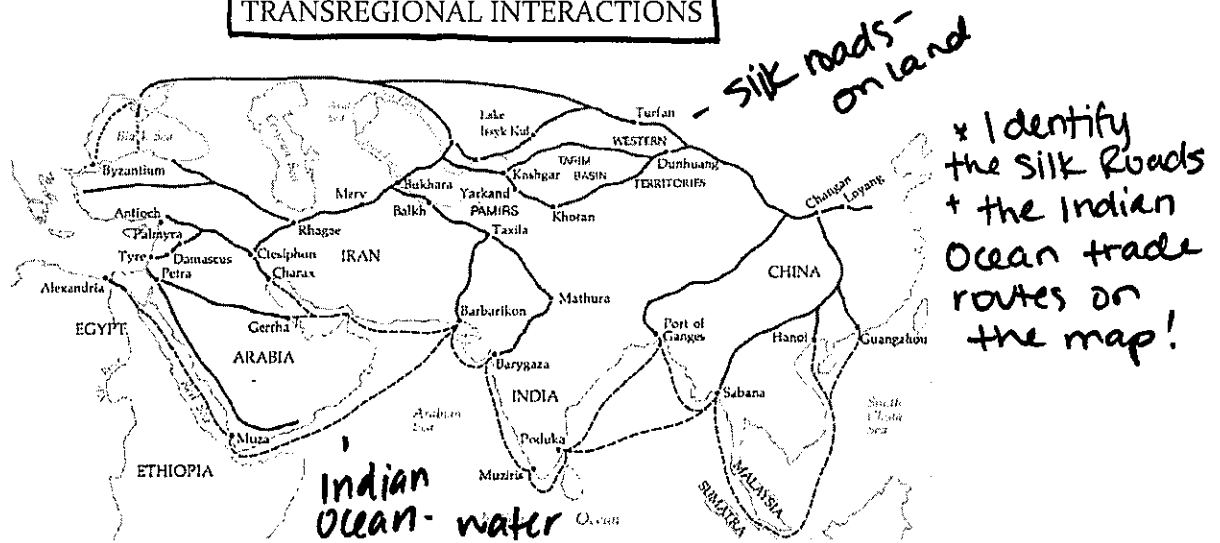
1. What was the result of the change in Maya warfare?

- Warfare ⇒ use of resources + soldiers
- ~~over~~ warfare + lack of resources = downfall
- no one to farm

GIST: In your own words, and in complete sentences, explain at least two factors that led to the Maya's fall.

The Maya fell due to environmental problems, such as overuse of resources (deforestation, farming). Warfare between city-states exacerbated this, leading to their collapse.

TRANSREGIONAL INTERACTIONS



Document 1: Pol Inn Env Cul Econ Soc

1. What goods and ideas were traded along the Silk Roads and Indian Ocean trade networks?
  - diseases (plagues)
  - religion - Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity
2. How did the interconnectedness of Classical Civilizations, such as Greece, Rome, Persia, India, and China, contribute to their growth as civilizations?
  - gain new ideas/technology/advancements from other civilizations

Document 2: Pol Inn Env Cul Econ Soc

1. Where did the Huns originate?
 

Mongolia / central Asia
2. What lands did they travel to?
 

Persia, India, China, Europe
3. How did the Huns contribute to the fall of Classical Civilizations, such as Persia, India, China, and Rome?
 

they invaded + conquered

GIST: In your own words, and in complete sentences, explain how trade routes and interconnectedness of Afro-Eurasian civilizations contributed to their falls.

- Overreliance on foreign goods + new ideas + religions caused conflict in civilizations.
- Huns traveled ~~on~~ along existing trade routes + ~~invaded~~ ~~existing~~ ~~civs~~