

Fall of Rome Discussion

It is said that Rome fell for several reasons including:

- Barbarian Invasions
- Decline in morals and values
- Environmental and public health problems
- Excessive military spending to defend the Empire
- Inferior technology
- Inflation (things keep costing more and more)
- Political corruption
- Rise in Christianity (which curbed war efforts)
- Unemployment
- Urban (city) decay

In what ways is the decline in Roman glory like America today? Use the space below to jot down notes as we discuss.

Barbarian Invasions

Terrorist attacks, ISIS, we don't have a single "race" for America; many people come here. "Have you been to Disneyland???" (Isaac Self, 2015). Too many people from all over—invasion. We haven't seen the extent of brutality, but it has begun with terrorist attacks.

Decline in morals and values

People become self-absorbed with technology—increase in selfishness. There seems to be more prejudice—we judge people too much. Lie about ingredients in food (We. Eat. Chemicals!!!). Racism in America. Anti-gun laws (people actually kill people, and we don't solve the root of the problem.) Increased gun violence. More freedom in guns than LGBT+ community. TV shows have increased in violence, crime, drugs, inappropriate "stuff". Violent video games (Gabe disagrees). Increase in drug use. Sports can be brutal (barbaric)...TO BE CONTINUED....decline in respect in the classroom. Decline

Environmental and public health problems

Prescription meds can be deadly and dangerous. (Liability reasons, so they don't get sued). Fine print, so we don't notice. Boats in ocean that leak oil speed. Obamacare—not actually cheap; it's expensive! Deforestation (think "The Lorax"). Misuse of valuable resources. Global issue: rainforests. America talks a lot but doesn't do. Asylums, health level in different countries. Abortions rampant, a killing of life. Parents who inflict their children—selling them, for instance.

Excessive military spending to defend the Empire

People insist people go into the military. This would cost more money. (drafting). Germany—made us waste money, because people pose a bigger threat. Much is spent overseas fighting for our allies and their wars.

Inferior technology

Drones and other devices—show us to be strong with technology. Only a few other countries are ahead of us, like China, Japan, etc.

What we need to be better at is creating our own technology on home land, instead of borrowing from others. We should be innovators.

Swiss seem to know more. (Siri). Industrial Rev'tn. If goods were cut off from other countries, we would suffer. Would cost less to make our own.

Inflation (things keep costing more and more)

Sales tax continually increases. Price of food—expensive! Especially the best of foods (organic). Drought itself causes inflation. Milk and egg prices have increased. Gas prices—in CA to pay for bullet train. Inflation also goes with our wages. Girl Scout cookies—\$5.

Political corruption

Propoganda filled with lies instead of honesty. PATHOS—uses people's emotions. Debates are heated; more pride in winning than care of the country. Ads even are manipulated and full of lies to bring emotions.

Rise in Christianity (which apparently made people passive and curbed war efforts)

Seems to be a downfall in Christianity. People got mad at people who weren't Christians. (Seems to be the opposite). So, there, they were mad at people for being Pagan. Cookie propoganda? Missionary efforts in America. Religious terrorists—ISIS—targeting Christians.

Unemployment

SF District—Tenderloin District. Many are homeless because they can't find jobs, or have low-paying jobs. (Or squander lifestyle). Difficult to find jobs without proper elite schooling. Cost of rent increases (inflation can cause unemployment). Family-run businesses seem to decline (sad :(). Technology can take over jobs.

Urban (city) decay

People choose not to actually throw their trash away (it's gross!). We seem to live in a trashy society that doesn't take care of its health and beauty. Trashy people: completely disrespectful to store owners. (We need to show class!)

What can you, as a young citizen, do to prevent America from falling?

We can organize people to help clean up our town and recycle.
Respect people and their opinions more, even if they are different.
Be kind, show morals and values to others. Pick up garbage. Spread the gospel.
Encourage people to go to school and get a life. Less debt.
Try to keep the world neat. Spread the gospel.
Spread the gospel. Help those in need. Smile and bring positivity to others.
Get an extra job, or find resources to help others in need (don't waste money; give to others).
Choose to be kind.

In your opinion, what creates peace amongst others, in our community, in our country, and in our world?

Show respect to others, even if you don't like them or agree with them.
(=less murder, cruelty).
Be way nicer to each other. Try not to display hatred.
Compromise in the midst of disagreements. Shows respect.
Don't carry around weapons. More peace with more control.
Try not to judge other people. (Think kindly of others).

Regardless of your religious preferences, does Christianity have to ruin an empire? How can it ruin an empire? How might it help an empire?

Keep open minded. Can help people find their place. But to fight and be brutal in enforcement could hurt it (not to mention, this would be hypocritical).
Can help an empire—because people might like it. Others may hate it.
No, it doesn't seem like it. People have their own beliefs. If another country opposed it then it might.
Yes, it could, in that people may discouraged about the afterlife. People have given a bad name to Christianity.(Some bad mistakes in history.)
Other religions too.
Nice to have open choices.