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**Fall of Rome DBQ: What Were the Primary Reasons for the “Fall” of Rome?**

**Hook:**



**Document A:**

4. How many Roman emperors ruled during the 50-year period covered by this chart?

5. What message might these frequent and violent changes in leadership have sent to the people of the Roman Empire?

6. What might these frequent and violent changes in leadership have sent to people living outside the Roman Empire?

**Document B:**

7. According to Vegetius, what led to the changes in Roman military armor and training techniques?

8. How did the change in breastplates and helmets contribute to the decline of the Roman Empire?

9. What is Conscription?

10. In what ways could the failure to enforce conscription weaken Rome?

11. Is there any connection between Document A and Document B? Please Explain.

**Document C:**

12. Which invaders of the Roman Empire from the farthest eastern point?

13. Which invaders of the Roman Empire were the first to reach the city of Rome?

14. Do the dates on this map suggest an invasion of people or a migration of people? Please Explain.

15. How does this document help explain the reasons for the decline of the Roman Empire?

**Document D:**

16. Who was Ammianus Marcellinus?

17. What words and phrases does Ammianus use to describe the Huns?

18. What does Ammianus Marcellinus mean when he describes the Huns as being “glued to their horses?

19. Why might a Roman historian like Ammianus Marcellinus want to compare the Huns to “unthinking animals?

**Document E:**

20. Who is Priscus? Do you think his description is reliable? Why?

21. Why were some Romans happy about being conquered by the Huns?

22. What does the person talking to Priscus mean when he says, “The climax of misery is to have to pay for justice?”

23. How can you use this document to explain what caused the decline of the Roman Empire?

**Document F:**

24. In the Gibbon passage, what natural disaster struck the Roman Empire in 366 CE?

25. In the Sterns passage, what deadly illness arrived from southern Asia?

26. Describe one specific way that each of the two disasters detailed above contributed to the decline of the Roman Empire?

27. Consider the various causes of decline presented by the six documents in this DBQ: political assassinations, military problems like armor and conscription, legal injustice, foreign invasions, and natural disasters. Which of these do you regard as the most important 3 causes?

**ESSAY- 1 full page**

On a separate sheet of paper write a one page essay answering the question “What were the Primary Reasons for the Fall of Rome?” Use your top three reasons (from question 27) in your essay and explain your top choices in detail. Please use specific examples from the DBQ documents in your essay.