# Military Causes The Romans earlier legions always enjoyed a number of important advantages: they had well-built fortifications; weapons that were of a high quality; an impressive infrastructure of roads and harbors; the organization needed to supply their army on a campaign; and a tradition of training that ensured disciplined and coordinated action in battle, even in the face of adversity. The Roman legions of the late army lacked the discipline and training of past Roman armies. In the latter year of the empire, frustrated Romans lost their desire to defend the empire. To meet its need for soldiers, Rome hired mercenaries, or foreign soldiers serving for pay, to defend its boarders,. Such an army was not reliable, and very expensive. Many were warriors, who according to some historians felt little loyalty to Rome. The empires economic crisis was worsened by its growing military troubles. Throughout the third century, Germanic tribes repeatedly overwhelmed the Roman legions guarding the northern frontiers. At the same time, Persia threatened Roman territory in Syria and Anatolia. (Romans called all invaders "barbarians," a term that they used to refer to non-Romans.)

**Directions: Using the documents and images at the station, answer the questions that follow. On the back of this document be prepared to create your own summary synthesizing why Military problems helped to cause the fall of Rome in 476 C.E**

Document :Grant – Fall of the Roman Empire.

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Document : St. Jerome – Rome’s Decline.

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Document : Gibbon General Observations Fall of Empire.

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Document : Military Matters by Vegtius.

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