# Political Causes

**Political problems greatly contributed to Rome’s decline. First, as the government became more oppressive and authoritarian, it lost the support of the people. Growing numbers of corrupt officials undermined loyalty. There were frequent civil wars in Rome over succession to the imperial throne. Again and again rival armies battled to have their commanders chosen as emperor.**

**Perhaps the most important political cause of the fall of the Roman Empire was the decision of the Roman empire into an eastern empire and a western empire. In 284, Emperor Diocletian decided to divide the empire into two, in order to make it easier to govern the vast empire. The eastern empire became richer and failed to aide the western empire.**

**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 political problems helped to cause the fall of Rome in 476 C.E**

Document : Roman Emperors Chart.

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Document :World History Patterns of Interaction 1.

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Document : The DBQ project 2011.

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Document :World History Patterns of Interaction 3.

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