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

# Social Causes

**Loyalty or patriotism and discipline was in fact a key problem, perhaps the most serious of all. In the past, Romans cared so deeply about their republic that they willingly sacrificed their lives for it. Conditions in the later centuries of the empire caused citizens to lose their sense of patriotism. They became indifferent to the empires fate.**

**Romans had once considered holding political office to be an honor. It was also an opportunity to gain wealth. By the 200s, however, local officials usually lost money because they were required to pay for the costly public circuses and baths out of their own pockets. Few people chose to serve the government under those conditions.**

**Only the armies remained actively interested in politics. In a 50-year period (235-284 C.E.), armies in the provinces and in Rome proclaimed 50 generals to be emperors of Rome. Of these "barracks emperors," 26 briefly won the approval of the Roman Senate; 25 died violently.**

**Some historians believe that Christianity produced dramatic changes in Roman society at the very time when pressure from the barbarians was increasing. They argue that Christianity made its followers into pacifists (Those who oppose war), thus making it more difficult to defend Roman lands from barbarian attacks.**

Document :Decline/ Fall of the Roman Empire Gibbon.

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Document: Social / Econ. History Rostovtzeff.

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Document : The Course of Civilizations-1961 .

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Document : The DBQ Project 2011.

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