

Title Page 24 The Fall of Rome Video

1. The video speaks about Rome suffering a cash flow problem, what do they mean by that?

2. Groups of people were on the Roman borders, why were they on these borders?

3. In the end who killed the Roman emperor?

Fall of Rome -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEg9WXXdRWI>



Quote from Titus Livius

- “Rome has grown since its humble beginnings that it is now overwhelmed by its own greatness”
- What do you think is meant by the following quote?

Rome begins to Crack

- **Problems in the Late Empire** Most modern historians believe that a number of problems combined to bring about Rome's fall. Here are three of the main reasons.
- **Political Instability** Rome never solved the problem of how to peacefully transfer political power to a new leader. When the emperor died, rivals might fight each other to replace him. Real power fell into the hands of the armies, who could help leaders seize power—or destroy them. Sometimes, rivals did not wait for an emperor to die. Emperors were regularly murdered.
- **Economic and Social Issues** Political instability led to other problems. To finance Rome's huge armies, citizens had to pay heavy taxes. These taxes hurt the economy and drove many people into poverty. Trade also suffered.
- **Weakening Frontiers** The huge size of the empire made it hard to defend. By the 300s, Germanic tribes were pressing hard on the western borders. Many of these people settled inside the empire and were recruited into the army. But these soldiers often had little loyalty to Rome.

The Fall of Rome

- In 330 C.E., the emperor Constantine took a step that changed the future of Rome. He moved his capital 850 miles to the east, to the ancient city of Byzantium (bih-ZAN-tee-uhm), in what is now Turkey. He renamed the city New Rome. Later it was called Constantinople. Today, it is known as Istanbul.
- Before Constantine, emperors had tried sharing power over the vast empire between co-rulers. After Constantine's reign, power was usually divided between two emperors, one based in Rome and one in Constantinople. Rome became the capital of just the western part of the empire.
- Soon, Rome itself was threatened by Germanic tribes. In 410 C.E., the Visigoths attacked and looted the city. Finally, in 476, the last emperor in the west, Romulus Augustus, lost his throne to a Germanic leader, Odoacer (OH-duh-way-sir). Then, the western half of the empire began to **dissolve into** separate kingdoms ruled by different tribes.
- In the east, the empire continued for another 1,000 years. Today, we call this eastern empire the **Byzantine Empire**, after Byzantium, the original name of its capital city. The Byzantines wove the Roman heritage into their own rich civilization. But they were never able to put the old empire back together. For historians, the fall of Rome marks the end of the ancient world.