

Comparing Political Control
Han China vs. Roman Empire

Han	Similarities	Rome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More concerned with maintaining borders rather than expanding (Great Wall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both empires had unstable borders and were under constant threat from barbarian tribes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly expansionistic. • Used to direct but predominantly indirect methods of imperial control.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Army • Both had unstable borders and were surrounded by enemies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Army
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confucianism was the ideology or 'Belief System' that dominated the political structure and daily life. • Centralized and reinforced the Emperors position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both had an Emperor. • Rome had the <i>paterfamilias</i> (recognized the dominant role of men over women) which was similar to Confucian ideas on gender. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and philosophy was much less centralized than in Han China and so therefore didn't play such an important role. • Indirect imperialism allowed conquered areas so practice their own culture so long as they followed Roman rule.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very structured political organization, Emperor followed by the Civil Service bureaucracy. (meritocracy) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political organization was much less structured than in Rome and involved individuals controlling regions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate of heaven. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman Emperor revered as a God but no theory such as the Mandate of Heaven to legitimize rule. (Roman pantheon of Gods derived from the Ancient Greeks.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both empires fell due to the cost of keeping such an extensive empire. • And to constant external attacks. • Internal weaknesses such as corrupt local leaders and weak emperors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread of Christianity.