



Individuals & Societies 7

Unit 3: Why do Empires fall?





Why do empires fall?

KEY CONCEPTS	RELATED CONCEPTS	GLOBAL CONTEXT
Change	Conflict; Innovation and revolution	Scientific and technical innovation
STATEMENT OF INQUIRY		
<i>Empires survive, fail or transform according to their ability to change in the face of innovation</i>		



Statement of Inquiry: *societies survive, fail or transform according to their ability to change in the face of innovation.*

Consider these Questions:

Factual: What internal factors have led empires to fail? What external factors have led empires to fall. What is left in the aftermath of the collapse?

Conceptual: Why do Empires fail? To what extent can environmental factors affect the stability of an empire? To what extent do empires need to maintain dominance to continue to exist?

Debatable : What internal factors have led empires to fail? What external factors have led empires to fall. What is left in the aftermath of the collapse?

Now, **share and compare** your thoughts and ideas with your partner and the rest of the class

How building an empire relates to our concepts and global context



KEY CONCEPTS	RELATED CONCEPTS	GLOBAL CONTEXT
Change	Conflict; Innovation and revolution	Scientific and technical innovation
<p>Change: Steve Jobs was replaced by Tim Cook after his death.</p> <p>Change: Apple has changed its product line over the years introducing and discontinuing certain products (iPods, iTouch, EarPods, and many other accessories)</p> <p>Change: Advances in technology over the last 30 years have enabled Apple to produce new products.</p> <p>Change: Apple was not the leading seller of laptop computers in the 1990s but is now the market leader.</p>	<p>Conflict: Apple's competition has included Microsoft, Huawei, Dell, Sony, and Samsung in the computer market.</p> <p>Innovation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AirTags: A Smart Tracker for Everyone (2021) 2. AirPods: Truly Wireless Music (2016) ... 3. Apple Watch: A Truly Smart Watch (2014) ... 4. Siri: A Voice Assistant That Actually Works (2011) ... 5. iPhone: The First Modern Smartphone (2007) ... 6. iPod: Your Content, Anywhere (2001) ... 	<p>Innovation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AirTags: A Smart Tracker for Everyone (2021) 2. AirPods: Truly Wireless Music (2016) ... 3. Apple Watch: A Truly Smart Watch (2014) ... 4. Siri: A Voice Assistant That Actually Works (2011) ... 5. iPhone: The First Modern Smartphone (2007) ... 6. iPod: Your Content, Anywhere (2001) .








Background: Why are Empires formed?

What is an Empire?

This is a textbook definition, but it does not take into account empires other than political ones, “An Empire is an a geographic extensive group of states or countries ruled by a single centralized government.”

Empires have formed throughout human history, from the earliest civilization to today. Early empires formed out of civilizations that emerged from intensive agricultural production-this allowed for complex institutions to develop.

What is an Empire? Create your own definition

<p>STAR WARS</p> 	<p>In the Star Wars films, Darth Vader works for the Emperor. It is their objective to take over the galaxy. The Emperor wants control of the other planets to use the people and resources. The Emperor is at the head of the Empire and gives orders to his 'subjects,' who carry out his wishes.</p>
<p>THE ROMAN EMPIRE</p> 	<p>The Roman Empire transformed the shape of Europe and was led by the Emperor. It conquered lots of territory through the use of force and war. In order to survive, Rome imported many goods from the lands it had conquered. For example, they imported timber and jewelry from Africa, spices, and cotton from India and China.</p>
<p><small>Steve Jobs por Walter Isaacson</small></p> 	<p>Steve Jobs and his associates founded Apple in 1976 with the goal of making personal computers more accessible. Today, Apple is the undisputed market leader, and its products are sold internationally. The annual profit of the business empire is 94 billion dollars. Sometimes the bank account of Apple is more money than in the U.S. Treasury.</p>

Task - Read through the information sheet. It will tell you about three different types of empire. Use the words that are in **bold** and underlined to create your own definition of empire. This should be written underneath your title.

Your definition should include...

- **All** = at least **3** bold/underlined words.
- **Most** = at least **5** bold/underlined words.
- **Some** = use **all** of the bold/underlined words.

Blockbuster: *the end of a business empire.*

Source A: Blockbuster Offers Glimpse Of Movie Renting Past



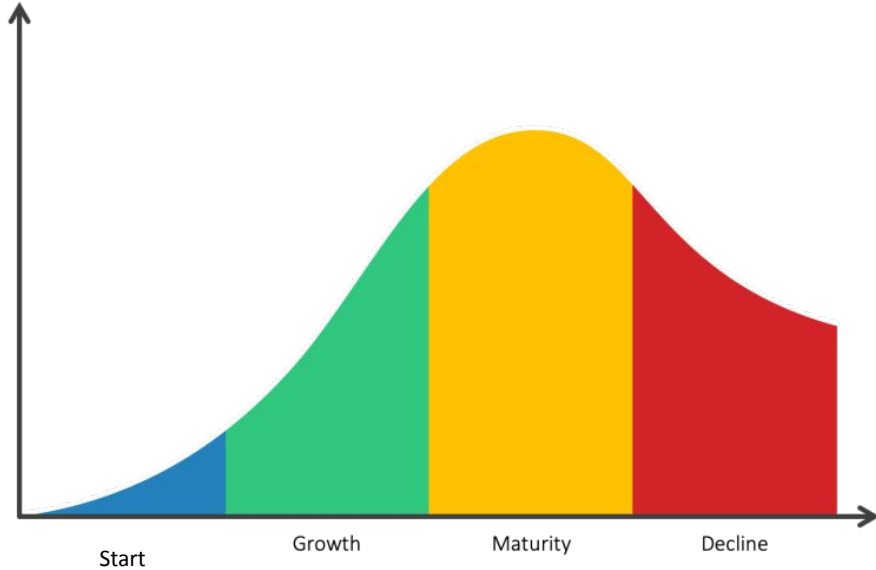
Source B: [A Look Back At Why Blockbuster Really Failed And Why It Didn't Have To](#)

Source C: [The rise and fall of Blockbuster](#)

*SOI: Empires survive, fail or transform according to their **ability to change** in the **face of innovation***

The lifecycle of an Empire.

Growth of an Empire

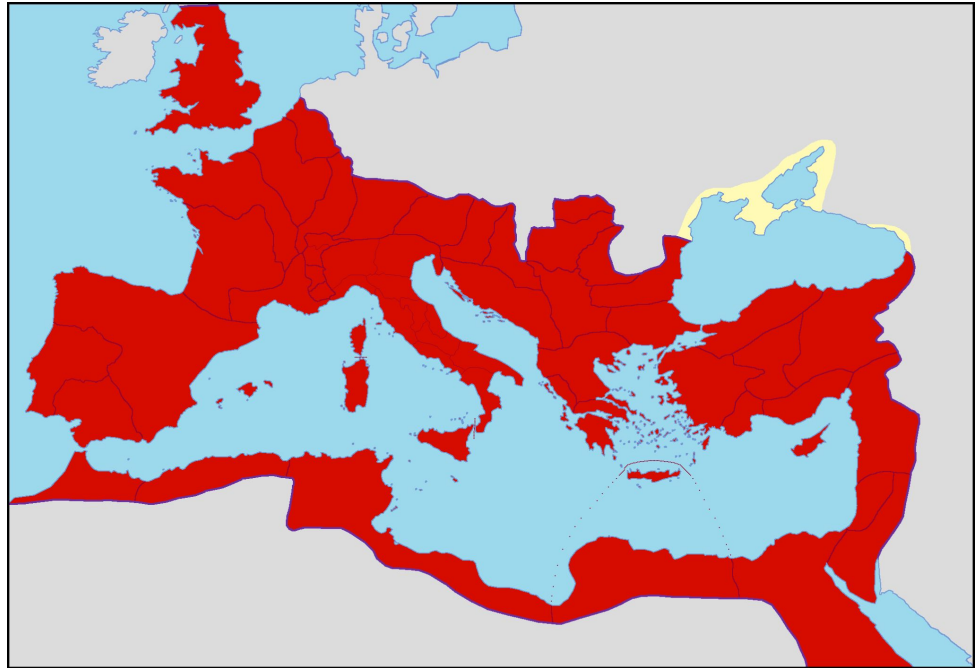


What happened to the Blockbuster Video Business Empire?	
Start	
Growth phase	
Maturity phase	
Decline	

Time ----->

The lifecycle of an Empire. *continued*

The Roman Empire lasted more than 1000 years but experienced a very long period of decline.

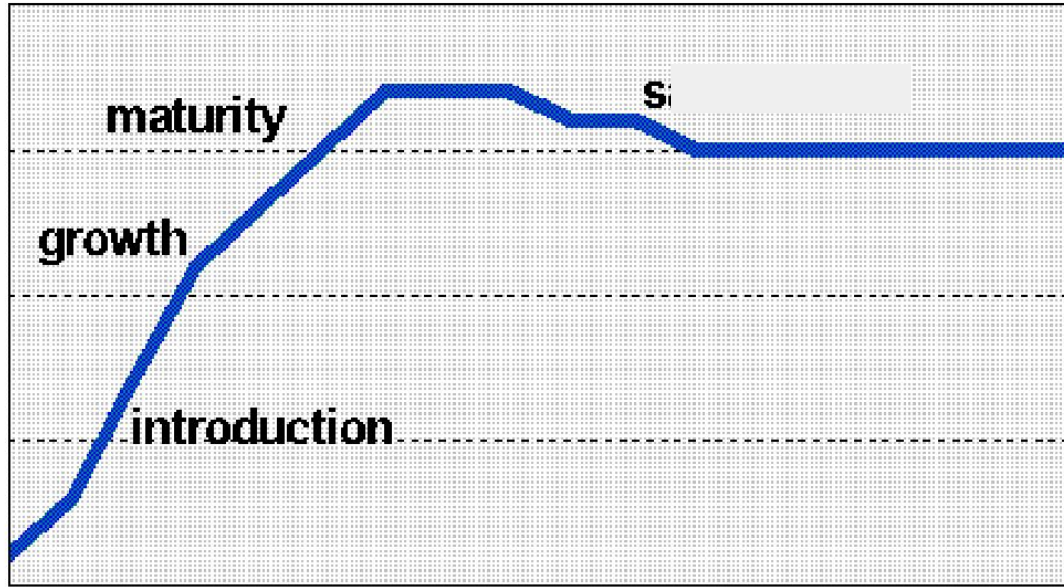


Not all empire life cycles are the same. Hitler wanted to build an empire that would last a thousand years, but Nazi Germany lasted only 12 years before its total collapse.



Extended Life Cycle

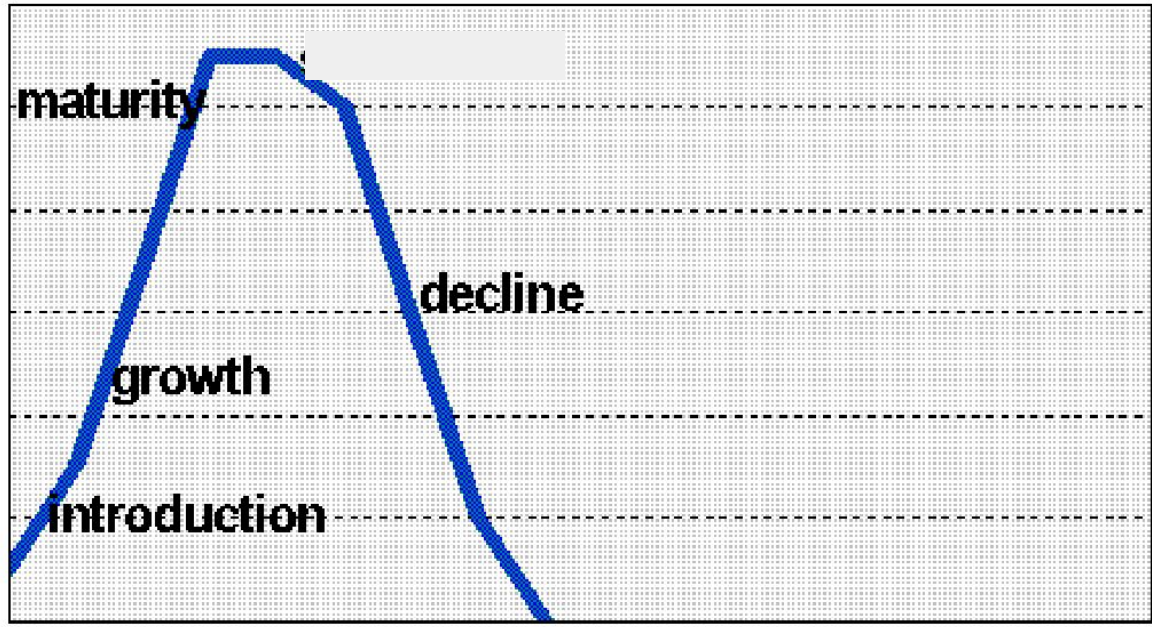
Growth of an Empire



Time ----->

Straw on Fire Life Cycle

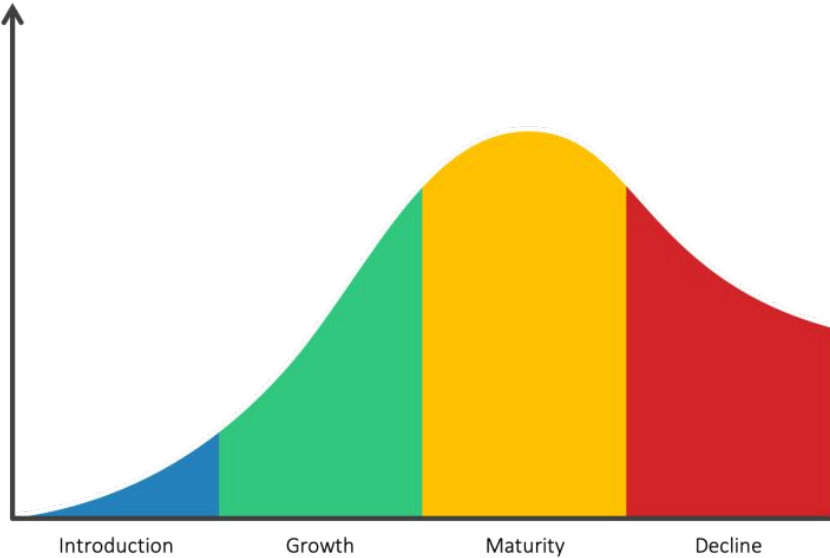
Growth of an Empire



Time ----->

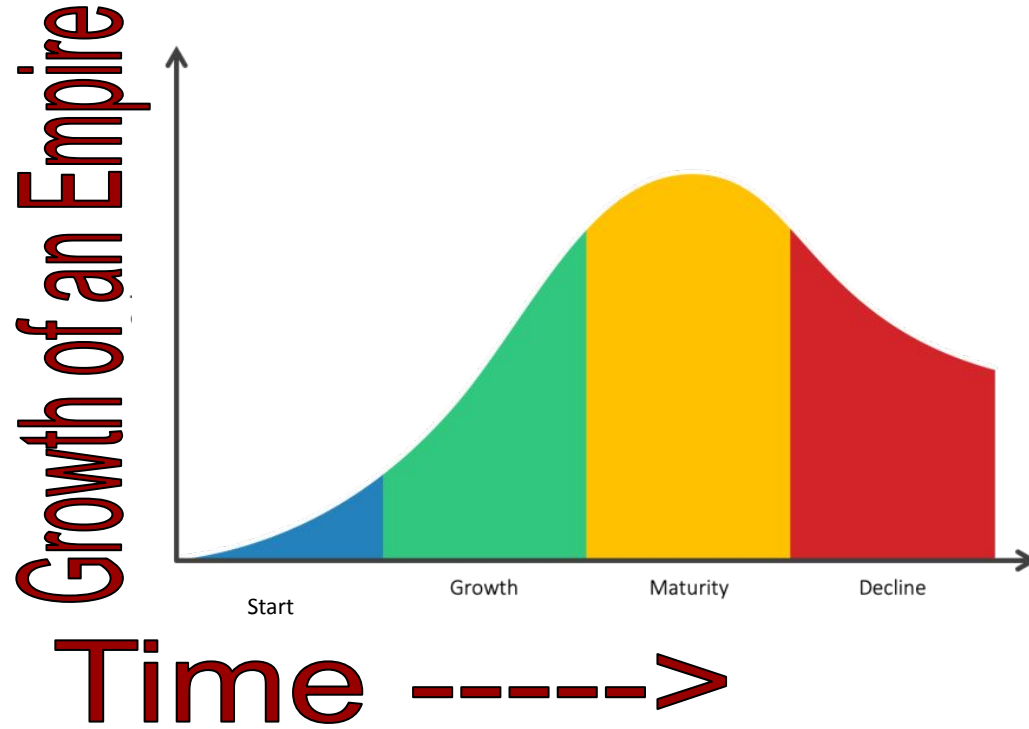
The lifecycle of an Empire.

Growth of an Empire

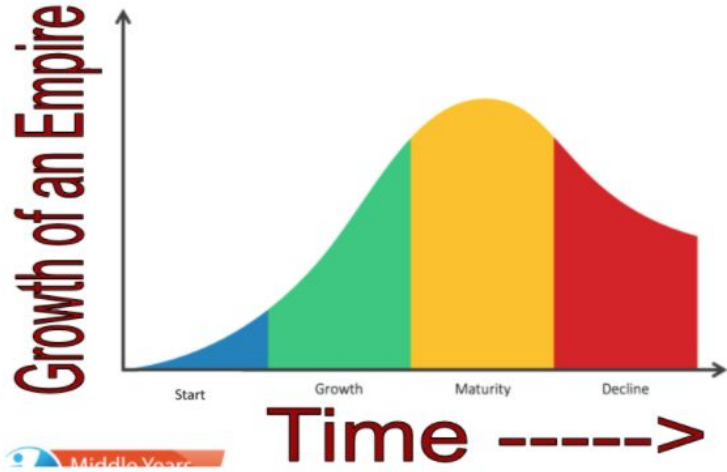


The British Empire	
Start	Britain was the first country to experience an industrial revolution making it the wealthiest and technologically powerful military force on the planet
Growth phase	Britain took over by force large parts of Africa, North America, Asia and Oceania.
Maturity phase	Britain gained huge wealth . British imposed their culture on others. Native people were exploited and even killed. There was widespread inequality .
Decline	Governing and controlling such a large Empire was very costly. Inequalities led to rebellion and independence movements . Gradually the Empire began to fade.

Time







Linking content to concepts

KEY CONCEPTS	RELATED CONCEPTS	GLOBAL CONTEXT
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Start / Beginnings	Growth	Maturity	Decline
Technological advancement allows one nation to develop quicker than its neighbors	Huge riches and resources are gained from newly conquered territories.	By this stage, almost all expansion through conquest would've ceased and instead, large infrastructure projects and monuments are built that in many cases still stand today	1963 Kenya gained its independence from Britain]

KEY CONCEPTS

RELATED CONCEPTS

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Change

Conflict; Innovation and revolution

Scientific and technical innovation

Examples from our studies *so far*

- Cultures change as they take on the culture of their masters. E.G cricket & football spread throughout the British Empire.
- During the British Raj, British rule of the Indian subcontinent from 1857-1947, Anglo-Indian cuisine was invented. It derived from British housewives interacting with their Indian cooks, and then merging the two cuisines together to make one.
- Technology has grown and the companies such as Blockbuster needed to change their styles, but they did not innovate.
- Although in a negative sense, Blockbuster was forced to stop collecting late fees from people who hadn't returned their cassettes, due to the fact that their competitors hadn't charged late fees, thus shifting the flow of the video rental market.
- With the Apple iPod rapidly declining in popularity, Apple had decided to discontinue it in 2017.

- Blockbuster was unable to compete with more innovative companies such as Netflix and Redbox, as Blockbuster refused to innovate and adapt along with the current trends.
- The Nazi empire grew through conflict → using force to take over other countries.
- Blockbuster bought out other video-rental stores and reopened them with the Blockbuster brand name.
- 1770 - The British explorer James Cook claimed Australia and New Zealand as British possessions
- Many Aboriginal people in Australia were killed by settlers and lost the right to live on their ancestors' lands because these lands were turned into cattle and sheep ranches.
- Apple, a large-scale industrial empire, had acquired many other smaller companies, such as NeXT (Steve Job's backup company

- The invention of the video recorder & DVD enabled Blockbuster to grow into a huge business.
- Britain went through an industrial revolution first so it was able to innovate before other countries making it more powerful.
- Blockbuster (during this initial opening) had *computerized check out systems*, which was a system that not many other video-rental stores had owned.
- 1750 to 1850 - Britain is the first country to experience an industrial revolution making it the most technologically and militarily powerful country in the world.
- Netflix, unlike Blockbuster, was an online business. Therefore, it was able to have a more expanded reach of customers compared to the America-based Blockbuster.
- A prominent example of this is UberEats.



Background: Empires throughout history

There were empires in ancient Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq and Syria), Egypt and China. Famous political empires have included:

- The Aztec Empire 1428-1521
- Qing Dynasty 1644-1912 CE
- Tsarist Russia (Romanov) 1721-1922 CE
- The Zulu Empire 1816-1897 CE

Famous Business empires have included:

- Toys-R-US 1948-2017
- Kodak 1889-2012
- Tower Records 1960-2004
- Borders Books 1971-2011
- General Motors 1908-2009

KEY CONCEPTS	RELATED CONCEPTS	GLOBAL CONTEXT
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Background: Empires throughout history

Empire may form when states or countries are ruled by an outside power (with different, social, economic and political customs). The ruler of an empire usually has a title; traditional titles of empires include king, emperor, sultan, padishah, tennō, depending on language, empire and translations of terms into English.

Empires are formed through *military conquest and can exist for the purpose of military glory, economic (financial) gain, defense or cultural and religious reasons to the benefit of the empires rulers.*

Some historians indicate that empires may also form when one country economically dominates another state or group of states. In cases such as this the states dominated may be politically independent but are economically tied to and dependent on another state for trade for the specific products and necessities. An example of this type of Empire includes **British Colonialism**.

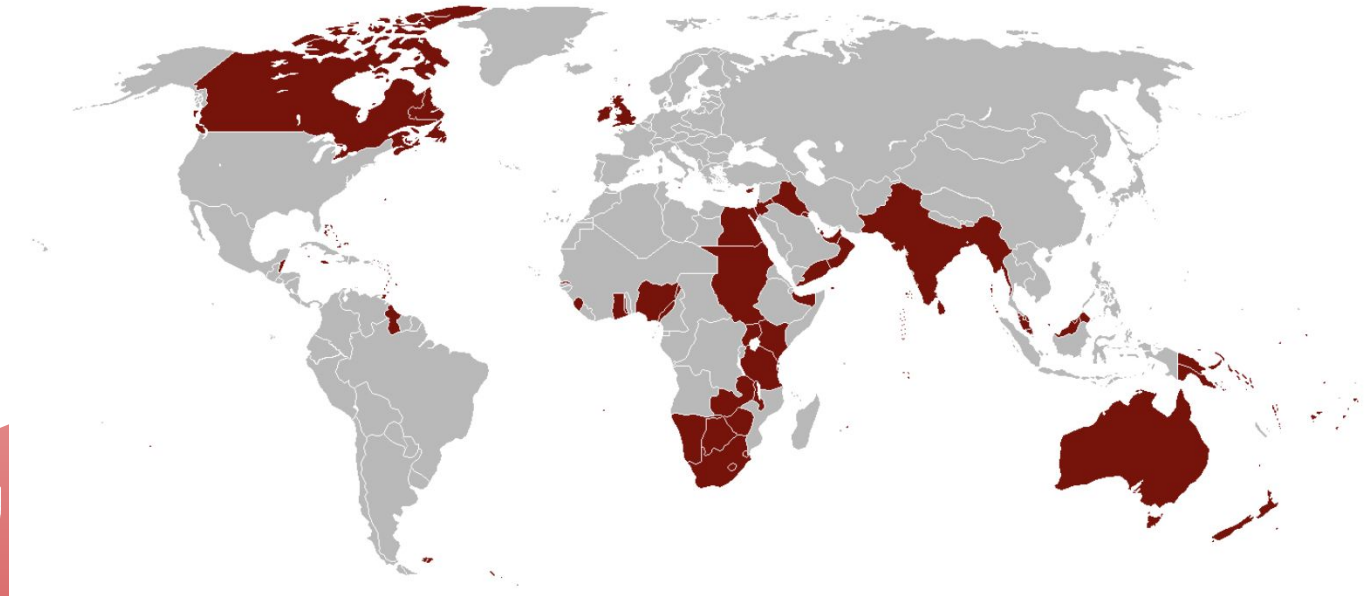


Background: Empires throughout history con't

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British Empire at its territorial peak (1921)

Imperialism: is the modern term for the expansion of empire.



Causes, motives and methods



Gaining an empire: Causes and motivations.

Case study: The British Empire

The British Empire expanded over at least five centuries to encompass over one quarter of the globe's surface at its height. This was down to a combination of key factors:

- war
- religion
- government
- economic resources
- science and technology
- ideas (like imperialism, social Darwinism and civilisation)
- the role of key individuals.

Rome's drive to expand its grain and silver resources



The extent of the Roman Republic and the Carthaginian Empire prior to the first Punic War 264-241 BCE.

Rome's drive to expand its grain and silver resources con't



The extent of the Roman Republic and the Carthaginian Empire prior to the second Punic War 218 BCE.

Rome's drive to expand its grain and silver resources can't



The extent of the Roman Republic and the Carthaginian Empire after the third Punic War 146 BCE.



Empire mapping activity

Task:

Look at the maps of Roman state on slides 21-23. What do you notice from looking at the Maps?

Answer Here

According to the information on slides 18, 19, 20 why do you think the maps changed?

Answer Here

Task: Complete the [Empire Mapping Activity](#)



What systems keep Empires in place?

Empires develop systems to support the rule and control of territories the administration occupies. These systems are varied, but can be used to aid the government while it engages in trade, communication and governance over vast distances. Examples of these systems include:

- government and **bureaucracy**
- Legal systems
- Infrastructure

A bureaucracy refers to a body of non-elected government officials that specialize in specific areas of government organization.

Example: In Ancient China under the system, the emperor assigned administration to dedicated officials rather than nobility, ending feudalism in China, replacing it with a centralized, bureaucratic government. Under this system, the government thrived and expanded in control, as talented individuals could be more easily identified in the transformed society.



Governing Empires

Governments are organizations that operate states and therefore empires. Their main purpose is to keep things organized and functioning smoothly, this is carried out through the establishment of laws and law enforcement. Governments also collect taxes from the population they rule over in order to maintain the smooth running of the state. Taxes would go toward paying administrators (people who help organize the state) and military for defense of the Empire.

Tax Collection

Empires have collected taxes for thousands of years. People have been required to give governments:

Labour (working on government projects)

Goods (such as farm products or raw material)

Services (military service)

Money

Without taxes, governments would not be able to maintain the systems that allow empires to continue. Empires have used taxes for:

- **Military expenses** such as soldier salaries and food, and equipment, ships, fortifications.
- **Construction** projects such as roads, bridges, canals and aqueducts.
- **Salaries** for government officials

What external factors have led empires to fall?

Advances in technology can radically affect history. These advances often give one group some military advantage.

End of the Bronze age

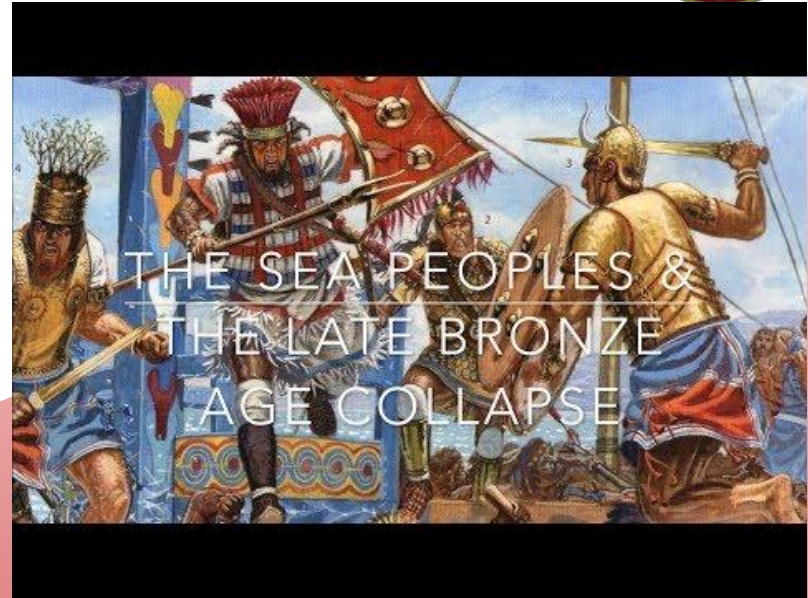
The Bronze age was a period of history that lasted from approximately 3000 to 1200 BCE. It was during this time period that the first writing systems were developed in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. It was also a time when people developed enough metal working knowledge to develop **Bronze**, an alloy of copper and tin. By the 1200 BCE the Egyptian and Hittite Empires dominated the eastern Mediterranean with large populations and cities, military technology, highly developed infrastructure and trade.



Watch the video on the importance of the development of **metallurgy**
Why was the development of bronze significant?

What external factors have led empires to fall?

However, almost all cities in the Eastern Mediterranean were destroyed within 50 years. By 1150 BCE, the Hittite Empire was gone, the population of the region collapsed, and Egypt was confined to the Nile river valley, fending off invasions from previously insignificant groups. The origins of the invaders, referred to in ancient Egyptian sources as the **Sea Peoples**, and the reasons for the collapse of the Bronze Age civilization and empire is still debated. Historians continue to study evidence produced by archaeologists in order to learn what led to this collapse.



Task: Watch the video on the end of the Bronze age. What are three theories that explain why the Bronze Age Empires collapsed?