* 1. Decline of the Roman Empire
     + 1. Economic Problems
          1. Hostile tribes and pirates disrupted trade
          2. Frequent wars drained the treasury
          3. Inflation occurred when Rome attempted to mint more money with same amount of precious metal such as silver and gold.
          4. Farms became less productive with overused land and wars destroying farmland.
       2. Military problems
          1. Soldiers lost the pride for fighting for Rome
          2. Mercenaries were used to bolster the army
       3. Political problems
          1. Rome goes through many bad leaders who had very little power.
          2. In a 50 year period, Rome had 26 emperors with only one dying of natural causes.
       4. Reforms
          1. Diocletian becomes emperor in 284

Ruled with absolute power

Claimed to be son of Jupiter to restore prestige to the throne.

Split the empire in half - East and West and took the Eastern half for himself. West went to Maximian.

Fixed prices of goods and services to try to slow inflation.

Forced farmers to stay on their land and urban boys to follow their father’s occupation in order to ensure production of food and goods.

AD 305 Diocletian retired due to poor health

* + - * 1. Constantine

Western emperor in 312

Attributes his rise to power to Christian God who gave him a sign before a major battle at Milvian Bridge (on the Tiber in Rome)

Declared religious freedom for Christians in 313 (Edict of Milan)

Consolidated the empire in 324

330 moves the capital to Byzantium and changes its name to Constantinople

After his death the empire would be split again.

* + - * 1. Barbarian Invaders

376-476 Germanic tribes (Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Angles, Saxons, Burgundians, and Vandals) begin pouring into the Roman empire in the West.

Rome is sacked by the Visogoths in 410

Huns

370 begin to move on Rome

Attila

444 united the Huns as one group

Attila controls the empire by making most of it pay him tribute.

452 Pope Leo I negotiates a withdrawal of the Huns

453 Attlia dies and the threat is avoided.

* + - 1. Fall of the West
         1. 476 Rome’s last emperor Romulus Augustulus
         2. Eastern empire is called Byzantine Empire and lasts until 1453.