

Section Reading Support AW 57 Ancient Rome, Section 5

The Fall of the Roman Empire

Causes

- Government and economy lost stability due to weak corrupt rulers
- Army made up of mercenaries who will not fight unless paid
- Empire too big to be ruled from one place
- Economic problems result in higher taxes, unemployment, food shortages, and inflation

Event

The Roman Empire divides into two parts, East and West.

Effects

- Power struggles between co-emperors
- Constantine moves the capital to Byzantium in 330
- Eastern portion of empire is wealthier, stronger, more powerful
- Roman Empire in west falls to Germanic tribes in 476