The Fall of Rome

#1. Political Corruption
#2. Urban Decay
#3. Unemployment
#4. Political Corruption
#5. Barbarian Invasions
#6. Decline in Morals and Values
#7. Environment and Public Health Concerns
#8. Excessive Military Spending
#9. Inferior Technology
#10. Inflation
Because of slave labor, many small farmers lost their land and moved into cities.

Thousands flooded Roman cities looking for work, and there was none to be had.
Thousands of Romans were crammed into small living areas in the city.

These buildings deteriorated and became dirty, crowded, and dangerous.
RISE IN CHRISTIANITY

Christians were pacifists, which meant they refused to fight to defend Rome from invasions.

Much money was spent on building churches rather than on maintaining the Empire.

Talented leaders of Rome were attracted to the Church rather than helping Rome solve problems.
Rome never created a way to decide who the new emperor was.

Many emperors became emperor by bribing others.
Roman soldiers no longer could protect the borders of Rome

Gradually, Germanic hunters and herders invaded and took over Roman land
Crime and violence rose in cities

Roman passion for cruelty increased
Leaders of Rome may have been killed off by consuming lead.

The wealthy were the only ones exposed to lead, but this theory is often challenged and disproved.
Maintaining an army to defend Rome’s borders was a constant drain on the government.

Military spending prevented Rome from using money on other important things, like public housing and maintaining roads.
Since Rome relied so much on human and animal labor, they failed to invent new machines that could produce goods more efficiently.

As a result, Rome was unable to provide for their growing population.
Once Rome stopped conquering land, the flow of gold into the Roman economy stopped.

As less gold was used in coins, coins became less valuable and merchants raised prices.

Inflation: increase in the price of things.