Name: Date:

Ms. Centonze Period:

**Section 5: The Long Decline**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ended around AD 100. The next 100 years were violent times. Many different rulers came to power. Social and economic problems developed. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were high. Poor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ left their land and sought protection of stronger landowners. Technically, they were free, but they could not leave their landowner’s estate.

Two emperors introduced reforms to stop the decay. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came to power in 284. He divided the empire into two parts to make it easier to rule. Diocletian controlled prices and forced farmers to stay on their land to help the economy. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came to power in 312. He continued the reforms of the Diocletian. Constantine became a Christian and ended the persecution of the Christian. He also built a new capital, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. As a result, the eastern part of the empire became the center of power. However, these improvements did not last.

Historians use the year 476 to mark the fall of Rome. In fact, the empire had been declining for many years. Germanic invasions weakened the empire. Romans forgot the values that made Rome great. The government made people unhappy. Officials became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Taxes were too high. The army grew weak. Gradually, Germanic customs, ideas, and languages replaced Roman culture.

**Foreign invasions**

* Global chain reaction- wars in East Asia set off a chain reaction. They set the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ migrating towards the west, killing everyone in their path. People like the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (barbarians) fled into Roman territory, hoping to settle.
* Roman soldiers tried to stop the barbarians but suffered a huge loss in 378 at Adrianople. More barbarians invade, and Alaric of the Visigoths overruns Rome! Sections of the Empire became occupied by invaders
* The “Scourge of God”- It got worse! From 434 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ began a savage conquest of Europe. (Christians called him the scourge of God as they saw him as a punishment for the wicked!). After Attila’s death in 453, his empire collapsed also. In 476 a Germanic leader called Odoacer ousted the emperor from Rome (“fall of Rome”)

**The End of Greatness…Why Did Rome “Fall”?**

* **Military**- Germanic invasions combined with poorly trained Roman armies. Roman armies had begun relying on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Political and Economic**-As the government became more authoritarian and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it lost the support of the people. People became corrupt. The division of the empire in time of attack wasn’t good either. High taxes pushed many people out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (even middle class). Reliance on slave labor discouraged new technology. Warfare and diseases cut the population
* **Social**- The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ class became devoted to luxury and self-interest, and there was a general decline in values (such as patriotism, discipline and devotion to duty. “Bread and Circuses” reduced self-reliance.
* **Did Rome Fall?** Rome did not disappear in 476. Rome civilization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the Eastern half would last another 1000 years) and many people’s lives remain the same (under Roman laws and culture). Over the next few centuries however, the old Roman cities began to crumble (as well as roads) and much of Roman civilization was replaced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ customs.