**Why was the capital of the Roman Empire moved?**

In 284, **Diocletian** was raised to the throne and quickly restored order to the struggling Roman Empire. Although he was a citizen, he ruled as a king, surrounded by a court of officials with new titles. He introduced the new idea that the **emperor** was given his power by the gods and demanded that all who approached him bow down to him.

But Diocletian was an expert organizer. He reorganized the government, breaking up old provinces into more than 100 smaller ones, each with its own officials. He increased the size of the army but broke it up into smaller units, each with its own command structure. Since money was scarce, he increased the amount of **taxes** based on the number of people and their wealth. He sent officials all over the empire to collect census data to determine how much each province, town, and citizen should be taxed.

**Diocletian realized that the empire was too big for one man to rule**. He appointed a **co-emperor**, Maximian, to rule under him, both emperors taking the title of “Augustus.” Diocletian would rule the **Eastern Roman** **Empire**; Maximian would rule the Western. Each then appointed a “Caesar” to rule some of the provinces in his half of the empire and to become “Augustus” when he died. Then, in the year 305, Diocletian did a remarkable thing: He **voluntarily gave up his throne** and retired to his estates, persuading his fellow Augustus to do the same. Diocletian’s system fell apart almost at once. By 311, there were four men claiming the title of Augustus, each supported by his own soldiers. The following year, one of these generals, **Constantine**, defeated his rivals and became emperor.

**How Did Constantinople become Rome’s New Capital?**

The **Western** Roman Empire had been so **drained by taxes** that it was no longer producing wealth for the state. Even the city of Rome was no longer important, either economically or strategically. The **empire’s future lay in the east**. In 330, Constantine abandoned Rome. He moved the capital to the old Greek city of **Byzantium**, in what is now Turkey. There he built a splendid “New Rome,” which he named **Constantinople**.

If the western part of the empire had been weak before, it now grew even weaker. As the barbarians, pressured by the Huns, in turn increased their pressure on Roman territory, future emperors withdrew **legions** from their western provinces to **strengthen the east**. Taxes to pay for defense grew so heavy that there were complaints to Constantine that his taxes had “drained our very life.” The jobs of town and provincial officials, once an honor, now became a burden. Officials were required to pay their district’s share of taxes even if the land and people they governed were too poor to raise the required amount. As a result, **nobody wanted to hold public office,** and people had to be forced to take the job.

Constantine and his successors increasingly used their power to **control the people**. A son had to follow the same occupation as his father. To support the government and the army, farmers were bound to their land, city workers to their trades. The sense of community that had bound Romans together for centuries disappeared. People still spoke of “Roman citizenship,” but in effect all Romans had become **enslaved to the state**. Most people had stopped caring about Roman culture and no longer took pride in being Roman.

**Moving Capital Questions**

1. What idea did Diocletian introduce?

2. How did Diocletian reorganize the government?

3.Taxes were increased based on the number of what?

4.What title did both emperors take?

5. Which part of the Roman Empire did Diocletian rule?

6. What did Diocletian do in the year 305?

**New Capital Questions**

1. Why wasn’t the western Roman Empire producing wealth for the state?

2. Where did the empire’s future lay?

3. Where was the “New Rome” established?

4. Why were taxes increased?

5. Why didn’t anyone want to hold public office?

**The Fall of Ancient Rome** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Germanic Tribe Questions**

1. Who were the Visigoths?

2.When the Visigoths settled in Roman territory, how did the Romans treat them?

3.What happened in the Battle of Adrianople?

4. Did the Germanic tribes wish to destroy Rome? What did they wish to do?

5. Where did the Visigoths finally settle in 395?

6. Who is Alaric?

**How Did Rome Fall Questions**

1. Why did Alaric declare war on the Roman Empire?

2. What were Alaric’s soldiers allowed to do for three days as long as they left the buildings alone?

3. What territories had been hit the hardest by Germanic tribes?

4. Who was the leader of the Huns?

5. What does “Romulus Augustulus” mean?

**Why Did Germanic Tribes Attack Rome?**

**Germanic Tribe:** a group of Northern-European people, identified for their use of Germanic languages (English, German, Dutch, etc.).

In 376, the **Huns** were again moving westward. The Visigoths, one of the largest and most powerful of the **Germanic tribes**, appeared on the empire’s Danube frontier and appealed to the emperor for help. They were allowed to settle in Roman territory as allies against other invaders. The Romans, however, treated them as a conquered people. They were not given enough land, their weapons were seized, and many Visigoths were sold into slavery. Roman officials sold them spoiled grain at high prices. The Visigoths were insulted and enraged. In the **Battle of Adrianople**, they attacked a Roman army, claiming a decisive victory for the Goths and the **beginning of the end for Rome**.

The Germanic tribes had **no wish to destroy Rome**, only to share in its riches. They had been growing stronger and more populous as Rome grew weaker. They needed more land to feed themselves, and since they were a **warrior people**, they sought it by conquest. The Visigoths swept through Rome’s Balkan provinces, taking whatever they could. In 395, they were finally settled on lands in **northern Greece**. This land lay on the border between the Eastern and Western Roman Empire. Now and then, the Goths found themselves being attacked on both sides. Under **Alaric**, who became the Goth’s king in 396, they began raiding Italy itself.

**How Did Rome Fall to Germanic Tribes?**

On December 31, 406, Germanic tribes crossed into Roman territory, taking over an area known as **Gaul**. The emperor of the Roman Empire at the time blamed his general and had him executed. Following the invasion, Roman **legions** killed the families of 30,000 Germanic tribesmen.

After the families were killed, **Alaric**, king of the Visigoths, declared war on the Roman Empire. He invaded Italy, surrounding Rome, and on August 24, 410, citizens in the surrounded city opened the gates to his soldiers. For three days, Alaric allowed his soldiers to steal what they wanted, but they had to leave the buildings intact. News of the invasion spread quickly. There was no doubt now about how weak the Roman Empire had become.

The city of Rome survived, but the Western Roman Empire was finished. Germanic tribes chipped away at the Roman territories in Gaul, Spain, and northwest Africa. In 451, Germanic tribes and Romans fought together against the **Huns**, who had invaded Gaul under their king, **Attila**. The following year, after being defeated in Gaul, Attila swept through northern Italy. But he died soon after, and without his leadership, the Huns were no longer a threat. The Germanic tribes resumed their wars against Rome. In 455, Rome was sacked again, this time by the **Vandals**.

The last Western Roman Emperor was **Romulus Augustulus**. The name meant “little Augustus,” and in fact he was a child. In 476, a **Gothic chief** named **Odoacer**, who had been a general in the Roman army, seized command of Italy and removed Romulus Augustulus from his throne. Seventeen years later, Odoacer was defeated and killed by **Theodoric**, an **Ostrogoth** (a later form of the Visigoths). Theodoric tried to rule in the Roman manner under Roman law. He repaired Roman **aqueducts** and ports, but he was among the last to do so. It is likely that the people of Rome still thought of themselves as Romans. Now that they were no longer part of the Roman Empire, they were subjects of a **Gothic Kingdom of Italy**.