

Seven Signs of a Falling Nation

Lesson 3



No government, kingdom or society lasts forever. Here are seven factors that contributed to ancient Rome's demise- warning signs that exist today within the nation of America.

Sign 4: _____

- * Originally, agriculture and land ownership were Rome's chief sources of _____ and became the most heavily taxed. Over time, landowners who operated large farms on the backs of slaves eventually undersold smaller farmers, forcing them out of business.
- * Commercial trade in Rome created a massive consumer economy that focused on _____ rather than production and growth, just as in modern-day America.
- * As the Roman Empire expanded, so did the costs of operating it. Rapidly growing government _____ became expensive to maintain.
- * To compensate for _____, Roman emperors in the second and third centuries produced more coins, but these were no longer made of silver and gold alloys, which had become scarce. Roman currency dwindled in value.
- * Today, Americans pay local, municipal, county, state and federal _____ before even receiving their paychecks, and contend with numerous other consumer taxes: sales, gasoline, vehicles, property, school, television, phone, licenses, pets, luxury items, airline flights—the list seems endless.
- * _____ combined with _____ and a desire to maintain an unrealistic standard of living have driven a growing majority to live on _____ and practice the materialistic principle of “live for today, forget about tomorrow.”
- * Consumers survive _____ to paycheck, partly due to wrong financial priorities and living beyond their means.
- * American consumers are strapped with debt, resulting in a staggering number of defaulted home loans and personal bankruptcies.

Sign 5: _____

- * As in ancient Rome, strong belief in self-determination and self-reliance has been replaced with an attitude of _____ something for nothing. Government-run systems originally intended to _____ those in genuine need are now considered an _____.
- * Americans want to have their economic “cake and eat it too”—to work _____ and play _____—to “support the troops,” but have their family members and friends in the military stay home—to fight terrorism, but not raise taxes to support the military (which does the actual fighting)—to obtain better _____ insurance, but force _____ to pay for it—to _____ social security when they retire, but not _____ how much they pay into it now.
- * Of course, how can the average consumer be expected to show fiscal responsibility when government leaders fail to do so?

Sign 6: _____

- * And just as the Roman army was overstretched and overextended in foreign lands, so is the American military. Roman soldiers, once known for their precision in battle and rigid obedience to authority, eventually became _____.
- * One time in America it was seen as a great _____ to serve in the military and police force, but today there is such a demoralization to not support the military and defund the police, which only leads to a weaker nation and a rise in crime.