Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Characteristics of Declining Empires

What factors cause empires to “fall”?

1. Unstable Leadership
* Declining empires tend to lack a strong, central \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Results from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or defeat of a popular leader, who is replaced by someone replaced by someone who is unpopular or lacks the necessary knowledge/abilities to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the empire.
* Disagreements about who can lead the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_occur
1. Military Defeat
* Declining empires often experience damaging \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ losses.
* Decreases the amount of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an empire controls and how many resources they have access to.
* This can further weaken an empire.
1. Internal Disputes
* Declining empires often struggle to remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* New ideas from different parts of the empire can create \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amongst the people.
* Can lead to internal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, civil war, division of territory, and decrease in political and military \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Remember:

1. Not all declining empires will exhibit all of these \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Decline may be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to other factors as well.
3. These factors are tools we can use to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ history.