

Roman Civilization

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The peace of the *Pax Romana* was followed by a century of confusion and violence. Roman government grew weak while the army grew strong and independent. The legions of the army fought each other to put new emperors on the throne. Rome had 22 emperors in a period of 50 years.

This period of civil war caused great suffering, including:

- Food shortages
- High prices
- Decreased support for education
- Unpaid taxes

The government tried to fix the economy by making more new coins. These new coins had less value, so it cost more to buy goods. This is called inflation. Inflation happens when prices go up and money is worth less. People began to barter. Instead of using money, they traded one product or service for another.

As Rome struggled, Germanic tribes began to attack the empire. The Romans built walls around their cities for protection. The Roman government hired Germanic soldiers for the army, but these soldiers had no loyalty to Rome.

In A.D. 284, a general named Diocletian became emperor. He tried to strengthen the empire by making many reforms, or changes to make things better.

Diocletian's Reforms	Reasons









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