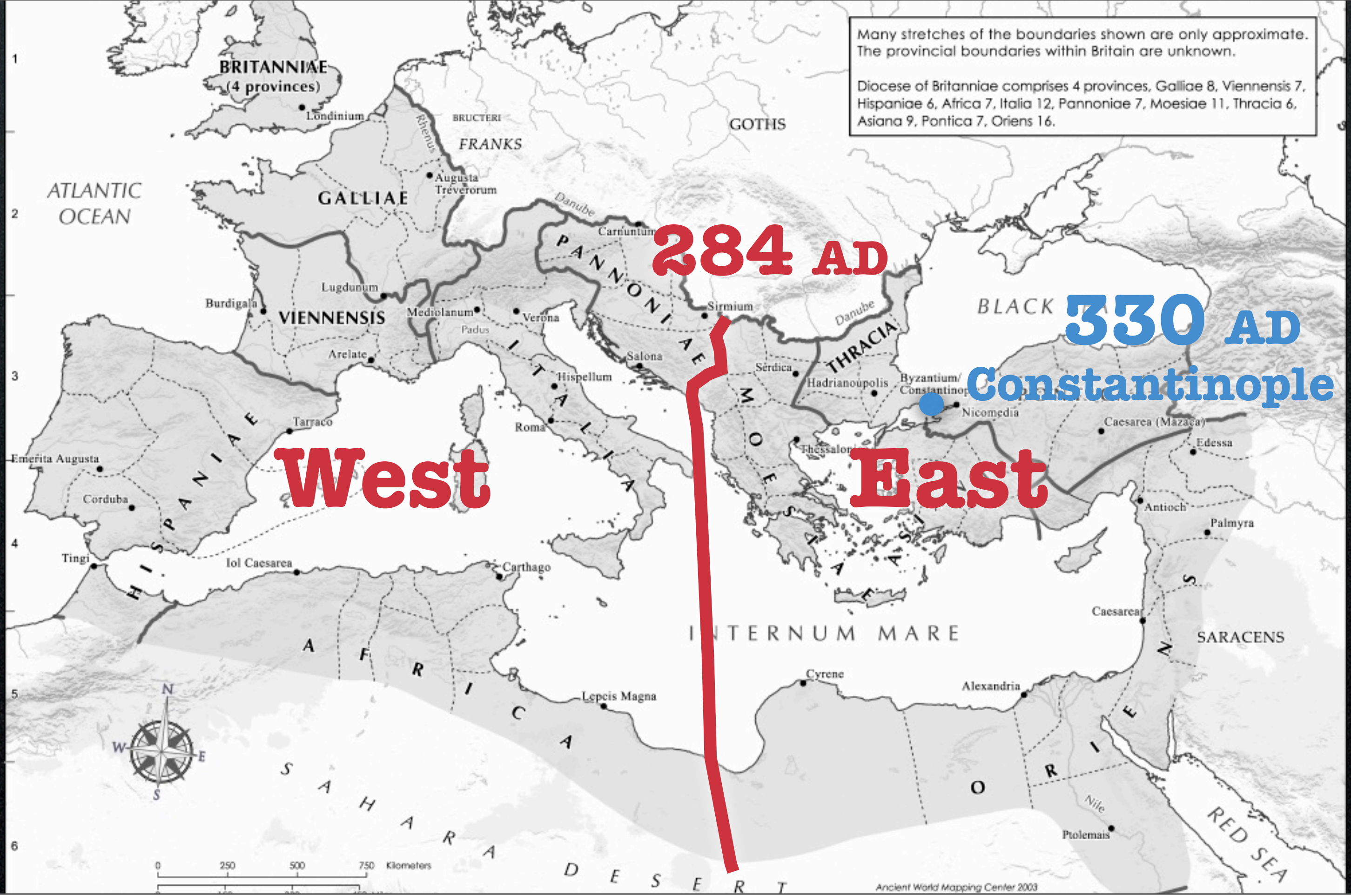


The Decline and Fall of Rome

180-476 AD

I. Political Causes (weak government)

- Too large to govern effectively (Doc 2)
- loss of loyalty of citizens (Doc 1)
- emperors often corrupt
- no stable line of succession, frequent civil war
 - (ex. 180-284 AD = 26 different emperors all died violently)



Many stretches of the boundaries shown are only approximate. The provincial boundaries within Britain are unknown.

Diocese of Britanniae comprises 4 provinces, Galliae 8, Viennensis 7, Hispaniae 6, Africa 7, Italia 12, Pannoniae 7, Moesiae 11, Thracia 6, Asiana 9, Pontica 7, Oriens 16.

284 AD

330 AD

Constantinople

West

East

II. Economic Causes (no money)

- most people are poor (Doc 1), but why?
- lack of expansion= lack of revenue
- Government + army were too expensive (Doc 3)
- Heavy taxation = burdened + upset people (Doc 3)
- trade interrupted/unsafe (overly reliant on foreign goods)
- **inflation:** money lost value
- “bread and circuses”/welfare-people stopped working (Doc 3)

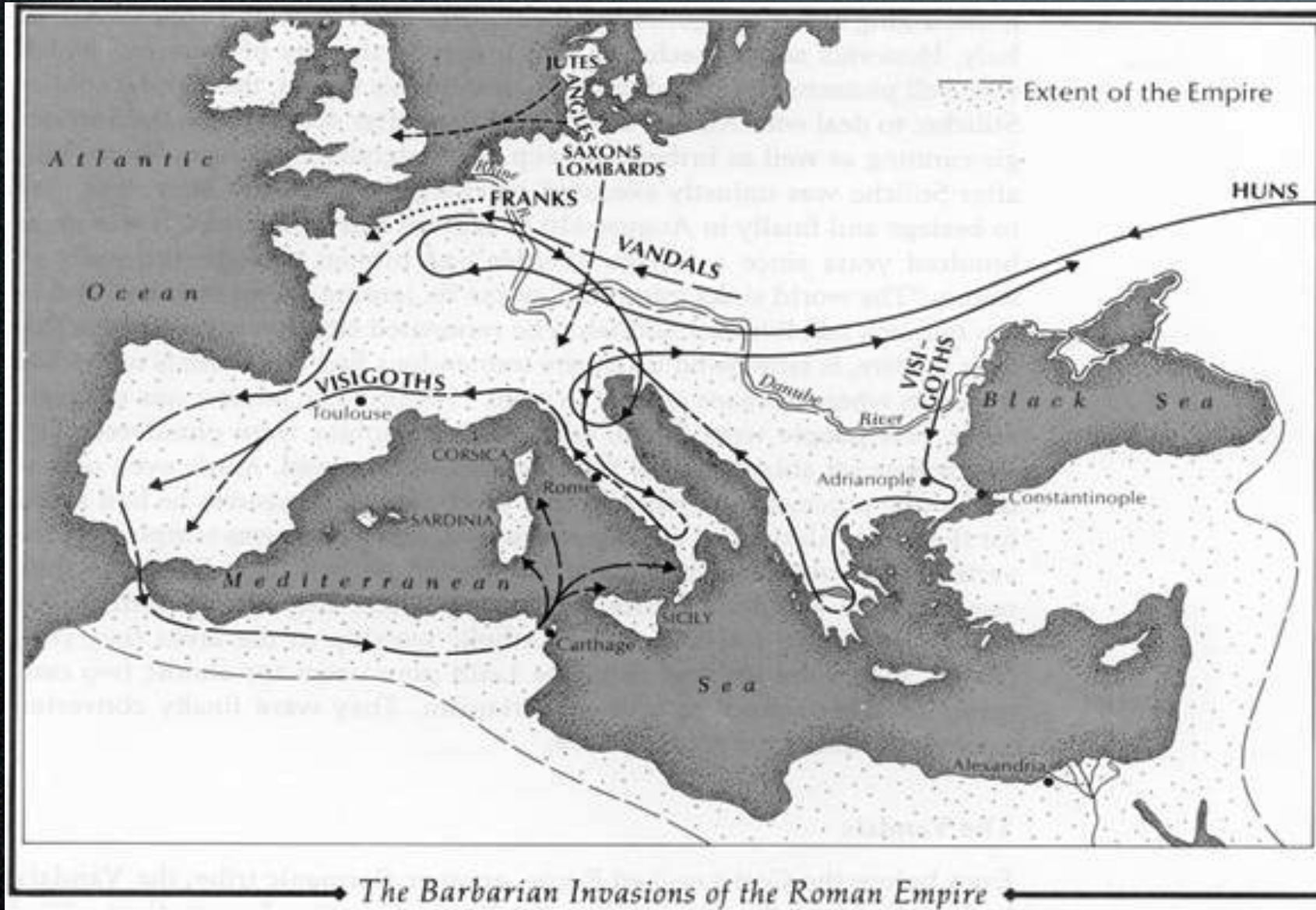


III. Social Causes

- big division between rich and poor
 - Poor had limited rights and began to feel left out=disloyal to Rome (Doc 1)
- Christianity undermined spirit of Roman fighting and patriotism (Doc 2)
 - less people joined army
 - people gave money to charity, not Rome
- population was decreasing (Doc 4)



IV. Military Causes (weak army)



- hired mercenaries (paid soldiers) to secure borders- no loyalty (Doc 4)
- weak military- too many areas to secure
- soldiers loyal to generals not the Empire
- Multiple barbarian invasion weakened empire (Doc 5)
- In 476, Odoacer conquers Rome

location of Roman Legions 70 AD

What do you believe is the most important factor in the fall of Rome? Why?