

Conrad-Demarest Model of Empires

Empire: The term was first used in English in 1297 to indicate an extensive territory made up of formerly independent states. A further refinement might be to add that an empire is a politically unified state in which one people dominates its neighbors

1. **Necessary preconditions** for the rise of empires-the region must have:
 - a. State-level government
 - b. High agricultural potential of the environment
 - c. An environmental mosaic
 - d. Several small states with no clear dominant state (power vacuum)
 - e. Mutual antagonism among those states
 - f. Adequate military resources (or a military or technological advantage)
2. **Ideology:** States succeed in empire building if they have an ideology that promotes personal identification with the state, empire, leader, conquest, and/or militarism
3. **Characteristics** of well-run empires
 - a. Build roads and transportation systems, canals, ports, etc.
 - b. Trade increases
 - c. Cosmopolitan cities-art and education flourish
 - d. Effective bureaucracy to ensure communication, collect taxes, oversee coinage, ensure the emperor's laws are enforced
 - e. Common official language (communication)
 - f. System of justice, law for entire empire
 - g. Citizenship or rights extend in some degree to conquered; must be some buy-in
4. **Major results** of empire:
 - a. Economic rewards, especially in the early years, redistributed to elite and trickles down to other classes (esp. merchants, scribes, etc.)
 - b. Relative stability and prosperity
 - c. Population increase
5. **Empires fall** because:
 - a. Failure or leadership; focus on wealth, etc. not the needs of the state
 - b. Ideology of expansion and conquest leads to attempting new conquests beyond a practical limit: over-stretching of bureaucracy, military, resources, communications
 - c. Lack of new conquests erodes economic base and lessens faith in ideology that supported the empire
 - d. Rebellions from within/ challenges from without

Also ask students to consider issues of hegemony vs. dominance.