

Why do empires collapse?- A comparative case study of the decline and fall of Era 3 empires

What's the **BIG** deal?

- At their height, the great empires of Era 3 covered large expanses of territory in Afroeurasia and shared some common characteristics, including the development of science, engineering, and governmental systems, as well as extensive trade networks.
- The Mayan civilization of Mesoamerica shared some of the characteristics, but was different in important ways and was not an empire.
- Era 3 empires eventually declined and fell because they grew too large to control, they faced invasion and conflict with nomadic societies, and they were weakened by internal problems like corruption, resource depletion and social unrest.