Roman Expansion and the Fall of the Republic

Directions:

1) Explain the five reasons that historians give for Rome being able to conquer so much land so quickly:

   A. Rome takes great pride in their Republic and defended it. Great amount of determination from the people.

   B. Treated conquered peoples as allies, making them citizens. Able to raise large army people remained loyal to Rome because they shared in the profits from the Roman wars.

   C. Roman army was highly disciplined and “seasoned” by years of war.

   D. Romans valued military success. Need Military success for political gain. The “triumph”; the general rode in a chariot dressed up as Jupiter.

   E. Wars were a great source of wealth. Valuables seized enriched both government treasury and individual leaders. Prisoners became slaves.

2) Explain how Roman wars abroad hurt the lives of Roman farmers at home. How did this eventually affect the city-life as well?

   Wars were fought further away…farmers were gone for longer and many were killed in battle. Second Punic War destroyed farms. Farmers did not have enough money to begin farming again. Wealthy Romans bought up the land and created slave-run plantations. Farmers moved into the city, but not jobs because skills were limited, so they ended up being homeless and jobless.
3) Who was Spartacus? Explain how he could have changed the Roman thoughts towards slaves.

In 73 BCE, a slave/gladiator named Spartacus started a rebellion which grew to numbers in the 100,000 range. With this rebellion Romans began to rethink how to treat their slave population. It seemed that they were a real threat and had to be kept more closely under watch.

4) Rome’s many military victories abroad helped bring money to the empire. How did this affect the different social levels (rich, poor, army and slaves) within the empire?

Rich: they become richer because of wealth earned from wars, ignoring the poor and the “gap” was getting considerably bigger.

Poor: no loyalty to Roman government because they were not being helped

Army: was getting bigger; people joined the army in order to make money, but became more loyal to the generals than the political leaders (they were fighting for money and not for Rome). Generals were getting more power and paying the soldiers with private gifts and luxuries acquired from battle. Need to win more battles in order to become more rich.

Slaves: population increasing and unhappy. Threat of uprising more prevalent, and the Romans people were more paranoid about this.

5) How was Julius Caesar different from the previous Roman dictators?

Caesar was appointed dictator, but he did not leave the position once the problem was “solved.” He ended up staying dictator for life.