

“LIFE CYCLE OF AN EMPIRE”

“ AGE OF ... ”	SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS
“Pioneers”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •people typically poor, hardy, enterprising, aggressive
“Conquests”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •sudden outburst •extraordinary display of energy and courage •readiness to improvise and experiment (<i>i.e. few established traditions</i>) •general optimism and confidence •strong religious commitment
“Commerce”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •travel or goods stimulated by the new markets opened up by conquest •commerce stimulated by the general tranquility of the area under domination
“Affluence”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •increase in art and luxury as expressions of wealth •new forms of wealth develop
“Intellect”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •money replaces honor/duty as a chief social objective •growth of “intellectualism” evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<i>education transformed into a means of obtaining wealth</i> •<i>universalism in higher education</i> •<i>dependence on ideas and dialogue for solutions</i> •denunciation of military aggressiveness •growth of pacifism •increasing civil dissent & internal political hatred and divisions
“Decadence”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •defensiveness due to desire to maintain wealth and luxury •universal pessimism •frivolity (“<i>eat, drink, be merry</i>”) •materialism •influx of foreigners unrelated to original conquerors •welfare state; lavish spending on its own benevolence •decline in religion (<i>lays seeds for religious revival</i>) •cult of worship of athletes, actors and musicians •increase of influence in public life by women and homosexuals

NATION	RISE & FALL DATES	DURATION
Assyria	859 – 612 BC	247 years
Persia (Cyrus and descendants)	538 – 330 BC	208 years
Greece (Alexander and descendants)	331 – 100 BC	231 years
Roman Republic	260 – 27 BC	233 years
Roman Empire	27 BC – AD 180	207 years
Arab Empire	634 – 880	246 years
Marmeluke Empire	1250 – 1517	267 years
Ottoman Empire	1320 – 1570	250 years
Spain	1500 – 1750	250 years
Romanov Russia	1682 – 1916	234 years
Britain	1700 – 1950	250 years

The “Life Cycle of an Empire” chart was distilled from the book, *The Fate of Empires*, by Sir John Glubb. Edinburgh, Wm. Blackwood Publishers, ©1976. The chart of nations and dates was extracted from the book itself.