

Layla Journ AP world history essay

In Ancient empires such as Mesopotamia we see social structures, government and invaders but as social and public structures became more sophisticated it led to the establishments of complex societies. The new technological advancements and trade routes both created more of a reason for conquest. Interactions between different types of culture became more common. Empires were constantly seeking for new land to gain more wealth and power. Though despite any empires size both consolidation and imperial expansion are vital to maintaining a stable empire. The contributing factors that led to the maintenance of these empires consist of military advancements, government and trading.

Firstly, Military advancements were needed in order for imperial expansion to be possible. Different techniques, tools, and amount of soldiers had a huge impact on the outcomes of these battles. For example, Alexander of Macedon invaded Persia with an army of only forty-eight thousand soldiers. Despite the Persian army being greater in size, Alexander was able to defeat them in battles. This was possible because Alexander had better weapons and tactics. He used the formation of Phalanx. Phalanx is a formation in which men armed with long spears and shields lineup and slowly approach their enemies which makes frontal attacks impossible. Also, Cyrus the great originally used foot combat but eventually realized there is a better tactic. He switched over to cavalry combat. This form of combat included men on horses. This created an advantage because cavalry combat was more efficient and allowed the soldiers to become more mobile which is an advantage when you're fighting. As well as, Mithridates I

who also used cavalry combat. He fed their horses with alfalfa during winter which will help the horses get larger and stronger. This allowed the warriors to carry heavier arms and armor. Military advancements are important because it allows conquering of other lands and empires need expansions to help the introduction of new ideas and to gain more power. Making it much more difficult for future invaders to conquer.

However, Conquering land is hard but keeping it consolidated can be more difficult. Government plays an important role in maintaining unity among the empire. For instance, Han Wudi established a large bureaucratic government. He sent officials to implement his policies throughout the empire to help maintain order. Similar to Han Wudi, Ashoka also ruled through an organized bureaucracy. He established his capital at Pataliputra, a place where he administered policies throughout the whole empire. These policies were communicated through pillar edicts, which were inscriptions of edicts on natural stone or pillars around the empire. Another example is Darius, who wanted to introduce a sense of single standard throughout his realm. He ruled from the capital Persepolis but appointed governors called satraps to serve as administrators in different areas. However, legal experts were placed to modify laws when harmonization was needed between both the people and laws to keep unification in the empire. All these empires established principles that helped prevent any miscommunications and maintain the whole empire under a common law. Miscommunication is a bad quality for an empire to have because it can lead to rebellions. Rebellions create a division among people in an empire which will eventually result in some sort of decline or even to the collapse of an enormous empire.

In addition to government, trade also plays an important role in helping an

empire be consolidated. Standardized coins prevented any miscommunications among merchants. These measured coins have a guaranteed value making it more efficient for merchants to use. Before the introduction of standardized coins, merchants would have to go through the process of weighing ingots to determine an items value. Furthermore, Trade routes consisted of well integrated networks of exchange and communication. During the reign of Alexander the great long distance trade became very important. Not only to the flourishing economy but to the diffusion of different cultures. The mixing of cultures allowed new ideas to become visible and allowed diversity through empires. Additionally, standardized scripts were introduced. These scripts were introduced during Qin Shihuangdi's reign. This allowed different speakers that pronounced the words in different manners to have the same written symbols. This made communication much easier among people, especially during trading.

In conclusion, consolidation and imperial expansion are both necessary to maintain a stable empire. The factors that helped with the maintenance of these empires are military advancements such as different military tactics and tools. Government, which helped prevent miscommunication among people and live under a common law. Also Trade, which additionally helped prevent further miscommunication, helped the economy and the mixing of cultures.