

## **Raven Jimenez AP World Causation Essay**

The period from 600 B.C.E to 600 C.E, was a time of imperial expansion for many influential and powerful empires. Many of them, specifically, the Achaemenid Persian Empire, the Han Dynasty and the Roman Empire developed a desire for resources which ultimately led to the development of new strategic methods for conquest, like strong military forces. In order to consolidate those conquered lands, along with the entire empires, they used technology, like the building of roads and use of iron to make weapons and armor and cultural tolerance seen in the Roman Empire.

First and foremost, the Achaemenid Persian Empire and the Han Dynasty both used military forces to expand their empires. The Han Dynasty invaded central Asia with vast armies. About one hundred thousand troops brought much of the Xiongnu Empire under Chinese military control. The Xiongnu Empire were nomadic people from the steppes of central Asia, which was Han Wudi's greatest challenge during his reign. Han Wudi initiated a long central Asian corridor extending almost to Bactria which prevented the Xiongnu from invading. Similarly, in the Achaemenid Persian Empire, Cyrus the Great initiated a rebellion against his overlord. He took control of Iran, and in 546 B.C.E he and his military conquered the kingdom of Lydia in Anatolia. He also seized Babylonia, whose vassal states immediately they recognized him as their lord. Within twenty years, Cyrus went from minor regional king of an empire, to ruling an empire that stretched from India to the borders of the empire. To add on, Darius, the greatest Achaemenid emperor, extended the empire both east and west. His armies pushed into northwestern India as far as the Indus river,

absorbing parts of northern india, while also capturing mountains, jungles, desserts, the Red Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea. It was the largest empire the world has ever seen. This proves that both the Han Dynasty and the Achaemenid Persian Empire used strong military forces to help them gain new territories and to take control of lands that most benefited them. For example, Darius took control of seas, which would benefit the Achaemenid Persian Empire because it would be good provider for trade and irrigation systems.

Subsequently, the Han Dynasty and the Roman Empire both took advantage of technological resources to strengthen their societies. The Han Dynasty used iron metallurgy, where Han Artisans experimented with production techniques and learned to craft fine utensils for both domestic and military uses. This was essential in military combat because craftsmen designed suits of iron armour to protect soldiers against arrows and blows. Similarly, the Roman Empire integrated it's community by building networks of transportation and communications. Builders placed milestones along the roads. That permitted urgent travel and messages. Tiberus, a roman emperor once travelled 290 kilometers in a single day over roman roads. In Addition, the use of sea lanes throughout the mediterranean helped facilitate trade in the prices. This permitted others to cultivate fruits and vegetables or on the production of manufactured items. This discloses that the use of technology helped consolidate both the Han Dynasty and the Roman Empire because it made things easier. In the Han Dynasty, people could now have a higher chance of winning a battle because the supplement of armor would allow protection from severe attacks. The creation of roads and sea lanes in the Roman Empire would make trade easier and faster, as well as make specialization of labor since there would be a variety of jobs

available for local people.

Finally, the Roman Empire used the method of cultural tolerance to unify and stabilize its people. Constantine, roman emperor, hoped to see the spread of christianity become a unifying force for the Roman Empire. The different beliefs and contradictions saw a possible threat to the empire. This led to the Nicene Creed, a declaration of faith that presented a view that Jesus was equal to God and part of God [God in three persons]. This was decided by a council of bishops and leaders to decide on the official doctrine of christianity. Furthermore, the idea of one belief would help put an end to the contradictions and bickerings within the religion and would bring peace. To add on, the Edict of Milan brought more consolidation since it ruled that all romans were allowed to worship to whatever way they wanted. This illustrates that in order to keep peace in the empire, cultural tolerance was prominent because people did not want to be forced and christianity had a heavy influence on people, which made them reject the other religions of Rome.

To recapitulate, various empires, like the Roman Empire, the Qin and Han Dynasty, all had their ways or tactics in trying to expand, consolidate or reinforce policies. Some used strong military forces to expand their empires. While others, used cultural tolerance to allow people to express their beliefs. Many of them were successful and were able to take control of lands and seas that would benefit them in trade and resources. It also allowed them to bring peace to its society.