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# THE ROLE OF DEFORESTATION IN THE FALL OF ROME

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# WHAT IS DEFORESTATION ?





# CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION: FALL OF ROME

According to a new theory, environmental damage, and particularly deforestation caused the weakening, and eventually the fall of the Roman empire:

- Building with Wood
- Wood for Heating
- Wood-use in Industry
- Felling Trees for Agriculture
- Deforestation in Warfare





# EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION: FALL OF ROME

## ECONOMY

- Abandonment and Flight of Industry
- Increased Transportation Cost
- Rise in Price

## AGRICULTURE

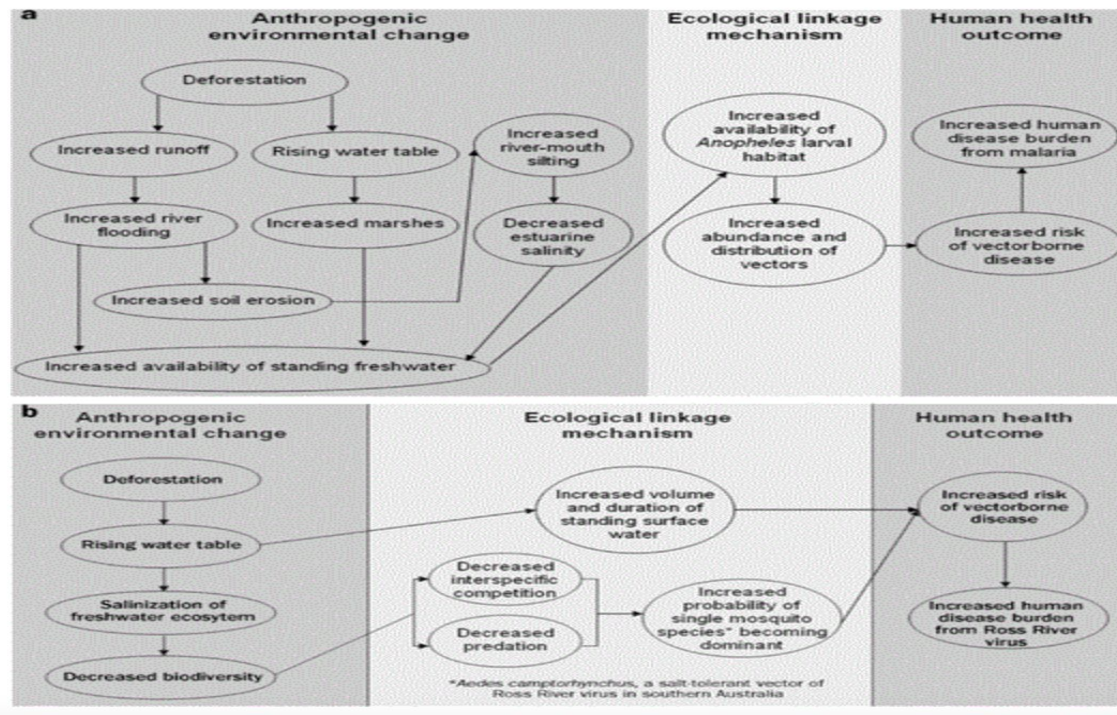
- Soil Depletion
- Soil Erosion

## HEALTH

- Increasing Marshlands causing the widespread of Malaria
- Easier spread of disease in cities

## POLITICS

- Law of Fields (111 a.C.)
- War Policies



# DEFORESTATION AND MALARIA IN ROME



# AWARENESS AND RESPONSE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

1

## LANDOWNERS

The wealthier landowners limiting the process of forest clearance

2


## NATURE WORSHIP

The protection of sacred groves believed to be associated with Gods

3

## GOVERNMENT

Rules and Punishments for any acts producing environmental change





# THE INEVITABLE DOWNFALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- Less wood if none for the production of silver in Spain
- ❑ The currency started crushing (30% of silver per coin until to the 2%)
- Constant invasion from the north required the constant deploy of troops
- ❑ With no money to pay the troops and the equipments due to a falling economy the invaders sacked Rome

In 476 A.D. the empire officially fell, after a decades-long crisis stemming from the aggressive deforestation





# TODAY: CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION

- Animal Agriculture
- Livestock Ranching
- Growing Animal Feed
- Palm Oil
- Forest Fires
- Illegal Logging
- Mining
- Paper
- Urbanization
- Desertification of Land






# TODAY: EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION



HUMAN	ENVIRONMENT	BIODIVERSITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zoonotic Diseases</li><li>• Food Insecurity</li><li>• Local People and their Livelihoods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soil Erosion</li><li>• Climate Change</li><li>• Floods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Habitat Loss</li><li>• Wildlife Extinction</li><li>• Acidic Oceans</li></ul>





# TODAY: SOLUTIONS TO DEFORESTATION

- Green Business
- Eco-forestry
- Law and Regulations
- Community Forestry
- Reforestation (Replanting)
- Sensitization and Educative Campaigns
- Joint Organizations
- Land Use Planning



# DEFORESTATION IN AMAZON





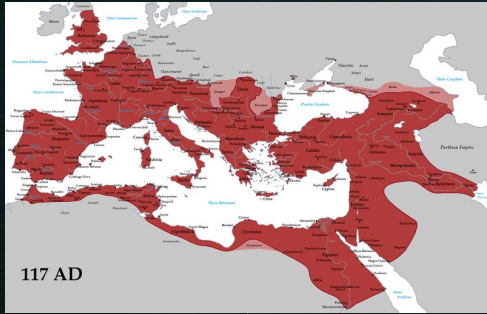


# SUSTAINING TROPICAL RAINFOREST

LOCAL SCALE	INTERNATIONAL SCALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shade Farming</li><li>• Sustainable Harvesting of non-wood forest products</li><li>• Protection of parks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable produced</li><li>• Incentives for landowners and countries to adopt forest-friendly practices</li></ul>




# OBSERVATION





# CONCLUSION

The prosperity of every human community has always been dictated by the diligent use of the resources at their disposal. The lack of respect for the environment and the excessive deforestation has led to the fall of one of the greatest empires known to man; and if there is one certainty is that history tends to repeat itself, and today, states, governments and companies seem to have forgotten it. No matter how much our technology has progressed, respect, and responsible use of the environment is primary to our survival.







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