**Conrad Demarest Model of Empires**

According to the historian Conrad Demarest, empires have four stages:

1. **Preconditions for the rise of an empire.**
2. **The building of the empire and a Unifying ideology.**
3. **Rewards of the empire.**
4. **Fall of the empire.**

1. **Necessary Preconditions for the Rise of an Empire (What was there before the empire was founded?)**
   1. State-level government (what government was in place before the empire was founded?).
   2. High agricultural potential of the environment (what did they grow?).
   3. An environmental mosaic (what geographical features influenced the region?).
   4. Several small states with no clear dominant state (power vacuum).
   5. Mutual antagonism among those states (internal conflicts or external interruptions or invasions).
   6. Adequate military resources (or a military or technological advantage) (where did the army come from?).

1. **Building the Empire and a Unifying ideology**
   1. States succeeded in building an empire when they have an ideology (set of beliefs) that promotes personal identification with the state, empire, leader, conquest, and/or militarism.
   2. What ideas did they have about government?
   3. How did the government get the people to buy into their system and their rule?
   4. How did the government get and keep the loyalty of the people?

1. **Major Rewards of an Empire**
   1. Economic Rewards, especially in the early years, redistributed to the elite and trickled down to the other classes (especially merchants, scribes, etc.).
   2. Relative stability and prosperity.
   3. Population increase.

1. **Empires Fall Because:**
   1. Over-expansion leads to an inability to maintain peace within the empire (riots, invasions).
   2. Failure of leadership; focus on wealth and not on the needs of the state.
   3. Ideology of expansion and conquest leads to attempting new conquests beyond a practical limit; overstretching of bureaucracy, military resources, communications.
   4. Lack of new conquest erodes economic base and lessens faith in ideology that supported the empire.
   5. Rebellions from within/challenges from without.

Characteristics of Well-Ran Empires

1. Build roads and transportation systems, canals, ports, etc.
2. Trade increases.
3. Cosmopolitan cities – arts and education flourish.
4. Effective bureaucracy to ensure communication, collect taxes, oversee coinage, ensure the emperor’s laws are enforced.
5. Common official language (communication).
6. System of justice, law for entire empire.
7. Citizenship or rights extend in some degree to conquered; must be some buy-in.