

## **ENVIRONMENTAL NEGLIGENCE & DOWNFALL OF EMPIRES**

No empire has ever witnessed the prosperity and expansion of the Roman Empire, which extended over centuries, enjoying an unparalleled high status that was never found in other empires, whether in military sciences, starting from training, to rehabilitation, to developing updated weapons, to building fleets, to logistics, to communications, or in economic aspects, as well as mobilization, administration and legislation.

Thanks to Rome, the first and strongest parliament, worldwide, was established, as recorded in history, with all due respect.

This was accompanied by a natural extension of the Empire, eastwards and westwards, with full control, up to the very far peripheries.

It was no coincidence that the Roman colonization turned Egypt on the North Coast into the lunch basket, which provided Rome with all its needs from a secure produce, across the best maritime shortcut.

The Empire also expanded, northwards, to include great regions of Europe, starting from the colonization of Germany, itself, whose people were designated (Barbarians) by the Romans, having lived under a feudal system, away from a central state, with its concept of central and local governance.

However, this strong and influential expansion of the Roman Empire started regressing fast, leaving behind it many monuments that stand to this very day in

witness of its greatness and superiority in architecture, medicine, management and economics.

This matter has led many historians, as well as academicians in all fields of specialization, to tackle this unique Empire with thorough studies, deriving conclusions and searching for reasons of its downfall. Extensive studies were launched, profoundly tackling all aspects, primarily the economic, social, legal, management, communication and health, witnessed during this era.

Probably, the latest and strangest study is the one that focused on environmental affairs under the Roman Empire. One of the chapters of this study went as far as to state that Romans were accustomed to eating in metal plates with beautifully ornamented borders.

However, the manufacturing of these plates involved the use of high percentage of lead and zinc, a matter that resulted in a long and slow case of empoisoning. To this, scientists attribute the debilitating state of soldiers and army and poor physical fitness, even among the young.

Also, the studies could not ignore the impact of lead on the health of children, and its effect in undermining their intelligence and slackening their ability to absorb and acquire information.

Whether these scientists are right or wrong in their conclusions that Romans paid no heed to their cooking and table utensils, which was the main reason for the downfall of the Roman Empire, yet we cannot ignore the importance of this study, namely that any society, no matter how advanced it becomes in science, economy, ... etc.

still, it should pay heed to the physical, mental and psychological health of people, in the absence of an optimum health environment. Man will always

remain the heart and soul of any success or progress achieved, as well as any failure and backwardness occurring.

Hence, let us all adhere to our right to live in a clean healthy environment, while protecting this environment, because, ultimately, we are the children of the universe and we should protect our planet Earth, so that we could continue to survive. One and all, we are responsible for the quality of life on this planet.