The Downfall of the Mayan Empire.

What was the primary factor that led to the fall of the Mayan Empire?

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Introduction:

• The Mayan Empire is considered one of the greatest civilizations in history, but also had one of the most sudden downfalls.

• The focus question of this project will be “What was the primary factor that led to the fall of the Mayan Empire?” There seems to be multiple reasons why, those reasons will be investigated to see whether or not they are the most plausible.

• The Post-Classic Period in Mayan history (800-925 CE) show a once flourishing nation that fell into a permanent decline. There are many theories as to why the Mayan civilization fell: disease, famine, drought, foreign invasion, and overpopulation; however, there has to be one theory that trumps all the others.

Results:

• After analysis, it can be concluded that the drought theory is the most plausible theory for the fall of the Mayan empire.

References:


Robin Wylie 22 February 2016. "Severe Droughts Explain the Mysterious Fall of the Maya." BBC.

Cousteau, By Jacques. "Great Blue Hole Of Belize - Largest Sea Hole In The World." Great Blue Hole Of Belize - Largest Sea Hole In The World


Drought

• The most plausible theory for the ultimate fall of the Mayan empire has to be the drought theory because it is the most developed and thorough as well as the overpopulation theory. The overpopulation theory and the drought theory seem to work in unison.

• Due to the evidence gathered, the drought seemed to have the most catastrophic effect on the Mayan civilization. Researchers have concluded that the Mayan civilization faced three large droughts between 810 and 910 AD, each one lasting about a decade. Also during this time, the Mayans saw a great increase in their population, well into the millions.

• Since the Mayans were stationed in a seasonal desert, they depended heavily on their water storage systems. When the drought hit they were left without water. This was found by researchers using sediment from the Great Blue Hole, the low ratio of titanium to aluminum correlates to periods of little rainfall.