

*Historical/
Specialized
Committees*

The Fall of The Roman Empire: The Court of Majorian



CHAIR: Ryon Hovey

GWCLA XXIX

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GWCIA XXIX

Letter from the Chair

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Committee Description

X

TOPIC 1:

X

TOPIC 2:

X

Works Cited

X

GW CIA XXIX

Letter from the chair

Hello fellow Roman Historians! My name is Ryon Hovey, I am from Durham, North Carolina. I am a junior at The George Washington University studying International Affairs with a concentration in International Macroeconomics. I have been active on the Model United Nations Team since freshman year, as I was one of the Assistant Head Delegates of our travel team last year and now I am currently the chief of staff of the Washington Area Model United Nations Conference, our high school conference. In my spare time, I love backpacking in the Appalachian, competing in Model United Nations conferences, and reading Lord of the Rings.

I have been interested in Roman History for a while, but this was amplified when my first semester of freshman year I took a course on the fall of the Roman Empire. This class was very interesting to me because it was interesting to learn about how in the last 100 years of the Western Roman Empire, the Empire was slowly rotting and deteriorating because of the corruption and greed of specific individuals, and how it was the actions of a few great men who kept the Empire together. Of the characters represented in this committee, nearly all of them eventually betray the empire, which was historically accurate for this period. Thus, I am excited to see how this committee turns out and how each character balances their selfish goals and the goal of the committee.

I am so excited for you all to experience this committee! I hope y'all are excited to reshape Roman history for better or for worse. Good luck with your research, delegates!

Best regards,

Ryon Hovey

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GW CIA XXIX

Introduction to the Committee

The year is 460 AD. It has been 343 years since the peak of the Roman Empire under the rule of Emperor Trajan, and much has changed. The fifth century thus far has seen The Roman Empire permanently split east-west, Imperial border integrity at an all-time low, devastated Mediterranean trade networks, and barbarians, or non-roman people groups, overrun the Western Roman Empire. However, at one of the lowest points of Roman history, a true hero arose. Flavius Iulius Valerius Maiorianus, better known as Emperor Majorian, tasked himself with the mission of restoring the glory and integrity of the Western Roman Empire by the time of his ascension to the throne in 457 AD.

Emperor Majorian saw many successes, such as subjugating the barbarian kings ruling over portions of Gaul and Iberia, legal reform, and economic reconstruction, problems were brewing for Majorian's rule. By this point, barbarian influence in the court of the Roman Empire was at an all-time high, as the recently subjugated barbarian kings held influence, and the supreme commander of the Western Roman army, or Magister Utriusque Militiae, was a half Suevi and half Vandal named Ricimer. Furthermore, the legal and economic reforms, particularly the land seizures from the wealthy and increased taxes have seen more malcontent among the wealthier patricians of the Empire.

The court of Majorian has one goal, which is to ensure the survival of a prosperous Western Roman Empire. However, this goal is not a simple feat, as this committee has to fight against the selfish interests of many influential people. Furthermore, a crucial factor that has to be addressed by this committee is the reconquest of the province of Africa Proconsularis, or modern-day Tunisia and Libya, from the Kingdom of the Vandals. This committee will lead the fight to continue the

GWCIA XXIX

work of the heroic emperor Majorian as well as to ensure the safety of the Roman Empire from the selfish powers who wish to destroy it or profit from it.

COMMITTEE DISCLAIMER: Delegates are encouraged to use their backrooms creatively to tackle the issues at hand effectively and within the scope of their characters and committee however, **any content in backroom notes that encourages genocide, deliberate civilian deaths, slavery, war crimes, and/or discrimination based on race, gender, age, or sexual orientation is strictly prohibited.**

GWCIAXXIX

Background

Roman empire TLDR:

The Roman Empire had been effectively administratively split in two since Emperor Diocletian radically restructured the Empire in 286 AD. From this point onwards, the Empire would go through cycles of splitting and reunifying. However, upon the death of Theodosius the Great, his two infant sons Honorius and Arcadius inherited the West and East respectively, and due to the greed of their regency advisors, each half of the empire had effectively operated as a separate empire and this would prove to be permanent. This permanent split in the empire saw the much more impoverished and underdeveloped Western Roman empire struggle economically without the consistent grain supply from Egypt and the common raids of Gaul by migrating barbarian tribes.

The invasion of Eastern Europe by the Hunnic Empire saw a domino effect of barbarians moving closer and closer to the Roman border to find a better life away from invaders. This put additional pressure along the Roman borders, as the massive quantity of barbarians wanting to enter the Empire increased dramatically. This conflict came to a head on New Year's Eve 406 when the Rhine River unexpectedly froze over. This saw hordes of barbarians overwhelming the Roman fortifications and legions present in Gaul. While these hordes of barbarians included war bands, they were primarily made up of the entire migrating society of a barbarian culture who wished to settle in the Western Roman-held lands to find a better life.

Gaul had been completely overrun by barbarian groups, including the Visigoths, Suebi, Vandals, Burgundians, Franks, and Alans. Eventually, the presence of these migrating communities saw the formation of independent kingdoms within the Roman imperial borders. The Visigoths, led by King Alaric I, had settled around the modern city

GWCIAXXIX

of Bordeaux in southern Gaul. Facing pressures from the Roman Military, King Alaric I defeated the Roman legions that wished to kick his people out of Gaul, and after this, he went directly to attack Rome. In 410, after defeating the armies stationed in Italy, Alaric I and his armies managed to enter the gates of Rome and sacked the once-great city. Alaric I had eventually been defeated, but the damage had been done, proving the Western Roman Empire to be a vulnerable state close to collapse.

After the sack of Rome, the Western Roman Empire had started to fall apart. Emperor Honorius died, causing a violent succession crisis that eventually saw the Eastern Roman Empire intervening and placing Emperor Valentinian, the last of the Theodosian Dynasty in the West, on the throne. Like other emperors previously, Valentinian III was presented with the problem of having to restore control over barbarian-occupied areas. However, this problem would only worsen as in 428, The Vandal King Geiseric and his coalition of Vandal and Alan armies captured and raided Africa Proconsulares, destroying many ancient Roman cities. Emperor Valentinian II was unable to address this issue immediately because, at the same time, The Western Roman Empire was being invaded by Attila the Hun. While Attila was eventually defeated, the Vandals and Alans remained under the rule of Geiseric in Africa Proconsularis.

Behind the scenes of the rule of Valentinian III, many of the military successes, especially against the Huns, had been done by Flavius Aëtius, the Magister Utriusque Militae, or supreme commander of the Roman Military. Flavius Aëtius was beloved by the Roman Military, and thus jealous of his reputation and power, Emperor Valentinian III executed Flavius Aëtius. By killing such a beloved military official, neither Emperor Valentinian III's reputation nor his life would survive his brutish action. In March of

GW CIA XXIX

455, Roman Legions oversaw the execution of Emperor Valentinian III, the last emperor of the Theodosian Dynasty.

After Valentinian III died without an heir, wealthy senator Patronius Maximus, one of the men who had helped execute Valentinian III, proclaimed himself Emperor. However, taking advantage of the chaos of the death of Valentinian III and the disputes of who should be the next emperor, Geiseric launched a devastating invasion of Italy in 455, capturing and destroying the city of Rome. The destruction at the hands of the Vandals was far more than the damage caused by the Visigoth sacking of Rome. Nearly all of the wealth of the city had been plundered, monuments were destroyed, civilians murdered, and even Emperor Patronius Maximus, only three months into his reign, was killed.

The Western Roman Empire had nearly completely fallen apart. The Visigothic King Alaric II had proclaimed Avitus, the Roman Envoy to the Visigoths, as the new Western Roman Emperor. Under the rule of Avitus, the influence of the Visigoths allowed Barbarian kingdoms in Gaul to expand, as well as enabled the Visigoths to conquer nearly all of Iberia. The Western Roman Empire looked to be at a point of complete collapse. Barbarians nearly completely controlled Gaul, Iberia, and Africa, and much of the Balkans were in open revolt, leaving the Empire effectively only in control of Italy. With the help from the Eastern Roman Empire nowhere to be seen, it looked like the end for the Western Roman Empire.

However, being fed up with the downfall of the Roman Empire, the ambitious general Flavius Iulius Valerius Majorianus worked with the barbarian foederati general and Majorian's trusted friend Ricimer to overthrow Avitus. In 456, the legions of Majorian proclaimed him emperor and thus began the reign of Rome's last successful ruler. The beginning of his reign was seen by him implementing successful economic

GWCIAXXIX

policies such as land reform and tax increases, along with rebuilding the legal code. These successes brought money back into the imperial coffers, but discontent was slowly growing among the upper class who had been thriving off of the fall of the Western Roman Empire due to the empire's inability to limit them.

While Majorian had spent a lot of time on economic and political reform, his main focus was on rebuilding the Western Roman Empire, and Majorian indisputably was the man to do this. He not only had the support from both generals and the legionaries but also external support from the Eastern Roman Emperor, as he was the first emperor to be recognized as legitimate by the East since Valentinian III. Majorian used his reputation to rally the armies into a reconquest of the out-of-control barbarian kingdoms.

In the summer of 457, Majorian launched his campaign into Gaul. Quickly taking back the important Roman city and stronghold of Narbo from the Visigoths and subjugating the Burgundians in Gaul. From there, Majorian managed to nearly completely kick the Visigoths out of Iberia, taking back the whole of the peninsula except for the Suebi tribe in Galicia. This campaign was extremely successful and saw the Western Roman Empire taking back nearly all of the land that had been lost to the Barbarian invaders who crossed the Rhine back in 406 in only 1 year. However, the Vandals still remained in Africa.

In 460, Majorian had prepared a naval invasion force of a scale never seen before. This invasion force was aimed at finally defeating the Vandals once and for all, and ensuring that the Western Roman Empire could once again return to the glory of the times of old. All that was needed to do to ensure the longevity of the Western Roman Empire and the continuation of Roman rule was to ensure that Africa Proconsularis was reintegrated into the Empire. However, on one night in 460, legionaries bribed by

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Geiseric set the invasion fleet ablaze, leaving the Western Roman Empire with no possible course of action in conquering the Kingdom of the Vandals.

Given that the Roman invasion fleet had been destroyed, it is essential for Majorian to find a course of action to not only secure an invasion force of Africa Proconsularis but also to ensure the safety of his position as Emperor, as many patricians and many in the military have begun to doubt his rule based off of the recent destruction of the naval fleet. Thus, this council was called to establish a new attack plan on invading Africa Proconsularis, rebuilding the fragile Roman economy, and integrating the massive amounts of Barbarians into the empire.

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Topic 1 - Integration of Barbarians into the Roman Empire

Foederati, or barbarian mercenaries and allies, have been crucial actors in Roman warfare as far back as the first century AD. They initially would be helpful in supplying additional troops that would bolster Roman military numbers as well as providing more disposable troops that would not deplete Roman manpower. However, over the years, it has been increasingly hard to address the urgent military needs of the decaying Roman Empire with just Roman soldiers, so more and more foederati had been called into the army. This increased use of foederati saw a sizeable minority of barbarians growing amongst Roman legions, and more importantly, these minorities started to gain political influence. In the later Roman Empire, barbarian foederati had been able to rise up the ranks to powerful political and military positions, namely Stilicho the half vandal and first Magister Utriusque Militae, and more importantly the current Magister Utriusque Militae Ricimer.

Due to the prevalence of barbarian foederati, the presence of barbarian hosts within imperial borders and the influence of barbarian kings within the Empire, it is necessary for this council to mediate a way to ensure that peace can be sustained within the borders of the Western Roman Empire between barbarians and Romans. This council is split between barbarian representation and Roman representation and is tasked with ensuring that peace can be established and a line of trust built between Romans and barbarian settlers.

Topic 2 - Vandal Destruction of Coastal Cities and Imperial

Economy

Ever since Geiseric's conquest of Africa Proconsularis, Vandal influence has had a choke hold on Imperial Ambitions. Throughout history, the Roman Empire relied on Egypt and Africa Proconsularis to feed the growing populations in Italy, Gaul, and Iberia with their fertile grain fields. However, since Egypt had ended up with the Eastern Roman Empire, the Vandal capture of Africa Proconsularis had been devastating, leading to food insecurity for formerly well-off communities around the Western Roman Empire. Since Italy had recently been ravaged by the Second Sack of Rome in 455, it was especially difficult for coastal Italy to rebuild due to the lack of food supplies, as labor in the service industry in Italy had been redirected to food production.

Vandal occupation of Africa Proconsularis has also had the significant impact of leaving the coastal Mediterranean vulnerable to coastal raids as well as piracy of Roman maritime trade networks. One of the main aspects of the later Roman economy was the reliance on sophisticated maritime trade networks established around the Roman Empire. For example, it was not uncommon to see goods produced as far away as Mauritania in Roman households in the regions of Dalmatia or Panonia. However, due to the prevalence of the barbarian Vandal navy, and their recent capture of Sicily and Corsica, the maritime trade backbone of the Roman Economy has collapsed, leaving the Western Roman Empire in economic chaos.

In aims to ensure the continuation of a prosperous Western Roman Empire, it is essential to defeat the Kingdom of the Vandals and subjugate them to Foederati Status, as without control over the grain supplies of Africa Proconsularis and the safety of maritime trade, the Western Roman Empire is doomed for collapse. Thus, it is essential to rebuild the destroyed Roman fleet and reconquer Africa Proconsularis once and for

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all. It is in control of this committee to address how to successfully eliminate the Vandal threat and ensure Roman prosperity.

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Guiding Questions

1. How can the Western Roman Empire restore its reign over Africa Proconsularis?
2. Is the Western Roman Empire over-reliant on barbarian foederati?
3. How can the Western Roman Empire request the aid of the Eastern Roman Empire?
4. How can Mediterranean trade be protected from Vandal raids?
5. How can the rule of Majorian be stabilized and how should the line of succession be protected?

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Character List

Roman Statesmen & Generals

Aegedius - One of the many Magister Militum of the Western Roman Empire. He is in control of all of the Gallic legions, making him one of the most influential military men on either side of the Roman Empire. Aegedius has been Majorian's righthand man, as they had been close friends since before Majorian was Emperor. Aegedius' position as the Magister Militum over all Gallic forces effectively makes him the most powerful man in Gaul and one of the most influential people in the Roman Empire. His loyalty to the Roman Empire goes beyond loyalty to the Emperor, as he is one of the few left who believes in the core values of the Roman Empire, and is truly willing to die to keep it alive.

Anicius Olybrius - Olybrius is not only a descendant of the notable Gens Anicia family, which is heavily influential in the city of Rome, but also closely related to the former Emperor Petronius Maximus. Olybrius has been very vocal about the support of other patrician families in the Empire, which has led to him butting heads with Majorian a few times. Olybrius has been supported as a claimant to the throne after the death of Petronius Maximus by the Vandal King Geiseric, as he would have been the successor due to his birthright. However, because Petronius Maximus is only seen as a usurper, Olybrius would have to fight to cement the legitimacy of his claim.

Eudocia - She is the eldest daughter of Valentinian III and the wife of Huneric, the son of Geiseric and the crown prince of the Kingdom of the Vandals. She has a claim to the throne of the Roman Empire as she is one of the two remaining children of the last legitimate Roman Emperor. Given that she is not only married to Huneric but has a son

GW CIA XXIX

with him, she has served as a mediator between Roman and Vandal affairs. She believes the best course of action to reconquer Africa Proconsularis is to negotiate with the Vandals.

Glycerius - Glycerius is the Comes Domesticorum or the head of the palace guard. This position wields him significant power, as the palace guards have been influential in both the protection and murder of emperors. Glycerius has had ties with the Burgundians, as he has been caught for accepting bribes from them. He, like many, has been assumed to want the position of Emperor, as he has a very power-hungry reputation.

Julius Nepos - Like Majorian, Julius Nepos has been obsessed with restoring the Empire of old. Never give up on the imperial dream, Nepos has served as a commander under his uncle Marcellinus. Marcellinus has made Nepos the heir of the title of governor of Dalmatia. Julius Nepos is known for his noble character and many have claimed he would one day make a great successor for Majorian, as the Emperor has already recognized this young commander's potential.

Libius Severus - Libius Severus was an influential senator in the Roman Senate, heralding from southern Italy. Libius Severus's senate influence gives him power over addressing the concerns of the many unhappy senators and patricians within the Empire. Severus is friends with Ricimer and has had whispers of desiring to become Emperor someday.

Licinia Eudoxia - Being the widowed wife of former Emperor Valentinian III and the mother of Placidia, Licinia Eudoxia has had a strong influence over the court of

GWCIAXXIX

Majorian. Being one of the most practiced advisors in the court of Majorian, Lacinia's political sway proved that the Theodosian dynasty still had a strong influence in the Western Roman Empire. Licinia Eudoxia and her eldest daughter Eudocia were both previously captives of the Vandals, and have recently been freed.

Marcelinus - The Governor of Dalmatia and one of the Magister Militum. Marcellus had managed to rule a Dalmatia that remained unaffected by barbarian incursions and historical imperial overreach. During the reign of the tyrannical Emperor Valentinian III, Marcelinus led a rebellion in Dalmatia and during this time led and protected an independent Dalmatian state. However, when Marcelinus's good friend Majorian became emperor, Marcelinus willingly swore fealty once again to the Western Roman Empire. Marcelinus sees control over a significant portion of the Western Roman Empire, as well as being a well-known effective administrator of the province of Dalmatia. Marcelinus was also said to be a pagan, and through his governing, he protected religious freedoms.

Nepotianus - Nepotianus has been an important general in the reconquest of Iberia. He worked closely with Rome-loyal Visigothic allies to ensure the success of Majorian's conquest. Nepotianus is the father of Julius Nepos and the husband of Marcelinus's sister. Nepotianus was known for his reliance on cavalry and more specifically on heavily armored cavalry units called cataphracts. He learned Persian and Hunnic cavalry tactics and used them to great success. Because of his successes against peasant rebels and Visigothic armies, he lacks support from both the general populace and barbarians but is a staunch ally of Majorian and Aegidius.

GWCIAXXIX

Placidia - Being the daughter of the former Emperor Valentinian III, she is one of the last alive of the influential and important Theodosian dynastic line. Placidia is the wife of Olybrius and is on positive terms with both Emperor Leo of the Eastern Roman Empire and Geiseric. She is educated and has made it clear that she would be a worthy empress of the Western Roman Empire.

Pope Leo I - Being one of the most influential and important popes of all time, Saint Leo I gained significant political influence over the court of the Western Roman Empire through his invaluable advising to the last three Emperors and was crucial in saving the Roman Empire from Atilla the Hun, as he himself persuaded Atilla to return home. Pope Leo I has recently had a negative relationship with the other leading bishops of Christendom, especially those in the east, as he has proclaimed that the Pope should have heightened authority over all other Bishops, which was not entirely cemented at the time.

Riothamus - Riothamus, also known as King Arthur and heralded as King of the Britons, was a king from Britania. Defeating the barbarian forces who had tried to invade England, Riothamus continued his conquest against the barbarians by allying himself with the Roman Empire to see the safety of his Kingdom. Riothamus's kingdom of the Britons likely was a Romanized proto-English kingdom that exerted significant influence on the island.

GW CIA XXIX

Saint Hilarius - A notable and esteemed papal legate, Saint Hilarius is seen as the favored heir to the papacy and thus has significant sway over the catholic church. Hilarius has often come into conflict with Pope Leo I, as Hilarius believes that the Emperor has a god-given right to consolidate power and that the Pope requires a stronger central position in the church. Because of Hilarius's belief in the necessity of consolidating noble and clergy power, he became very popular with the Western Roman elite and thus had strong sway over the court of Majorian.

Sedonius Apolonarius - Sedonius Apolonaris was born to a wealthy gallo-roman aristocratic family and has had a very successful political career. Sedonius Apolonaris is not only the Urban Prefect, or mayor of Rome, but he is also an accomplished diplomat, court scribe, and religious man. Sedonius Apolonaris was both a historian and a close friend of Majorian, so he is responsible for a large amount of the primary sources about Majorian's life.

Verina - Verina serves as the formal envoy of the Eastern Roman Empire. She is the wife of Emperor Leo I of the Eastern Roman Empire and has been sent to the court of Majorian to oversee that the interests of the Eastern Roman Empire are taken into account. She believes that the only way to save the West is through reconciling the differences between both halves of the Roman Empire and thus restoring the unified Empire.

Germanic Kings, Statesmen & Generals

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Childeric I - The King of the Salian Franks and head of the Merovingian dynasty, Childeric has been reduced to a petty king of a small kingdom in the north of Gaul. However, Childeric and his allies have long coveted a grand Frankish kingdom of their own to unite the barbarians in Gaul. However, for the time being, Childeric has been working closely with Aegedius to ensure the safety of Roman Gaul in exchange for a lack of Roman intervention in his rule over his kingdom. For the time being Childeric I is loyal to Majorian, and more specifically Aegedius.

Prince Chilperic - Chilperic is the younger brother of the Gundioc, the king of the Burgundians. However, since 443 AD he has proclaimed himself the true king of the Burgundians. Chilperic is present in the courts of Majorian as a counterbalance to the power of Gundioc, as Chilperic I claims undying loyalty to the Roman Empire as the King of the Burgundians while Gundioc has proven to be untrustworthy. Thus, the Roman Empire recognizes Gundioc as the true king of the Burgundians but if Gundioc misbehaves, the Roman Legions will be ready to proclaim Chilperic as the true king of the Burgundians. Chilperic is known for being a socialite and staunch politician.

Clovis I - Heir to the Salian Frankish throne and son of Childeric. While Childeric remains at home leading the Salian Frankish administrative matters, young Clovis I has proven himself to be a much greater diplomat and military leader than his father. He has begun talks to unify the Frankish tribes, as he has worked closely with other Frankish kings by leading the Frankish-Roman legions under the watch of Aegedius. Clovis is loyal to the Roman Empire for the time being, however, his close relationship with other Frankish kings under a Frankish alliance has posed to be concerning. Clovis's military prowess, governing abilities, and diplomatic skills have made many think he is

GWCIAXXIX

destined to become one of the most influential people of his time. However, at the time being, he just served as a commander of the Frankish legions. Clovis has the goal of eventually creating his own kingdom of Francia, today known as France.

Gundioc - Being the king of the recently subjugated Burgundians, Gundioc has come into conflict with the Western Roman Empire's governance as like other barbarian kings, he has been very outspoken about Roman rule. Furthermore, Gundioc's younger brother Chilperic I proclaimed himself the true king of the Burgundians and the Roman Empire threatened to recognize Chilperic I instead as the king of the Burgundians if Gundioc did not comply with Roman rule. Many have wondered why the Western Roman Empire still recognizes Gundioc as king, and this is likely because he is the brother-in-law of Ricimer and thus has received some sort of corrupt protection from him.

Pelagia - She is a notable courtier of the Kingdom of the Ostrogoths, a strong barbarian kingdom beyond the Roman borders and across the Danube. She is renowned for being a great diplomat and thus she has been selected to be the official representative of the Ostrogoths in the court of Majorian. Pelagia is also a Roman citizen and lives a heavily Romanized lifestyle as she is the widowed wife of the previous Magister Utriusque Militiae, Flavius Aëtius. She has not only proven herself politically but is a strong warrior and is seen as a capable leader of the many Romanized Ostrogoths present in the legions.

Ragnagild - She works as a mediator between pro-Roman and anti-Roman Visigoth factions. She is a formally educated and Romanized Visigothic woman who not only sees

GWCIAXXIX

the importance of Roman prosperity but also believes that Visigothic culture and lifestyles must be protected. She has been an advocate for Visigothic autonomy in exchange for continued allegiance to the Western Roman Empire. She is renowned for her collection of Visigothic art and the poems she writes in both Visigothic and Latin.

Rechiar - Rechiar is the king of the Suebi tribe. His kingdom was the most recent conquest by Majorian so there is heavy malcontent amongst the Suebi. However, due to the brutal devastation caused by the Roman reconquest, the Suebi have become reliant on Roman grain shipments and thus have been unable to effectively fight back against Roman subjugation, However, Rechiar and the Suebi would likely be one of the first to revolt in the case of the Empire being weakened.

Ricimer - Half Suebi, half Visigoth, Ricimer is among the most influential barbarians to have ever existed in the Roman Empire. Being Majorian's right-hand man and best friend, they both worked together to usurp power over the Western Roman Empire. Majorian became the Emperor and Ricimer was the Magister Utriusque Militiae, or commander over all of the armies. However, since Majorian had been directly leading the reconquest of Barbarian lands, Ricimer had been left behind in Rome, slowly growing discontent with taking the backseat to the popular Emperor's rule. Ricimer has been heard being very vocal about the necessity of change in the Empire and it has been theorized that he is plotting something.

Sunieric - A very successful Visigothic general who has been a crucial ally in the reconquest of Iberia. He has fought alongside Majorian's legions and is loyal to both the Visigoths and the Roman Empire. Sunieric has been appointed a position on this court

GWICIA XXIX

due to his role as a loyal barbarian to Majorian, as well as a Visigothic counterbalance to Theodoric II, as Sunieric has a strong sway over the Visigothic people as a war hero and has secured many protections for the Visigothic people from the Romans.

Theodoric II - The king of the recently subjugated Visigoths. Theodoric has been a sworn enemy of the Romans in the past and has until recently controlled large sections of Gaul and a majority of Iberia, but has been reduced to a foederati subject of the Roman Empire. While Theodoric has been known to be disloyal to the empire, his inclusion in the court of Majorian is essential because to keep the Visigothic people loyal to the empire, they need representation in Majorian's court. For the time being, Theodoric has lent his armies in the conquest of other rival Germanic tribes such as the Suebi and the Vandals.

GWCIAXXIX

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