

Chapter 4: The Roman Empire
Section 5: The Crisis of the Third
Century

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■ Crisis of the 3rd Century

- Economic crisis
- Plague
- Civil war
- Invasion
- Military anarchy



Barbarian Invasions

- Goths
 - Most aggressive of
 - Germanic tribes



Economic Difficulties

- Antonine Plague
 - 165-180 A.D.
 - Smallpox or measles
 - 5 million people died



■ Results of the Plague

- Labor shortage
- Farm production
 - Declined
- Fewer soldiers
 - Hired German Mercenaries



- Debasement of Coinage

- Inflation
- Resulted in
 - Rising prices
- *Denarius*
 - Most common coin
 - Silver



The Social Order



Civil Disorder

- Severan Dynasty
 - 193-235 A.D.
 - Septimius Severus
 - 193-211
 - Caracalla
 - 211-217
 - Macrinus
 - 217-218
 - Elagabalus
 - 218-221
 - Alexander Severus
 - 222-235



■ Political Upheavals

■ Civil wars

■ “Military anarchy”

■ 235-284 A.D.

■ 22 Emperors

