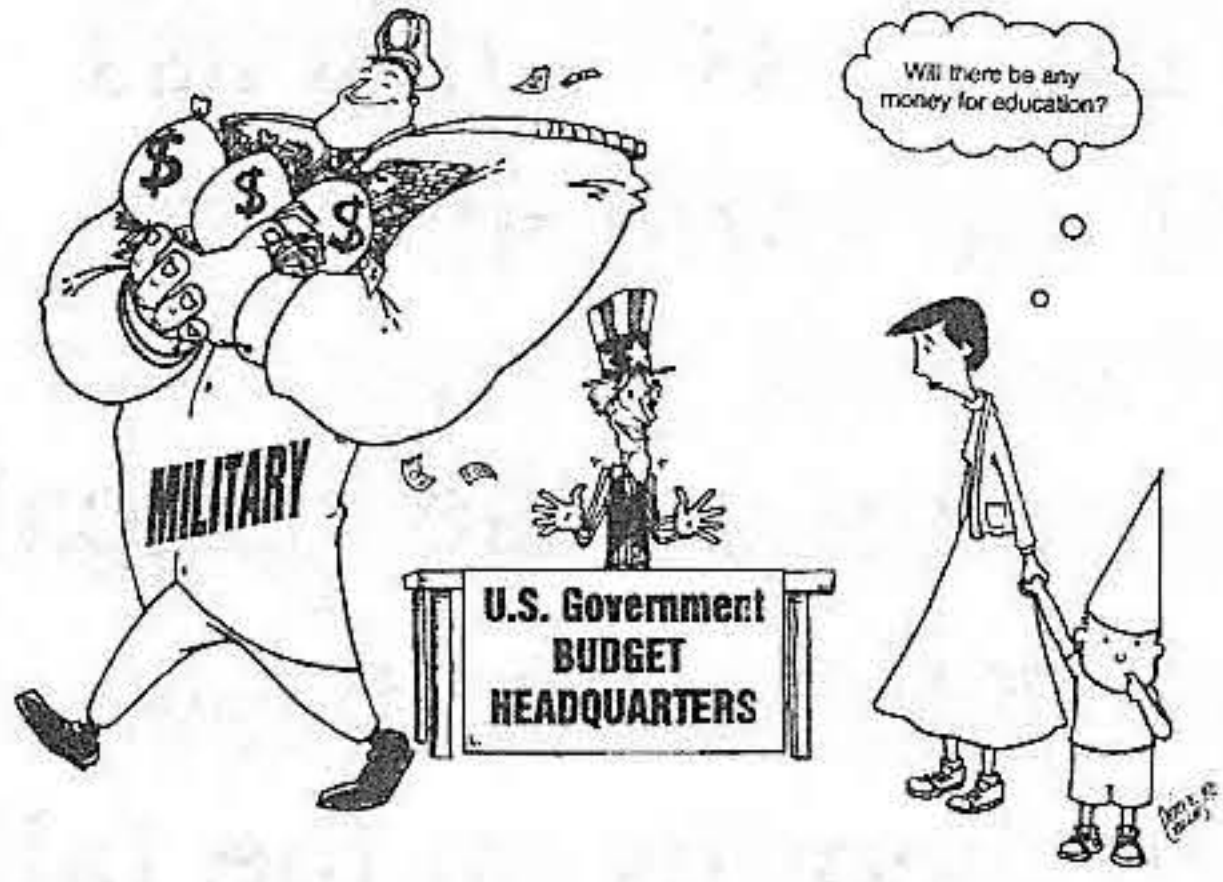


In transparency 1.3A we see a political cartoon suggesting that the government spends excessive amounts of money on the military to the exclusion of education.



- This political cartoon suggests that the United States spends an inordinate amount of money on its military, while other programs, like education, receive relatively little.
- For Romans, maintaining an army to defend the borders of the Empire from barbarian attacks was a constant drain on the government. Military spending left few resources for other vital activities, like providing public housing and maintaining the quality of public roads. In the latter years of the Empire, frustrated Romans lost their desire to defend the Empire. Thus, the government found it necessary to rely increasingly on hired soldiers recruited from the unemployed city mobs or foreign countries. Such an army was not only unreliable, but also very expensive. Thus, the emperors were forced to raise taxes frequently—the majority of which were paid by businessmen and farmers, which hurt the economy. Some historians believe that this helped lead to the fall of the Empire.

Critical Thinking Questions: Which theory on the fall of the Roman Empire does this cartoon most closely relate to? What are the similarities and differences between Ancient Rome and America today on this issue?