



In transparency 1.3C we see a political cartoon suggesting that American automobile technology and manufacturing capabilities has declined.

- The American automobile industry's inability to compete with foreign competition in recent decades symbolizes to many the decline of America's innovation and economic dominance. This cartoon suggests that American technology has not advanced as far as other countries', which has hampered this nation's ability to compete in the national and world market.
- Lack of technological innovation hurt the Roman Empire. During the last 400 years of the Empire, the scientific achievements of the Romans were limited almost entirely to engineering and the organization of public services. They built marvelous roads, bridges, and aqueducts. They established the first system of medicine for the benefit of the poor. But since the Romans relied so much on human and animal labor, they failed to invent many new machines or find new technology to produce goods more efficiently. As a result of inferior production techniques, the Romans were unable to provide important goods for their growing population. Some historians theorize that this contributed to the downfall 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?