

## The Conrad-Demarest Model of Empire: Basic Principles

- **Empire:** First used in English in 1297 to indicate an extensive territory made up of formerly independent states.
  - A further refinement might be to add that an **empire** is a politically unified state in which one people dominates its neighbors.
1. Necessary preconditions for the rise of empires are:
    - a. State-level government
    - b. High agricultural potential in the area
    - c. An environmental mosaic
    - d. Several small states with no clearly dominant state (power vacuum)
    - e. Mutual antagonisms among those states
    - f. Adequate military resources
  2. The primary reason a state succeeds in empire building is an ideology supporting personal identification with the state, empire, conquest and militarism
  3. The major rewards of empire are:
    - a. Economic rewards, reaped especially in the early years and redistributed to the elite and often to all levels of the citizenry
    - b. Population increase, often supported by the government and its ideology
  4. Empires fall because:
    - a. the ideology of expansion and conquest fuels attempts at conquest beyond practical limits
    - b. failure to continue conquest indefinitely and to continue to bring home its economic fruits erodes faith in the ideology that supports the empire
    - c. revolutions topple the empire