

AAM: Humanly speaking the third is by far the most probable.

Lady: That's something I had never thought about, and it immediately fit very well with all I have been exposed to since I started the children in the area of education which as far as I can see is                     . Yet I have made that suggestion in conversation with other people who are wise people in their own right and they say, Oh it will never happen! With a technology like ours? At that point my husband always says, It would only take one generation.

AAM: That's right. That's all it took at the end of the Roman empire.

Lady: I notice you said this is something that has always been ignored in a ~~xxx~~ study of history. People have not been made aware of the fall of the Roman empire. Perhaps that ignorance allows us that kind of egotism now so that we think it couldn't happen to us. Partly because we don't know how it happened to them. For

AAM: And for every 1000 people who in the course of the last century were quite familiar with the course of the Roman empire during its 3 or 4 centuries, for every 1000 such I doubt if there would be more than two or three who would know anything about the history of Italy during the sixth century, a century after that. I doubt if there would. I knew nothing about it until within the last ten years. You know how the Roman empire broke into two parts? Because the emperors found it was too big, they couldn't administer it. They divided it, and the western was overrun by the barbarians. The eastern maintained a fairly high standard of civilization in Constantinople right up to the Mohammedan ~~xxx~~ conquest. - in 14523 A..D.

But during that century they got a Roman emperor there who felt --of course the west always claimed they were subject to the Roman emperor at Constantinople, but they paid no attention to him otherwise. Well, Justinian decided they should. That he should be the emperor. So he sent his army to N. Africa which was one of the most civilized centers of the world in the first 4 centuries. It had been conquered by the Vandals. He sent his army through it. They fought the Vandals and quickly conquered them and made it part of the Roman empire.

And then--Justinian is best known for his codification of the Roman laws, but he did send his army that conquered N. Africa quickly and then he decided he wanted to reconquer Italy. In the meantime a century before in Italy, the Ostrogoths, the eastern goths had wettled, and the Eastern Goths were still pretty much barbarians but they had progressed a considerable amount. They were in control of Italy. When they would elect a new pope and the two factions would start to fight, the Ostragothic king would arbitrate and support the                      --- when they were                      Justinian sent an army to force Italy to bring it back under his control. The Ostragoths fought against them. They were maybe a third of the Italian population at the time. But they fought against him. His armies fought them for 20 yrs. In the course of the 20 yrs., eventually all the Ostragoths were killed and left nothing of their civilization whatever in Italy. No words from the