

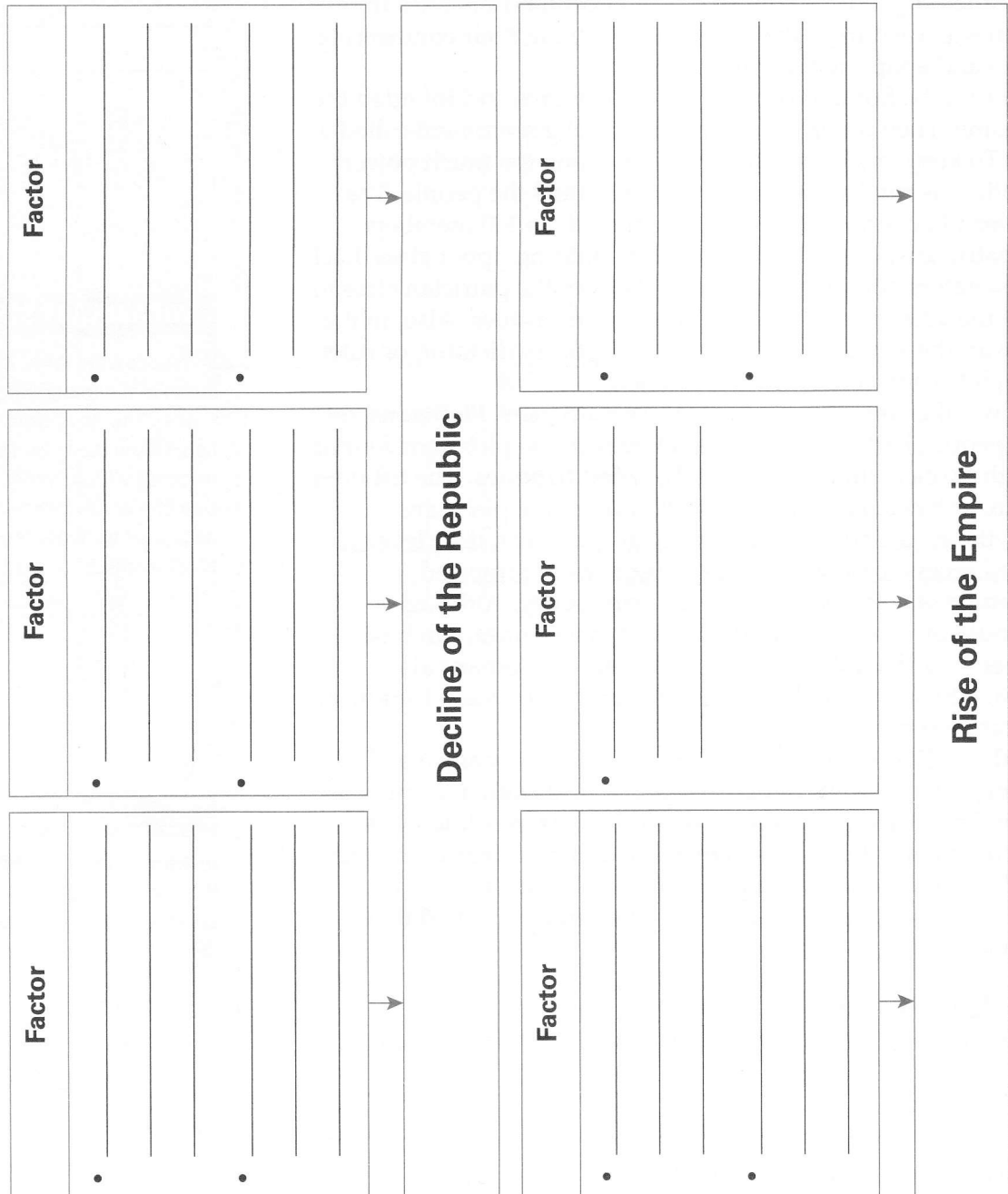
CHAPTER
5
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

Focus Question: What factors led to the decline of the Roman republic and the rise of the Roman empire?

As you read this section, complete the flowcharts below to help you recognize the causes that led to the decline of the Roman republic and the rise of the Roman empire.



CHAPTER

5

SECTION 2

Section Summary

FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

As Rome extended its territory, it encountered Carthage, an empire that stretched across North Africa and the western Mediterranean. These two powers battled in three wars. These Punic Wars lasted from 264 B.C. to 146 B.C., when Rome finally destroyed Carthage.

Rome was committed to a policy of **imperialism**—establishing control over foreign lands. Roman power soon spread from Spain to Egypt. Rome soon controlled busy trade routes that brought tremendous riches. Wealthy families purchased large estates, called **latifundia**, and forced war captives to work as their slaves. The gap between rich and poor grew, leading to corruption and riots.

Rome was in need of social and political reform. Young patrician tribunes **Tiberius** and **Gaius Gracchus** were among the first to attempt it. However, the senate felt threatened by their reforms, and in a series of riots, the two brothers and their followers were killed. This power struggle led to a period of civil war.

Out of the chaos emerged **Julius Caesar**, a brilliant military commander. With Caesar's rising fame, a rivalry erupted between him and another general, Pompey. Caesar eventually defeated Pompey and his soldiers and swept around the Mediterranean, suppressing rebellions. Victorious, Caesar returned to Rome and forced the senate to make him dictator for life.

Caesar pushed through a number of reforms to help solve Rome's many problems. Fearing that Caesar would make himself king, however, his enemies killed him in 44 B.C. His friend, Marc Antony, and his nephew, Octavian, joined forces to avenge Caesar. However, they soon battled one another for power, and Octavian defeated Antony.

With this triumph, the senate gave Octavian the title of **Augustus**, or "Exalted One." He was the first emperor of Rome and ruled from 27 B.C. to A.D. 14. Augustus built a stable government for the empire. He also undertook economic reforms. To make the tax system fair, he ordered a **census**, or population count, of the empire. Another influential Roman emperor was **Hadrian**. He codified Roman law, making it the same for all provinces.

During the *Pax Romana*, Roman rule brought peace, prosperity, and order to the lands it controlled. Spectacular entertainments were popular across the empire. However, social and economic problems hid beneath the general prosperity.

Review Questions

1. Who was Julius Caesar?

2. Who was Octavian?

READING CHECK

What did Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus attempt in Rome?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *suppressing* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *suppress* comes from a Latin word that means "to press under." Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *suppressing*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Multiple Causes

How did Augustus come to power?
