

TABLE 10.4 Explanations for the Collapse of Civilizations

Ecological	Ecological catastrophe (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions)
	Climatic change (e.g., drought)
	Epidemic diseases to crops
	Depletion of soil nutrients through overuse
	Rendering the land useless through irrigation, leading to increased salinity of soil
	Overpopulation
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Social	Collapse of trading networks
	Warfare with other groups
	Peasant revolts and other forms of internal conflict
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Ideological	Too much effort spent on religious activities, drawing people away from the agricultural labor force
	Fatalism, stemming from religious prophecy forecasting doom
