Rome was a great civilization that has lasting influence in many countries today. This does not imply that Rome has not fallen. Here, fall is defined as having nothing that resembles all of the major parts of Roman civilization that are present today. Rome had its own religion and values, government, and reliance on conquest that have gone unmatched to this day. The parts of Rome that do exist will never amount to the entirety of the ancient Roman civilization. Thus, Rome did fall.  
 One defining characteristic of Rome was its religion and values. The Roman Empire worshipped many gods, and religion wove its way into Roman government. This meant that when Christianity spread, the Roman government would weaken. In the article, "8 Reasons Why Rome Fell" on the history channel website, Evan Andrews states that " ...Christianity later became the state religion in 380... they may have also eroded the traditional Roman values system." Part of Rome was already dying. Even though only a small portion of Rome was Christian, that meant Rome's religion was dying. In addition, the values of Rome are almost a complete opposite of Christian values. For example, according to the story of Romulus and Remus, all Romans were descendants of Mars, the god of war. By that logic, at least some Romans were supporters of war and retaliation. However, in Christianity, if someone is hit, that person is to allow himself to be hit again. If Christianity spread while Roman religion and values declined, then this portion of Roman has fallen.  
 Another defining characteristic of the Roman Empire government that has disappeared was the scale of its instability and corruption. While some may argue that the political instability and corruption are present today, it is not present to the extent of the Roman Empire. Andrews writes that "Civil war thrust the empire into chaos, and more than 20 men took the throne in the span of only 75 years, usually after the murder of their predecessor." That means that on average, there was at least one new emperor every 3.75 years. In the United States, this would be the equivalent of having the president killed a few months before the end of his term for the past twenty presidents. Not only that, but the emperor’s personal bodyguards often assassinated and installed new emperors at will, and once even auctioned the spot off to the highest bidder. Even the United States government is not corrupt enough to consistently kill its leaders. In this case, the true ruler of Rome would not even be the emperor. Such instability and corruption have gone unmatched.  
 A third defining characteristic of Rome that has vanished was its reliance on conquest. The reliance on conquest would ultimately result in Rome's own destruction. According to the textbook, "World History Patters of Interaction," by the publishing company, McDougal Littel, "The Romans made more use of slaves than any previous civilization. Numbers of slaves may have reached as high as one-third of the total population. Most slaves were conquered peoples...Slaves worked both in the city and on the farm," (164). Not only did slaves work as laborers on farms, they also worked in the city as domestic servants, teachers, and even as administrators. Once conquest stopped, the flow of slaves to Rome stopped. With this, a labor deficit was created, contributing to the fall of Rome's economy. The same textbook also states that the Romans lacked new sources of gold and silver due to reaching the limit of their expansion. This eventually led to an increase in coins that contained less silver. The economy then suffered from inflation. An economy so reliant on conquest would not survive today, and so Rome's reliance on conquest cannot be seen today.  
 In the end, Rome really did fall. Roman religion and values, political instability and corruption, and reliance on conquest have gone unmatched to this day. Since these parts of Rome are missing, no country will ever amount to Roman civilization as a whole.