Reading Guide: Sorrows of Empire by Chalmers Johnson

1. Johnson argues that the United States is an empire, like previous empires, but is unique? What is the uniquely defining characteristic of the American Empire? What are its other characteristics and goals?

2. According to Johnson, what economic interests are served by the American Empire?

3. Johnson believes that we can learn from history, from the Roman Empire. According to him, what were the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire?

4. According to Johnson, what are the "sorrows of empire" that the U.S. will inevitably face?