5

Review Questions

•Define “empire” and discuss the chief characteristics generally shared by empires.

•Choose an empire from this chapter. Indicate the degree to which it shares the characteristics noted above.

•Give examples of a culture becoming an empire by conquering an existing empire. Give examples of people creating an empire of their own.

•Apart from the use of sheer military force, what policies do successful empires adopt in order to establish and maintain their power over the peoples they conquer?

•What seem to be the causes of the decline and fall of empires?

•Thucydides wrote, “Our opinion of the gods and our knowledge of men lead us to conclude that it is a general and necessary law of nature to rule whatever one can.” Do you agree? Why or why not? Use this chapter’s materials to support your view.