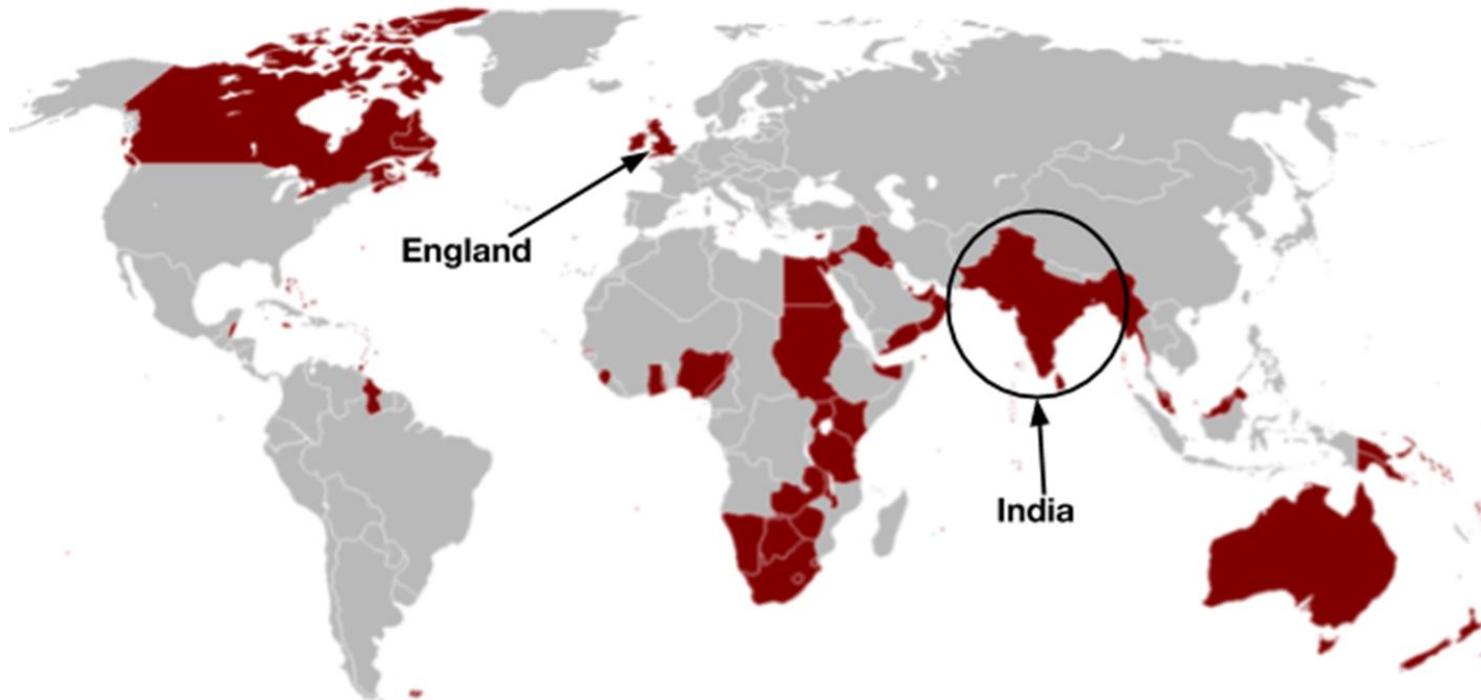
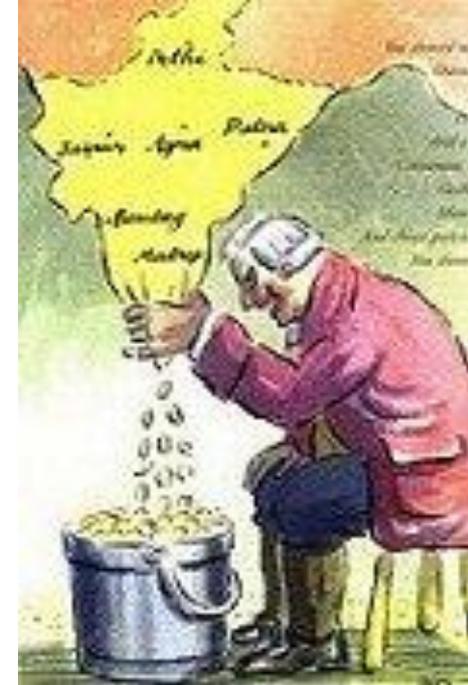
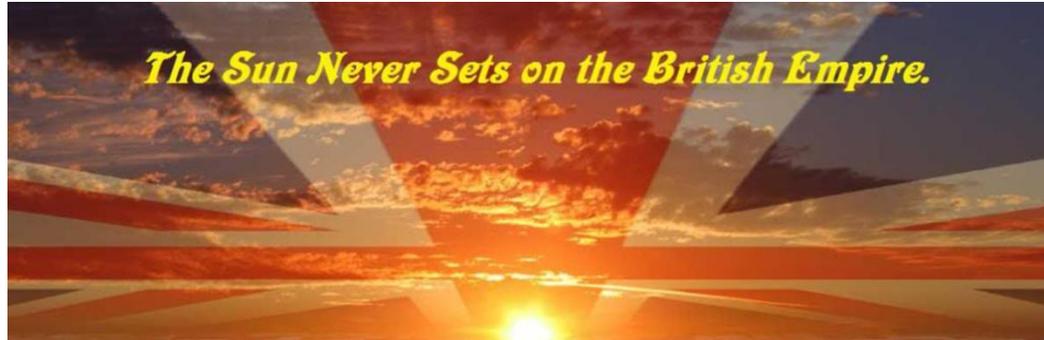


# Aim #17: How did Imperialism Impact India?



# British Empire



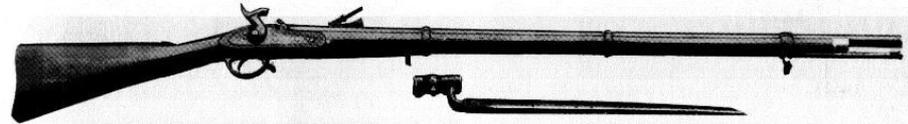
# British East India Company



# Growing Discontent

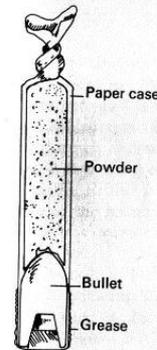


The Enfield rifle



*This percussion-lock rifle was produced in the British Ordnance Factory at Enfield near London. It came into use in the British army in 1853. Shortly afterwards it was sent out for trials for the Company army in India. The 'rifling' on the inside of the barrel made the shot more accurate and gave the weapon a greater range. It was an enormous improvement on the Brown Bess smooth-bore flintlock musket which had been the standard weapon of all British forces since the early eighteenth century.*

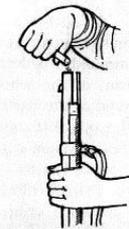
A greased cartridge



How it was loaded



1. The soldier tears open the end of the cartridge with his teeth.



2. He pours the powder down the muzzle of his rifle. Then he thrusts the bullet, still wrapped in the cartridge paper which makes it a tight fit, into the muzzle.



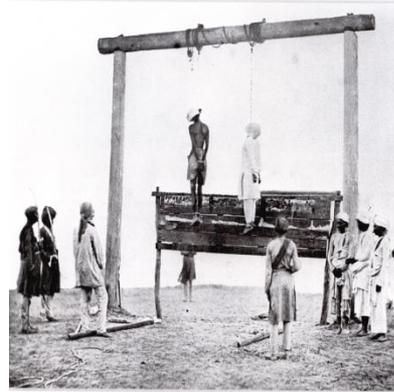
3. He takes his ramrod from its slot beneath the rifle barrel, and rams paper, bullet and powder to the bottom of the barrel.

“Within the past few years the British commenced to oppress the people of India . . . and contrived . . . to make all the people embrace Christianity.

Let [it] be known . . . that the English bear the bitterest [hostility] toward [Hindus and Muslims].

. . . The people should . . . strive in unity to destroy the infidels [nonbelievers] . . . [We] must [all] . . . exert ourselves for the protection of our lives, property, and religion, and root out the English from this country.”

# Sepoy Mutiny



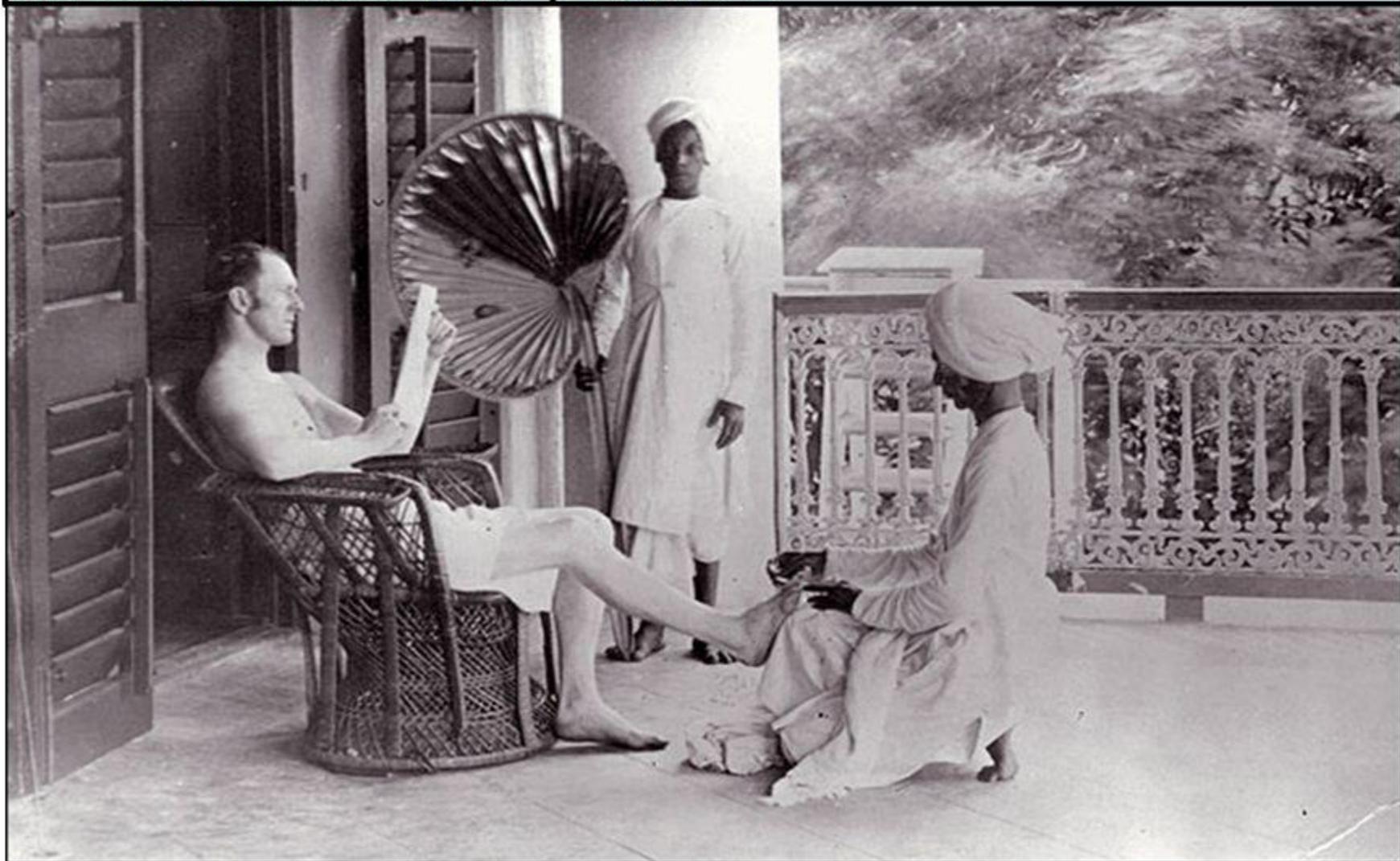
The fruits of the Mutiny



[this video entitled "Sepoy Mutiny- Revolt of 1857,"](#)

## British Rule in India

What can you infer about British imperialism in India from this picture?



# Impacts of British Imperialism in India

## Positive

- 
- 
- 
- 

## Negative

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-

# How did the British gain, consolidate, & maintain power in India?



Think Like a Geographer

## Introduction

→ Directions: Examine the maps below and complete the See-Think-Wonder chart.

South Asia in 1648



Source: Timemaps.com

South Asia in 1789



Source: Timemaps.com

South Asia in 1837



Source: Timemaps.com

South Asia in 1914



Source: Timemaps.com

### See

What do you see in the maps?

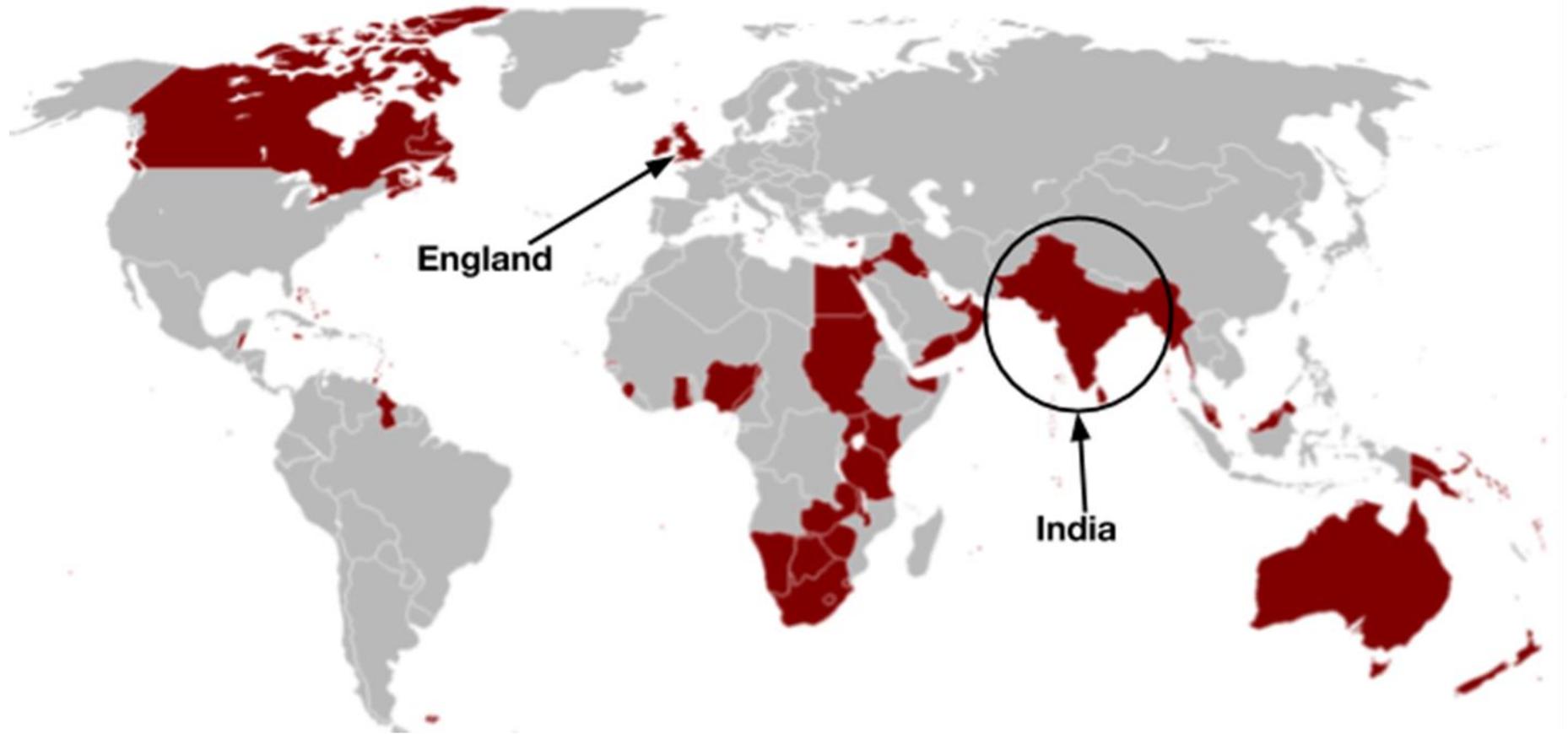
### Think

What do you think changed in India from the 17th to 20th centuries?

### Wonder

What questions do you have about the information in the maps?

# What was the historical context for British imperialism in India?



A map of the British Empire in 1921 when it was at its height. Its dominance of India started in the 1600s.

The **British East India Company**, was granted a contract by Queen Elizabeth I of England on December 31, 1600, that allowed them to trade with India and the surrounding areas. The goal was to make money for the company's shareholders and in 1608, the company established its first trading post in India.

In the 1600s, the Mughal Empire, led by Emperor Jahangir, was in control of India. The Mughals preferred to work with the British over the Portuguese, who had sent their own trading ships to India. The British defeated the Portuguese in a naval battle in 1612, making them the most important European traders in India. As a result, the Mughal emperor signed a treaty that gave the British rights to live and build trading forts in Indian coastal cities. By 1647, the company had twenty-three posts and ninety employees in India. In 1634, the Mughal emperor extended his hospitality to the English traders to the region of Bengal, and in 1717 completely waived taxes on their trade. The company's main businesses were in cotton, silk, indigo, saltpeter, and tea.

**1. What was the British East India Company? What was their goal in India? What did they trade?**

**2. How were the British initially treated by the Mughal government in India?**

Around 1670, King Charles II of England gave the British East India Company rights to run their territories in India as they saw fit. He gave them the power to mint money, command fortresses and troops, form alliances, make war and peace, and to enforce laws in the areas they controlled. With the freedom to manage its military affairs, the company rapidly raised its own armed forces in the 1680s. They hired local Indian soldiers, known as Sepoys, to fill most of the posts. By 1689 the company was arguably a "[nation](#)" in the Indian mainland, independently controlling and managing the areas of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, and possessing a formidable and intimidating military strength.

In 1757, the British East India Company turned from a trading organization with an army to protect its business to an imperial force that expanded its power and territory. For example, the company went to war with the Nawab of Bengal and took control of the region. Bengal came directly under the rule of the East India Company and the area's wealth went to the company instead of the people who lived there. Bengali farmers and craftsmen were forced to work for the Company with little payment, while the Company increased their taxes. The British East India Company continued its expansion through military conquest and treaties through the mid-1800s.

**3. What rights did King Charles grant the British East India Company in the 1670s? How did this change the Company's role in India?**

**4. Based on the situation in Bengal, what effects did British East India Company rule have on Indians?**

## **Industrialization Changes British Interest in India**

The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain sparked a new desire for colonies to supply raw materials for British factories. India was known for its cotton and crops like indigo that are used to make cloth and was a major source of raw materials for British textile factories. In addition, factory owners wanted new groups of people to sell their manufactured goods to for a profit. Industrialists hoped that India, with its large population, would be a profitable new market.

### **5. How did the Industrial Revolution in England change British interest in India?**

## **The British Government Takes Direct Control of India (1858-1947)**

As a result of a two-year long revolt called the **Sepoy Rebellion** (more on this in a later lesson), in which Indian soldiers working for the British East India Company rebelled against them, the British government took control of the lands that the Company once ruled, making India an official colony of Great Britain. The British government exiled the last Mughal emperor and shot his sons. Cultural and religious centers were closed down, properties and estates of those participating in the uprising were confiscated. The British transformed the colonial government to a British model. British attitudes toward Indians shifted from relative openness to racism and British families and their servants lived in military homes at a distance from Indian settlements. The British took a more direct role in industry and agriculture as well, controlling what and how much was produced for the benefit of the British government, usually at the expense of Indian workers and farmers.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Great Britain had the largest empire in the world. It was said that the British Empire was so expansive that the “sun never set” on it because it had so many colonies that no matter what time it was, part of the empire was lit with daylight. India was referred to as the “jewel of the empire” because it was the most populous and profitable British colony.

## **6. What were the effects of the Sepoy Rebellion?**

# Document Analysis Activity: How did the British gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India?

Event: *British Imperialism in India*

## Who?

*individuals, groups of people,  
regions, nations involved*

---

## When?

*date, year, era, "before \_\_," "after \_\_"*

---

## Where?

*continents, regions, countries,  
geographic features nearby, describe  
the geography if relevant*

---

## How?

*describe the process that took place*

---

## Why?

*use words and phrases like "led to,"  
because, and so to show connections  
between events and to explain why*

---

## Combined Contextualization:

**Why** did it happen **when** and **where** it happened?

*Combine your responses from above  
to contextualize the event.*

---

# Document Set 1

The British used their military might and advanced technology to conquer and keep control of most parts of India. The British Indian Army was made up of roughly two-thirds Indian soldiers hired to defend the British East India Company and later the British government's interests, and just one-third British soldiers. The British held the highest positions in the military.

With the addition of the Maxim Gun, the first widely used machine gun, the military was nearly unstoppable. The gun could fire bullet after bullet without reloading and could swivel from side to side.



Maxim machine gun mounted on a Dundonald gun carriage, ca. 1890.



Illustration of British Indian Army soldiers and their British commander, 1896.

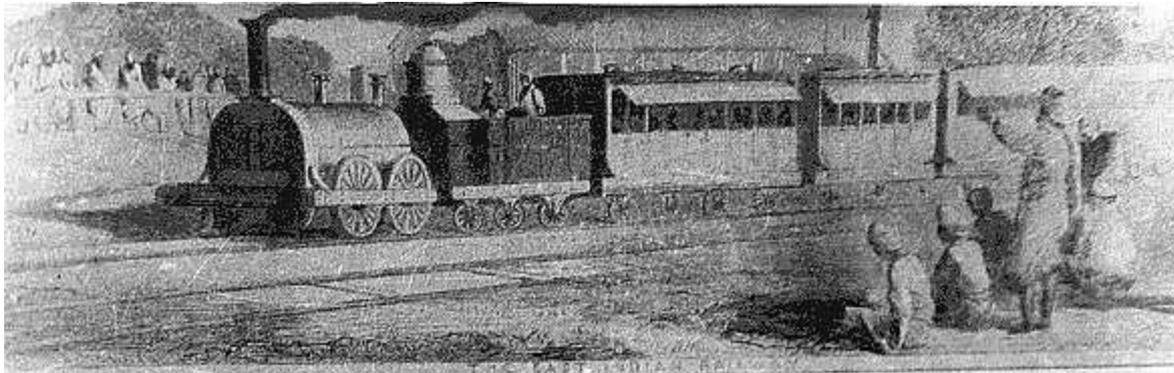
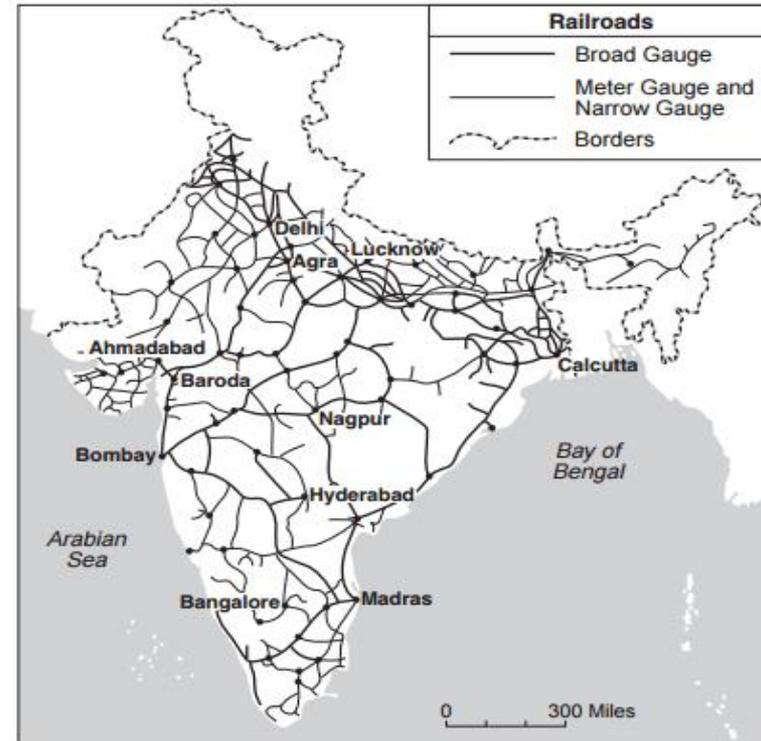


British Indian Army soldiers, 1895.

## Document Set 2

An enduring monument to British imperialism in India is the Indian railway system, which at the time of independence in 1947 had more track mileage than that of any European state and less than only the United States, Canada, and the Soviet Union. The first railway track was laid in India in 1850, and by 1915 India had better than forty thousand miles of track and approximately one hundred million railroad passengers per year. Indian railway building was supported by several powerful groups: British cotton manufacturers, for whom railways were a cheap and efficient way to get cotton to the coast for shipment to England; British industrialists, who supplied India with most of its rails, locomotives, moving stock [railroad cars], and equipment; colonial officials, who saw railroads as a way to move troops quickly to trouble spots and an essential part of the Indian postal system; and millions of Indians, who, rather to the surprise of the British, took to rail travel with great alacrity [enthusiasm]....

### Railroads Built During British Rule



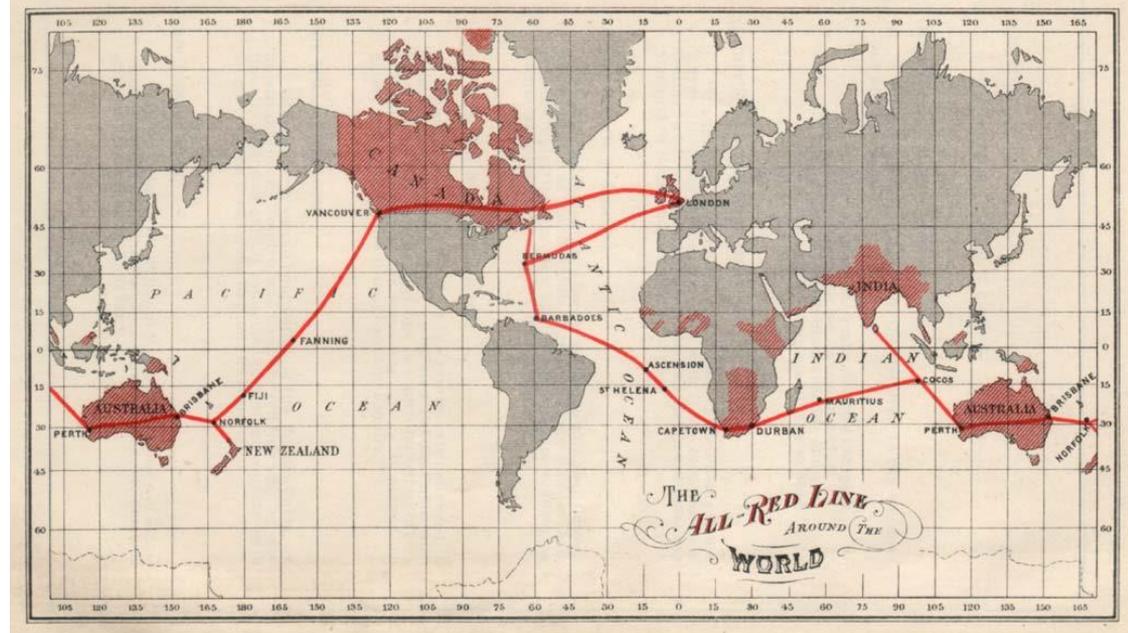
Above : The first railway train on the East Indian Railway. (Reproduced by courtesy of 'The Illustrated London News').

The first railway train on the East Indian Railway, 1854. The Illustrated London News.

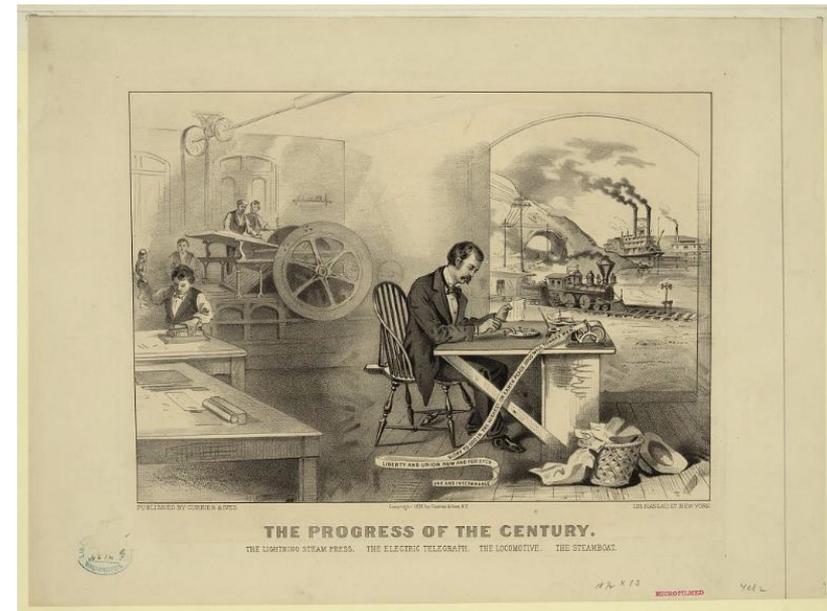
## Document Set 3

In what is sometimes called the “Second Industrial Revolution,” telecommunications technology advanced in the mid-late 1800s and early 1900s. The telegraph was invented, making it possible to communicate with people far away in very little time. At first, these technologies were only used for governmental and commercial reasons. The telegraph was integral to British control in India. The British put up lines all over the country connecting their military posts so they could relay information about needed supplies or emergencies. Before the telegraph, a message could only travel as fast as a train. With the telegraph, a message about a riot, for example, could be communicated while it was in progress and soldiers could be sent quickly to stop the revolt and gain control once again.

The progress of the century - the lightning steam press, the electric telegraph, the locomotive, [and] the steamboat.



Map of the All Red Line as drawn in 1902 or 1903. The All Red Line was a telegraph line put up by the British government to connect all of its colonies around the world. It was submerged underwater for transoceanic connections.



## Document Set 4

The British East India Company's interest in India was commercial and under the British government, making money remained an important goal. The textile industry, in particular, made the British government and British companies very wealthy. They used Indian labor to grow and harvest the raw materials they needed to make cloth, like cotton to make the yarn, and plants like indigo to make dye. The British forced Indian farmers to grow "cash crops" like these instead of food that could be used to feed local populations. Later, when famine hit India those policies were identified as one of the possible causes.

The raw materials were then sent back to Britain and made into finished clothing. The British brought the manufactured goods back to India and sold them to Indians to make a profit. Indian businesses could not compete with cheap British-made goods so they closed down and the British were the only suppliers. The Indian economy was devastated by the effects of British manufacturing dominance. Before British rule, India produced about 17% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but afterwards, it was less than one percent.



# Document Set 4

Parker Thomas Moon (1892-1936) was an American political scientist who was a professor at Columbia University. The following excerpt is from a book he wrote entitled, *Imperialism and World Politics*.

. . . First and foremost among the active imperialist groups come certain business interests. Not the whole so-called “capitalist class,” as many an earnest Socialist would have us believe, but only a minority of business interests are directly interested in imperialism. They are easily identified. To begin with, there are the exporters and manufacturers of certain goods used in colonies. The following figures of English exports to India tell the story.

## English Exports to India (Average 1920–1922)

Cotton goods and yarn . . . . .	£53,577,000
Iron and steel, tools, machinery, and locomotives . . . . .	37,423,000
Wagons, trucks, and automobiles . . . . .	4,274,000
Paper . . . . .	1,858,000
Brass goods. . . . .	1,813,000
Woolens . . . . .	1,600,000
Tobacco . . . . .	1,023,000
No other item over £1,000,000. . . . .	



# Resistance to Imperialism: Sepoy Mutiny

Based on the following readings, do you think the Sepoy Rebellion move Indians closer to or further away from independence? Provide evidence to support your claim & explain how your evidence supports your claim (your reasoning).

Then complete chart below.

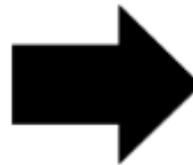
**SQ 5. What were the causes and effects of the Sepoy Rebellion?**

→**Directions:** Using the information learned in this lesson, identify the causes and effects of the event identified below in note form, then using the helpful words and phrases, write a paragraph that contextualizes the event and one that explains the effects of the event.

Words and Phrases to CONNECT CAUSE and EFFECT	Words and Phrases to Explain WHY
as a result    for this reason    so    therefore    led to	because    if...then    in order to    since

Event: Sepoy Rebellion

Context and Causes	Effects
--------------------	---------



1. Explain the historical circumstances that led to the Sepoy Rebellion.	2. Explain the effects of the Sepoy Rebellion.
--	--

# The Sepoy Rebellion (1857-1858)

**Directions:** Watch [this video entitled “Sepoy Mutiny- Revolt of 1857,”](#) then read the information below and answer the accompanying questions.

The Sepoy Rebellion, also known as India’s First War of Independence, the Great Rebellion, the Indian Mutiny, the Revolt of 1857, and the Indian Rebellion of 1857, was a revolt of soldiers employed by the British East India Company against the Company. The rebellion was a major turning point in colonial India. As a result, the British government replaced the Company as the rulers of India and India became an official colony of Great Britain.

Since the 1600s, the British East India Company had operated trading posts in India and employed Indian soldiers, known as sepoys, to protect the Company's interests. The Company’s influence and power in India grew over the next two centuries. They took control of land through military conquest and by the 1700s could arguably have been considered a “nation” within India.

<b>1. Who were the sepoys?</b>	<b>2. What was the role of the British East India Company in India?</b>
--------------------------------	---

# Long-Term Causes of the Sepoy Rebellion

## Expansion of British Power in India



British Indian Army soldiers, 1895.

[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

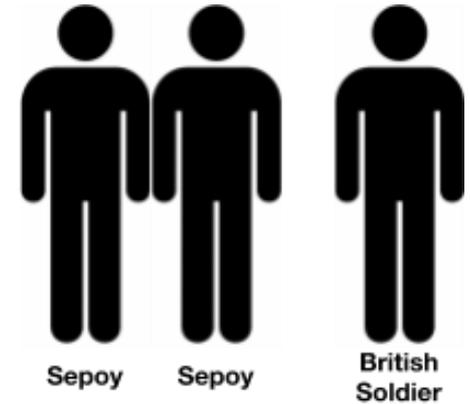
## Westernization



Photograph of Indian physicist, Satyendra Nath Bose, 1925.

[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

## Sepoys Outnumbered British Troops



The British East India Company took control of a large amount of India through force and through treaties that Indian princes who had no choice but to sign. Whenever possible the British replaced India rulers with British officials.

Westernization, the process of changing a culture to be more “western” or European/American, was promoted by the British in India. They proposed changes to laws regarding Hinduism and the caste system, introduced a British education system, and British fashions became popular.

The British held all of the positions of power in the British East India Company, but they were not the majority of the Company’s soldiers. Two out of three soldiers working for the Company were Indian.

# Short-Term Causes of the Sepoy Rebellion: The Spark

The immediate cause for the revolt was the introduction of the new Enfield rifle to the British Indian Army. To load it, the sepoys had to bite off the ends of lubricated cartridges that held the gunpowder for the rifle. A rumor spread among the sepoys that the grease used to lubricate the cartridges was a mixture of pigs' and cows' lard. This was a problem because it was a violation of Hindu and Muslim religious practices to have contact with pig (Muslims) and cow (Hindu) products. There is no conclusive evidence that either of these materials was actually used on any of the cartridges in question. However, the perception that the cartridges were tainted added to the larger suspicion that the British were trying to undermine Indian traditional society. For their part, the British did not pay enough attention to the growing level of sepoy discontent. Disrespected, the soldiers reacted by arming themselves against their commanders, killing many of them, and taking control of military compounds and weapons.

### **3. Explain what led to the start of the Sepoy Rebellion.**

# The Rebellion:

## Why were the sepoys unsuccessful?

At first, the sepoys successfully took control of a number of Indian cities including Delhi, but their lack of organization and lack of widespread support in the face of the British colonial system was not enough to retain control of India and drive out the colonizers. The sepoys did not have a clear leader or a command structure. Instead, they fought independently to defend the areas they controlled from the British. They also struggled to gain widespread support from Indians because of religious division. For example, when one of the leaders of the rebellion, a Muslim named Bahadur Shah Zafar declared himself Emperor of India, Sikhs from the Punjab region of India who had fought against Islamic rule under the Mughals refused to support him. In addition, the sepoys were only able to get support from some regional princes. Others, who had comfortable positions under British rule, supported the East India Company. Eventually, British reinforcements arrived with new supplies and weapons like siege guns needed to defeat the sepoys encamped in cities. The last rebels were defeated in Gwalior on June 20, 1858 and the warring parties signed a peace treaty on July 8, 1858 ending the war.



“The Capture of the Cashmere Gate, 14 Sept. 1857”  
an engraving published in London.

**4. Identify and explain three reasons why the sepoys were unable to free India from the British.**

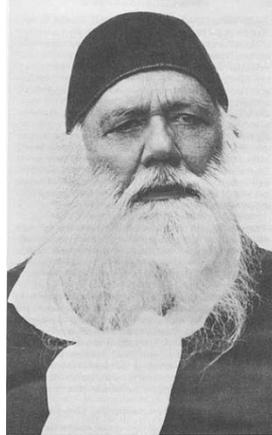
# Effects of the Sepoy Rebellion

## British Government Takes Control in India



Picture of Queen Victoria of England by Bassano, 1887, became the official ruler of India.  
[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

## Representation for Indians, but Little Power



Photograph of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, one of the Indian representatives on the Legislative Council.  
[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

## Continued Modernization and Westernization of India



British men and women posing for a photograph with Indian men.  
[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

As a result of their inability to control India, the British East India Company was replaced by the British government. India became an official British colony and was known as the “jewel in the crown” of the British Empire. The British government continued to administer India as the Company had, with strict control. They also exiled the last Mughal ruler and executed his sons.

The British realized that one of the reasons for the rebellion was that they did not consult with Indians on the policies they enacted in India. After 1861, an Indian-nominated group or representatives held seats in the Legislative Council, though they were “non-official members” and had little power.

The British continued the process of expanding their education system in India and public works programs (roads, railways, telegraphs, and irrigation). The British built up a communications and transportation network to prevent another rebellion like the one led by the sepoys. In addition, westernization continued, threatening traditional Indian society and the caste system.

**5. Based on the reading, describe three effects of the Sepoy Rebellion?**