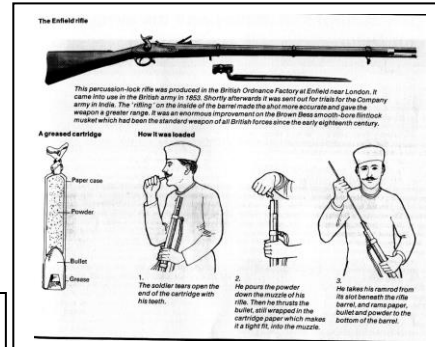
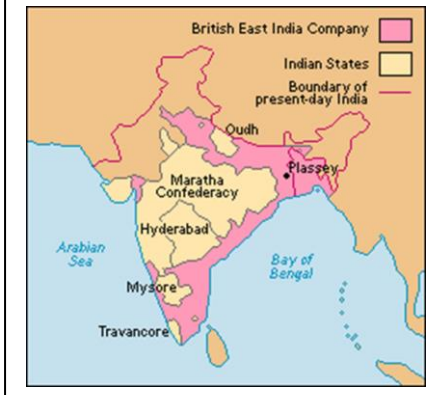
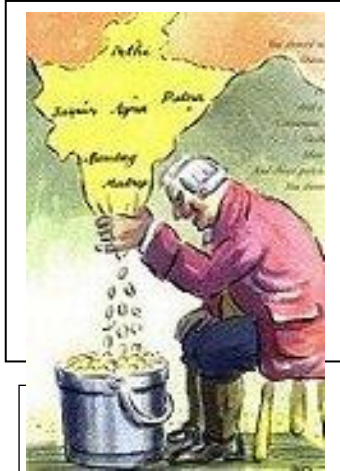
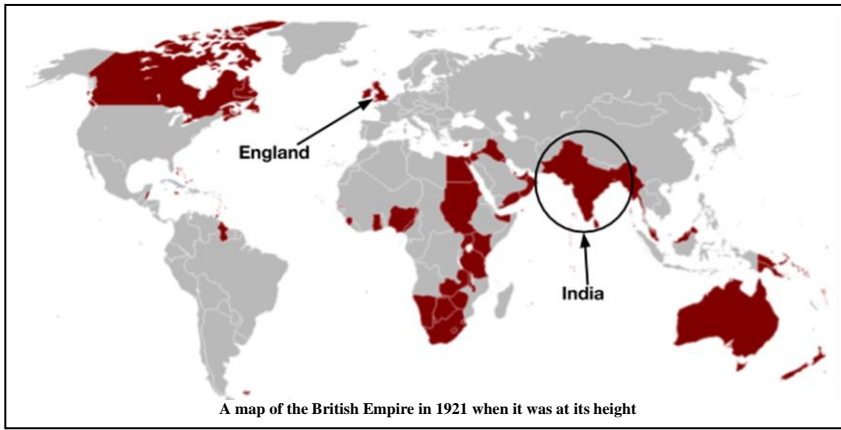


Aim #17: How did Imperialism Impact India?



Impacts of British Imperialism in India

Positive

- Peace & order
- Education: Exposure to European ideas (helped spark nationalistic movements)
- Revised legal system to promote justice (fairer)
- Railroads & telegraphs led to Unity

Negative

- Missionaries imposed Christianity
- Dismissed Indian culture/achievements
- Restricted Indian-owned industries (British monopoly on salt)
- Destroyed India's domestic system
- Cash crops were not consumable (led to famine)
- India lost self-sufficiency

Mini Lecture

- By the 1800s, Britain had more colonies than any Western nation. At the peak of Britain's colonial power, people said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire". India was the "brightest jewel in the British crown".
- By the 1700s, the Mughal Empire was weakening and the **British East India Company** was gaining strength (along w/ the French).
- The Company was able to conquer so much because they exploited (divide & conquer) India's diversity (Hindus, Muslims, others) as they fought each other. They also had a mightier military & advance technological weapons.
- The Company's main goal was to profit from selling Indian cotton, silk, opium, spices, & tea.
- Following victory over France in the Seven Years' War, Britain became the major power in India. Other lands, not governed by Britain, were rule by Indian princes, who signed treaties that placed their states under British protection.
- With some restrictions on the British government, the Company ruled India until 1857.
- The Company built telegraph, railroads, irrigation systems, postal service, & schools in India. It also organized a large army of Indian soldiers, called **sepoys**, to defend the Company's interests & India's borders. The sepoys were commanded by British officers.
- Missionaries arrived to spread Christianity.
- Although some Indians benefitted from changes brought about by British rule, many resented it. The Company brought new technology & industrialization, but most benefits went to British colonists. Indian factory workers received very low wages and Indians could not hold high-level positions in the Company.
- Schools taught English & Western ideas and ignored Indian culture & history. Many Indians suspected that the British wanted to undermine India's traditional religions. The British also treated Indians as inferiors.
- The resentment became violent in the **Sepoy Rebellion (Mutiny)** of 1857- First war of independence. The spark for the rebellion occurred when soldiers were issued new rifles-ammunition were greased cartridges with pig oil, with ends that had to be bitten off to be used. Both Hindu & Muslim sepoys had religious objections to consuming beef/pig.
- A number of soldiers were jailed for refusing to use the ammunition and in response thousands of sepoys rebelled against British authority. The rebels killed British officers, released the prisoners, & headed for Delhi to set up a new government.
- Regular army forces from Britain arrived in India and crushed the rebellion lasting until 1859. About 100,000 Indians died.
- Following the Sepoy Rebellion, the British government took over direct control of India from the Company (**The Raj**) and in 1876, Queen Victoria became the empress of India. A viceroy (governor) was appointed to head the Indian government & the Indian civil service was staffed with British men.
- In 1885, a group of Indians, mostly middle class & educated British Indians, organized the **Indian National Congress** (later became the Congress Party) to push for reforms in how the British ruled India. The Congress became a leading force in India's drive for independence in the 1900s.

Review Questions:

1. How were the British able to conquer India?
2. What caused the Sepoys to rebel? What were the effects of the rebellion?
3. What were the positive and negative effects of British imperialism in India?

To what extent did people in the 19th and 20th centuries express different points of view about the impacts of imperialism? How did these authors present their points of view to their audiences?

Directions: Analyze the documents below and answer the following questions for each document.

1. Who wrote this document? What do you know about the author of this document?
2. Based on the document, explain the author's **point of view** about the impacts of imperialism.
3. explain the **author's purpose** for writing about the impact of imperialism.
4. Identify the **audience** for this document.
5. Based on the document, explain how the **audience affects the way the author presents their ideas.**

Document 1

Tea was a major commodity exported from India to Britain. The British East India Company began tea production in the 1820s and in 1871 Thomas Lipton of Great Britain opened a shop that grew to over 200 shops. Because the cost of buying tea was too expensive for him, he purchased his own tea garden in Ceylon, an island near India that is now known as Sri Lanka. Instead of using a middleman, he packaged and sold what became known as Lipton tea. This gave birth to the slogan, "Direct from the Tea Gardens to the Teapot."



Document 2

William Digby (1849-1904) was a British journalist. He worked as the editor of *Madras Times* in 1877. Digby witnessed the Great Famine of 1876-78 while in India and got involved with humanitarian efforts to provide relief. Digby was critical of the British Raj, and in particular, of its response during the famine. In 1878, he wrote an extensive monograph called *The famine campaign in Southern India, Madras and Bombay Presidencies and Province of Mysore*. The image below depicts bags of grain collected by the British in India for export during the Great Famine.



Document 3

Willoughby Wallace Hooper (1834-1886) was an English military photographer who is known for his photographs of Indians under the British Raj. Wallace documented the Great Famine of 1876-78. During this time, there was a drought which led to crop failures. The British colonial government decided to continue to export grain out of India while the famine continued. Between four and five million Indians died during this famine.



Document 4

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917) was an Indian political leader. He lived most of his adult life in London where he had a business and was the first Indian to serve in the British Parliament, representing a section of London. The excerpt below comes from a speech given by Naoroji on February 15, 1871 to a Meeting at the Society of Arts in London an organization whose regular lecture series featured discussion of issues related to transportation, business, art, architecture, technology, housing, education, and urban and rural affairs. The society's members included British royalty, authors, and philosophers, who paid a yearly subscription that funded the organization's work which included initiatives to improve education in England.

An excerpt from "On the Commerce of India"

The Benefits of British Rule for India:

In the Cause of Humanity: Abolition of suttee and infanticide. Destruction of Dacoits, Thugs, Pindarees, and other such pests of Indian society. Allowing remarriage of Hindu widows, and charitable aid in time of famine. Glorious work all this, of which any nation may well be proud, and such as has not fallen to the lot of any people in the history of mankind.

In the Cause of Civilization: Education, both male and female. Though yet only partial, an inestimable blessing as far as it has gone, and leading gradually to the destruction of superstition, and many moral and social evils. Resuscitation of India's own noble literature, modified and refined by the enlightenment of the West.

Politically: Peace and order. Freedom of speech and liberty of the press. Higher political knowledge and aspirations. Improvement of government in the native states. Security of life and property. Freedom from oppression caused by the caprice or greed of despotic rulers, and from devastation by war. Equal justice between man and man (sometimes vitiated by partiality to Europeans). Services of highly educated administrators, who have achieved the above-mentioned results.

Materially: Loans for railways and irrigation. Development of a few valuable products, such as indigo, tea, coffee, silk, etc. Increase of exports. Telegraphs. Generally: A slowly growing desire of late to treat India equitably, and as a country held in trust. Good intentions. No nation on the face of the earth has ever had the opportunity of achieving such a glorious work as this. I hope in the credit side of the account I have done no injustice, and if I have omitted any item which anyone may think of importance, I shall have the greatest pleasure in inserting it. I appreciate, and so do my countrymen, what England has done for India, and I know that it is only in British hands that her regeneration can be accomplished. Now for the debit side.

The Detriments of British Rule:

In the Cause of Humanity: Nothing. Everything, therefore, is in your favor under this heading.

In the Cause of Civilization: As I have said already, there has been a failure to do as much as might have been done, but I put nothing to the debit. Much has been done, though.

Politically: Repeated breach of pledges to give the natives a fair and reasonable share in the higher administration of their own country, which has much shaken confidence in the good faith of the British word. Political aspirations and the legitimate claim to have a reasonable voice in the legislation and the imposition and disbursement of taxes, met to a very slight degree, thus treating the natives of India not as British subjects, in whom representation is a birthright. Consequent on the above, an utter disregard of the feelings and views of the natives. The great moral evil of the drain of wisdom and practical administration, leaving none to guide the rising generation.

Financially: All attention is engrossed in devising new modes of taxation, without any adequate effort to increase the means of the people to pay; and the consequent vexation and oppressiveness of the taxes imposed, imperial and local. Inequitable financial relations between England and India, i.e., the political debt of, 100,000,000 clapped on India's shoulders, and all home charges also, though the British Exchequer contributes nearly, 3,000,000 to the expense of the colonies.

What was the historical context for British imperialism in India? How did the British gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India?

Directions: Examine the map and text below and answer the accompanying questions.

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.

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.

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?
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?

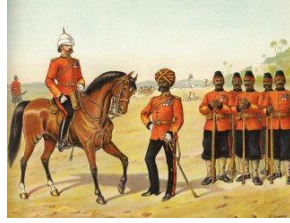
Document Analysis Activity: How did the British gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India?

Directions: Examine the documents on British power in India and annotate as you read by placing a “G” next to examples of methods that the British used to gain power in India, a “C” next to examples of methods they used to consolidate their power, and an “M” next to examples of methods used to maintain power.

Document Set 1

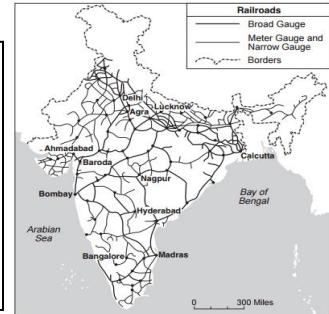
The British used their military might and advanced technology to conquer and keep control of most parts of India. The British Indian Army was made up of roughly two-thirds Indian soldiers hired to defend the British East India Company and later the British government’s interests, and just one-third British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



Document Set 2

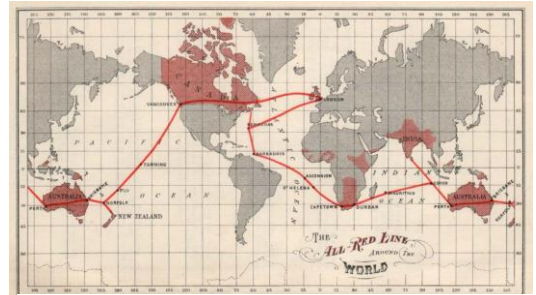
An enduring monument to British imperialism in India is the Indian railway system, which at the time of independence in 1947 had more track mileage than that of any European state and less than only the United States, Canada, and the Soviet Union. The first railway track was laid in India in 1850, and 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

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.



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.

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.	



What were the causes and effects of the Sepoy Rebellion?

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.

1. Who were the sepoys?
2. What was the role of the British East India Company in India?

Long-Term Causes of the Sepoy Rebellion

1. **Expansion of British Power in India:** 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 Indian rulers with British officials.
2. **Westernization:** 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.
3. **Sepoys Outnumbered British Troops:** 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 pig and cow 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. Disrespected, the soldiers reacted by arming themselves against their commanders, killing many of them, and taking control of military compounds and weapons.

3. Explain the historical circumstances that led to the Sepoy Rebellion.

The Rebellion

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. 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.

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

Effects of the Sepoy Rebellion

1. **British Government Takes Control in India:** 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.
2. **Representation for Indians, but Little Power:** 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 of representatives held seats in the Legislative Council, though they were “non-official members” and had little power.
3. **Continued Modernization and Westernization of India:** 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?