

15.4

India Becomes a British Colony

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Understand the causes and effects of the Sepoy Rebellion.
- Explain the impact of British rule on India.
- Describe how the British and Indians viewed one another.
- Trace the origins of Indian nationalism.

The British East India Company

By the mid 1800s, The British East India Company controlled 3/5ths of India!

Soon commercial interests turned toward political ones

When the Mughal empire fell, India split into different groups with different languages & customs

Britain took advantage of this situation to have princes rival each others & used this to weaken the nation

Policies & Rule

Britain began to implement its own laws & improved roads, education, & legal procedures

Sati- Belief that a widow had to join her husband in death by throwing herself on a funeral pyre, banned by British

Britain did exploit the caste system to control the populations

Sepoys- Indian soldiers who worked for the East India Trading Company



Sepoy Rebellion

Britain went against Hindu & Muslim beliefs that stated people couldn't travel overseas

The Enfield rifle was forced upon them, it used grease from sacred animal fats that upset the Sepoys

The Sepoy began a rebellion, massacring the British, but the revolt was crushed & Britain took bloody revenge

The British Crown takes over sending their own British armies, India turns toward nationalistic views

India Under British Rule

Viceroy- British officer in India who governed in the name of the queen/ royal crown

Britain hoped to modernize India into “The Brightest Jewel” in their empire

Britain built roads & railways, implemented the telegraph, & transformed agriculture & the textile industry

Deforestation- The cutting of trees for agricultural or economic reasoning



Strain of Growth

Better hygiene & medicine helped the nation grow exponentially...

However most agriculture was used for cash crops for Britain & the nation would have terrible famines

Greater contact with the nation due to railroads & telegraphs helped develop a sense of national unity



Diverse Views on Culture

Educated Indians urged India to follow Westernization, others believed freedom was in culture

Ram Mohun Roy- Indian scholar who believed mixing culture with modernization would reform Indian culture

He condemned some culture such as child marriage & **purdah**, the isolation of women into separate quarters

Western thinkers would borrow ideas from Indian culture, but Britain would dismiss it



Growth of Indian Nationalism

As education in the nation grew, so did nationalist ideas & the goal to end foreign rule

The Indian National Congress used peaceful protests & boycotts to try & demand change

Muslim groups formed the Muslim League & discussed the creation of a separate Muslim country

