

# 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**

