

The British in India

Main Idea

- British rule over India significantly impacted the SPRITE components of the country.

Essential Questions

- What role did the British East India Co. (EIC) play in British imperialism in India?
- What was life like in India once it became a British colony?

BACKGROUND

Pre-1700

- EIC limited to coastal trading ports (Calcutta, Bombay)
 - due to power of Mughal Dynasty



EIC Company Agents

Mid 1700s

- Mughals break up, EIC sees chance to take over Indian lands



Instigation

- EIC plays rulers against each other, keeps India in chaos
- EIC army takes over to “restore order”



EIC Changes

Intellectual

- introduced English language, new education system



Cultural

- introduced laws banning sati
 - widow throwing themselves on husband's funeral fire



Religious

- invited missionaries to spread Christianity



Indian Reaction

- saw as attempt to destroy society, Hinduism
- Result
 - strained relations b/t Brit. and Indians
 - leads to Sepoy Mutiny

SEPOY MUTINY (1857)

Sepoys

- Indian soldiers who fought in British army
 - Hindu, Muslim



Origins of Mutiny

- To load rifle, had to bite off end of ammo cartridge...
 - greased with pork, beef fat
 - Why would Sepoys have a problem with this?



Protest

1. Sepoys refuse to use cartridges
2. Leads to British punishment
3. Leads to rebellion



Atrocities

- Sepoys
 - kill wives and children of Brit. officers
- British
 - strap rebels to cannons, shoot
 - burn villages



Result

- British government takes over for EIC
 - direct rule
 - end some social regulations



BRITISH RULE

“Jewel in the Crown”

- Queen Victoria becomes “Empress of India” (1876)
 - huge political and financial rewards
 - source of British national pride



The Raj

- name for era of British rule
 - administered by Indian Civil Service (ICS)



“Life of Leisure”

Life Under the Raj

- building projects
 - railroads, canals



Darjeeling Railroad (1880s)



- Commerce
 - market for British goods
 - source of materials (cotton, tea)



British Opium Warehouse



Opium Market in China

Legacy

- Parliament
- English language
- Sports
- Railroads

