

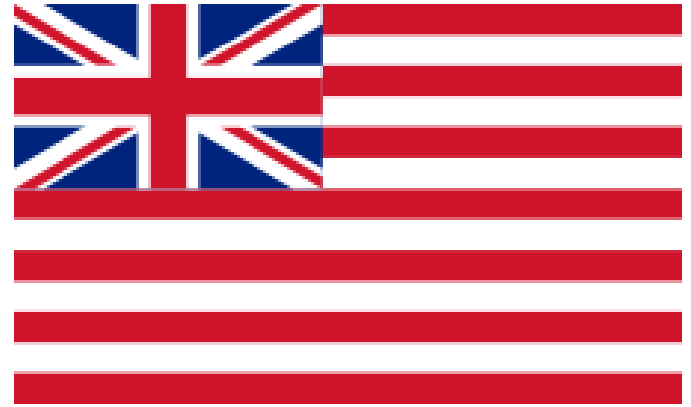
British Rule in India



Chapter 21 – Section 3

Background

- Throughout the 18th century British power in India grew while power of the Mogul rulers declined.
- The British East India Company was given power to be actively involved in India's political and military affairs.
- To rule India, the British East India Company formed its own military and built forts.



The British East India Company



Sepoys: **SG36**

- Indian soldiers hired by the British East India Company.
- Used to defend forts and British East India Company interests in India against Mogul rulers of India and other European powers.
- Sepoys were made up of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857

Causes: **SG37**

- Rifle cartridges were rumored to be greased with pig and cow fat.
- This angered Hindu and Muslim sepoys as they had to bite off the end of the cartridges to load their guns. They refused.
- The British responded by charging them with mutiny, imprisoning them and publicly humiliating them.



The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857



- Enraged by the treatment of their comrades revolted against the British killing 50 Europeans at an army post in Meerut, near Delhi.
- Other Indians joined in the revolts, including Indian princes who had lost land to the British.
- Within a year Indian troops loyal to the British and fresh troops crushed the rebellion.



British Colonial Rule

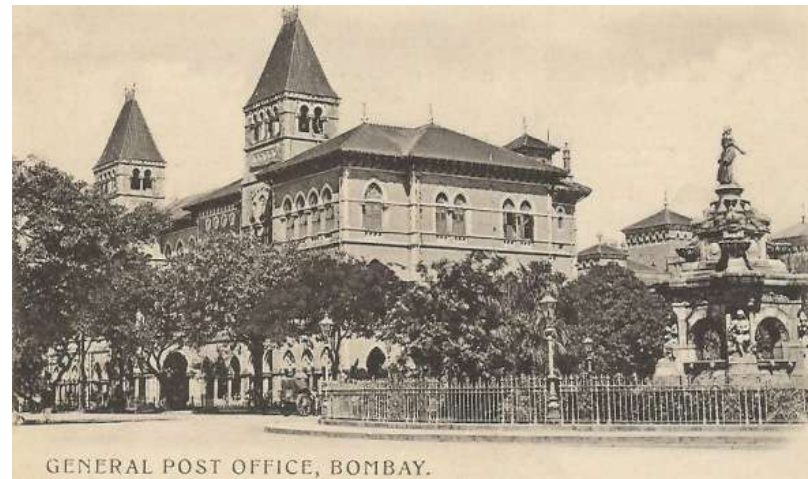


- After the Sepoy Mutiny the British took over the rule of India from the British East India Company.
- An official called a viceroy was appointed to rule as governor and representative of the crown.
- The viceroy had a staff of 3,500 and ruled over 300 million people, the largest colonial population in the world.

British Colonial Rule

Benefits: **SG38**

- Brought order and stability to a divided society.
- Led to a fairly honest and efficient government.
- A school system was created (in English only and only 10% of Indians were able to attend).
- Railroads, the telegraph and a postal service were introduced to India.



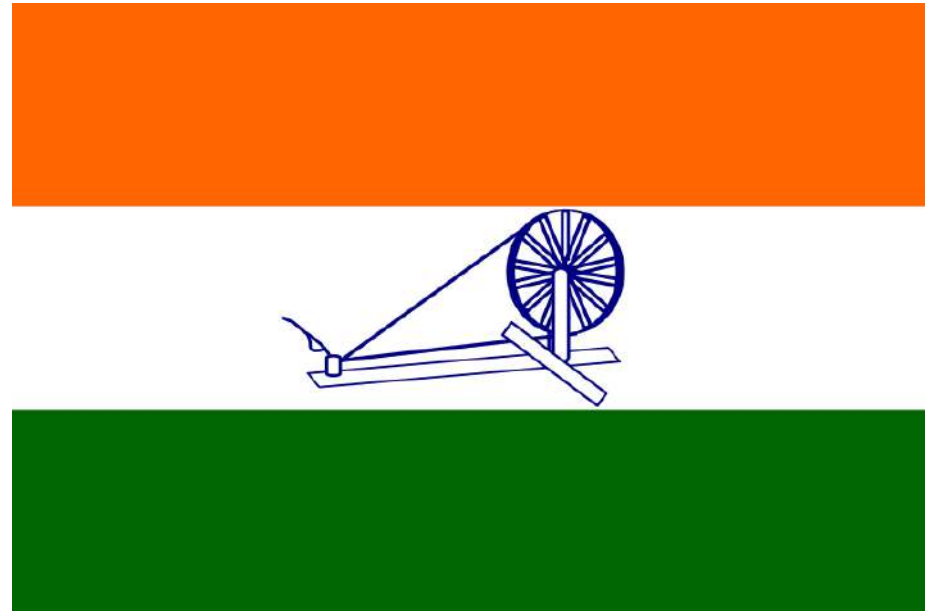
British Colonial Rule

Costs: **SG39**

- Economic – British entrepreneurs benefited, while millions of Indians faced terrible hardships.
- Taxes were high, and local officials often increased them or created new one.
- Indians were encouraged to grow cotton, leading to food shortages. Between 1800 and 1900, 30 million Indians were killed.
- Indians were unable to rise to the highest positions in society, that were reserved for the British.
- The British showed little respect for India's cultural heritage.
- All of this led to the rise of an Indian nationalist movement.

Indian Nationalists **SG40**

- The first Indian nationalists were upper-class, educated and from urban areas.
- The Indian Nation Congress was formed in 1885 to call for a fair share in the governing process.
- Religious differences led to difficulties uniting nationalist movements.
- Newspapers were used to foster mass support for nationalist causes.



Indian Nationalists

SG41



Mohandas Gandhi (b. 1869)

- Studied law in London.
- In 1893, travelled to S. Africa to serve Indian workers.
- Found Indian workers to be racial exploited and mistreated in S. Africa.
- Returned to India and joined the independence movement.
- Gandhi's movement, based on non-violence would eventually lead to Indian independence.

Indian Nationalists

SG42

Rabindranath Tagore

- Won the Noble Prize in Literature, 1913.
- A poet and writer, he became a social reformer and spokesperson for the moral concerns of his age.
- His life mission was to promote pride in Indian in the face of British domination.

