

# Imperialism in India



# A. The Raj

- Britain acquired India after the Battle of Plassey in 1757
- Raj – the period in time when Britain ruled over India
- Lasted from 1757 until 1947



- British government did not initially control India
- East India Company ran the colony
- Sepoys: Indian soldiers that helped maintain control for the East India Company
- India was very diverse
- 2 main religious groups:
  - Hindu
  - Muslim



- India was called the “Jewel in the Crown”
- It was the most valuable of Britain’s colonies
  - Made the most \$\$ for Britain



# B.Sepoy Mutiny

- Treatment of the Indians was horrible
- By the 1850's many Indians resented the British
- 1857: Sepoys believed their cartridges were sealed with cow and pig fat
  - Violated their religious beliefs

- Sepoys refused to use the cartridges and a rebellion against the British began
- Took more than a year to put the rebellion down.
- East India Company had to request the help of the British government to end rebellion



SEPOY INDIAN TROOPS dividing the spoils after their mutiny against British rule (1857-1859).



- As a result, the British government took direct control over India
- India now ruled by Queen Victoria



# C.Indian Nationalism

- Indians still did not want the British to rule over them after the Sepoy Rebellion
- They wanted self-government & independence
- Two groups formed to fight for independence:
  - Indian National Congress (1885): represented mainly Hindus
  - Muslim League (1906): represented mainly Muslims



- During WWI (1914 – 1918) Indians were promised independence if they helped fight
- Britain did not grant independence after WWI
- Indians angry & begin to protest
- Rowlatt Act (1919) allowed the government (British) to jail protestors without a trial



# D. Massacre at Amritsar

- After WWI, Britain would violently react to rebellions with the military

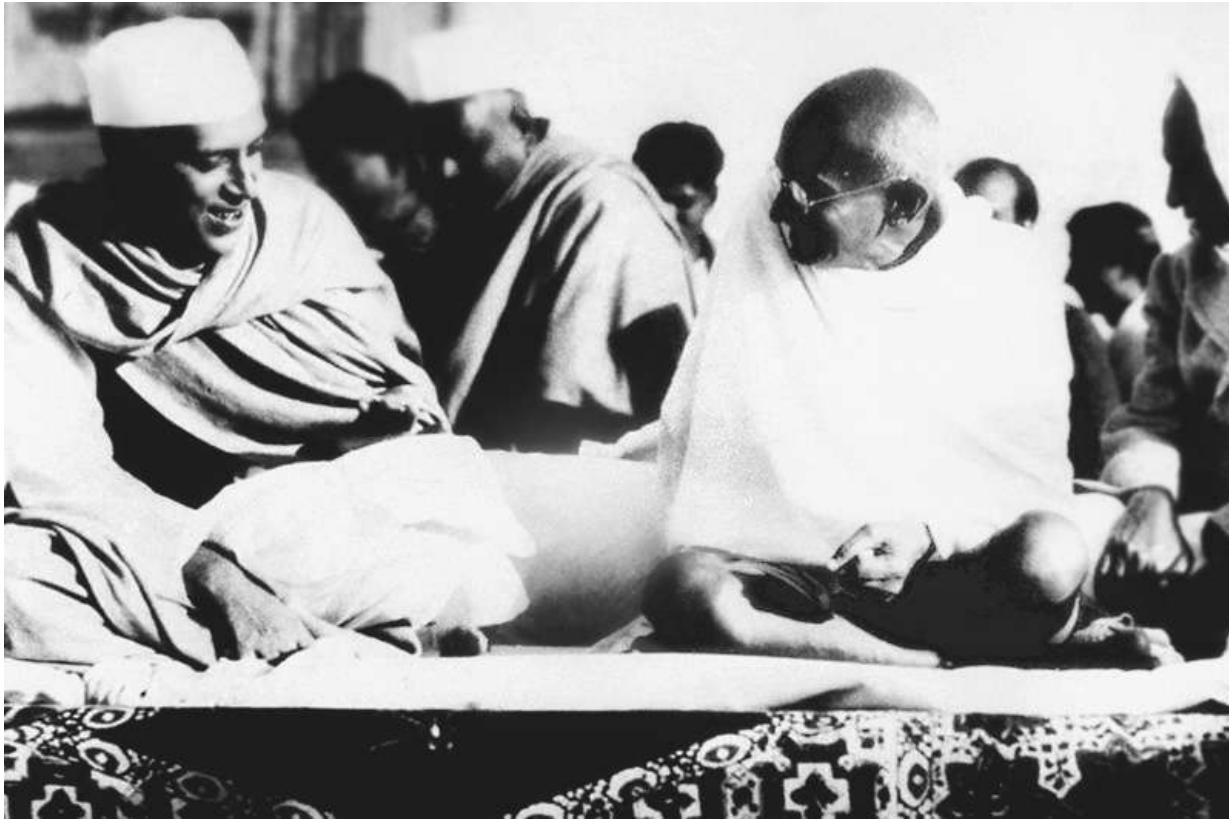


- 1919: Indians peacefully had gathered to celebrate a religious holiday in Amritsar
- Rowlatt Act made this illegal
- British soldiers killed hundreds
- Led to increasing violence around India



# E.Mohandes Gandhi

- Gandhi became a leader of all Indians after the massacre at Amritsar
- He realized that violence was not working



- Gandhi would instead call for Civil Disobedience (a non-cooperation protest that is non-violent)
- Would hurt the British government's authority and the economy
- Called for Indians to refuse to:
  - buy British goods
  - attend government schools
  - pay British taxes
  - vote in elections





- This finally worked
- By 1935, Britain passed the Government in India Act allowing local self-government

