

Homework: Imperialism in India

Directions: Read each document and write C's and Q's. Be sure to keep in mind the following task as you analyze each document: Evaluate the impact of imperialism on India.

Document 1

Englishmen...have given the people of India the greatest human blessing—peace. They have introduced Western education. This has brought an ancient and civilized nation in touch with modern thought, modern science, and modern life. They have built an administration that is strong and efficient. They have framed wise laws and have established courts of justice.

Source: Indian historian, Romesh Dutt, in his book *The Economic History of India Under Early British Rule*

Document 2

To sum up the whole, the British rule has been—morally, a great blessing; politically peace and order on one hand...on the other, materially, impoverishment...The natives call the British system... “the knife of sugar.” That is to say there is no oppression, it is all smooth and sweet, but it is a knife, nevertheless....

..Europeans [the British] occupy almost all the higher places in every department of government...Natives, no matter how fit, are deliberately kept out of social institutions started by Europeans...All they [the Europeans] do is live off of India while they are here. When they go, they carry all they have gained.

Source: speech by Dadabhai Naoroji, and Indian politician

Document 3

British brains, British enterprise, and British capital have changed the face of India. Means of communication have been developed. There are great numbers of bridges, more than 40,000 miles of railway, and 70,000 miles of paved roads. These testify to the skill and industry of British engineers. Irrigation works on a very large scale have brought 30 million acres under cultivation. This has greatly added to the agricultural wealth of the country. Industrialization has also begun. India now has improved sanitation and a higher standard of living. It has a fine transport system and carefully thought-out schemes for relief work. Because of these things famines have now almost disappeared.

Source: British historian J.A. R. Marriott in his book, *The English in India*. 1932.

Document 4

This process continued throughout the nineteenth century. Other old Indian industries—shipbuilding, metalwork, glass, paper—and many crafts were broken up. Thus the economic development of India was stopped and the growth of new industry was prevented...A typical colonial economy was built up. India became an agricultural colony of industrial England. It supplied raw materials and provided markets for England's industrial goods. The destruction of industry led to unemployment on a vast scale...The poverty of the country grew. The standard of living fell to terribly low levels.

Source: Jawaharlal Nehru in *The Discovery of India*

Document 5

British rule brought with it from the West certain standards of humanity that Indian society had not yet reached. Early action was taken to stop infanticide [the killing of girl babies]...The slave trade was ended and the owning of slaves was forbidden...One result of the new order was a steady rise in the value of India's export trade.

Source: British Writer Sir Reginald Coupland in *India: A Restatement*

Document 6

You English committed one supreme crime against my people. For a hundred years you have done everything for us. You have given us no responsibility for our own government.

Source: Mohandas Gandhi, Indian nationalist