

Name _____

India: Sepoy Rebellion

Document A: Bahadur Shah-Azamgarh Proclamation 1857

It is well known to all that in this age the people of Hindustan [northern India], both Hindus and Muslims, are being ruined under the tyranny and oppression of the infidel and the treacherous English. It is therefore the bounden duty of all the wealthy people of India, especially of those who have any sort of connection with any of the Muslim royal families and are considered the pastors and masters of their people, to stake their lives and property for the well-being of the public...I, who am the grandson of Bahadur Shah, have...come here to extirpate the infidels residing in the eastern part of the country, and to liberate and protect the poor helpless people now groaning under their iron rule...

Document B Modern History Sourcebook: **Elisa Greathed: An Account of the Opening of the Indian Mutiny at Meerut, 1857**

Sunday, the 10th of May, dawned in peace and happiness. The early morning service, at the ...Church, saw many assembled together, some never to meet on earth again.We were on the point of going to the evening service, when the disturbance commenced on the Native Parade ground. Shots and volumes of smoke told of what was going on: our servants begged us not to show ourselves, and urged the necessity of closing our doors, as the mob were approaching.

Mr. Greathed [her husband], after loading his arms, took me to the terrace on the top of the house....The increasing tumult, thickening smoke, and fires all around, convinced us of the necessity of making our position as safe as we could; our guard were drawn up below. After dark, a party of insurgents rushed into the grounds, drove off the guard, and broke into the house, and set it on fire. On all sides we could hear them smashing and plundering, and calling loudly for us; it seemed once or twice as though footsteps were on the staircase, but no one came up. We owed much to the fidelity of our servants: had but one proved treacherous, our lives must have been sacrificed. After some time, the flames got the ascendant, and the smoke became intolerable. Just as the fire threatened our destruction, we heard the voice of one of our servants calling to us to come down. At all risks, we descended. Our faithful servant, Golab Khan, seeing our perilous situation amidst the increasing flames, and that every moment was precious, with his characteristic presence of mind and quickness, had suddenly thought of a plan by which to draw away the mob, who, after having satisfied themselves with all the plunder they could get, were every moment becoming more eager in their search for us. He boldly went up to them, won their confidence by declaring himself of their faith, and willing to give us up into their hands. He assured them it was useless to continue their search in the house; but if they would all follow him, he would lead them to a haystack, where we had been concealed. The plan succeeded..... In a very few minutes after our descent, the house fell in with a crash, and we thanked God for His merciful preservation of us.

Document C British Soldiers

British General Sir Henry Lawrence stated in August of 1857, "we have killed and drowned 500 out of the 600...men of the regiment."

Another British officer wrote in a letter: "Every native that appeared in sight was shot down without question, and in the morning Colonel Neill sent out parties of regiment...and burned all the villages near where the ruins of our bungalows stood, and hung every native that they could catch, on the trees that lined the road."

Name _____

British Imperialism in India: Sepoy Rebellion

Read Documents A, B and C, and base your answers on the documents and the information from the lessons on imperialism. What kind of sources are these?

1. Bahadur Shah-Azamgarh was the grandson of the last Mughal emperor. What is Bahadur Shah-Azamgarh (Doc A) calling people to do exactly? Give details from the documents of who was involved.

2. Write a summary of Document B. What happened and who is it happening to?

3. According to Document C, what is going on after the rebellion?

4. Think about nationalism. Which document(s) could be considered nationalistic? Why?

5. Think about capitalism. How is British East India Company's presence in India a consequence of capitalism?

6. Synthesis: How are nationalism and capitalism related to imperialism in the situation of the British in India?
