

Teacher Overview Objectives: *Imperialism Case Study: India*

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification
10.4 IMPERIALISM: Western European interactions with Africa and Asia shifted from limited regional contacts along the coast to greater influence and connections throughout these regions. Competing industrialized states sought to control and transport raw materials and create new markets across the world. (Standards: 2, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, GOV, EXCH)	10.4a European industrialized states and Japan sought to play a dominant role in the world and to control natural resources for political, economic, and cultural reasons.	Students will trace how imperial powers politically and economically controlled territories and people, including direct and indirect rule in Africa (South Africa, Congo, and one other territory), India, Indochina, and spheres of influence in China.

Objective	Guiding Question and Activity Description
Describe the motivations behind British imperialism in India.	Why did the British colonize India? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● secondary source analysis
Describe the methods used by the British to gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India.	How did the British gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● secondary reading and annotation ● document set analysis and graphic organizer

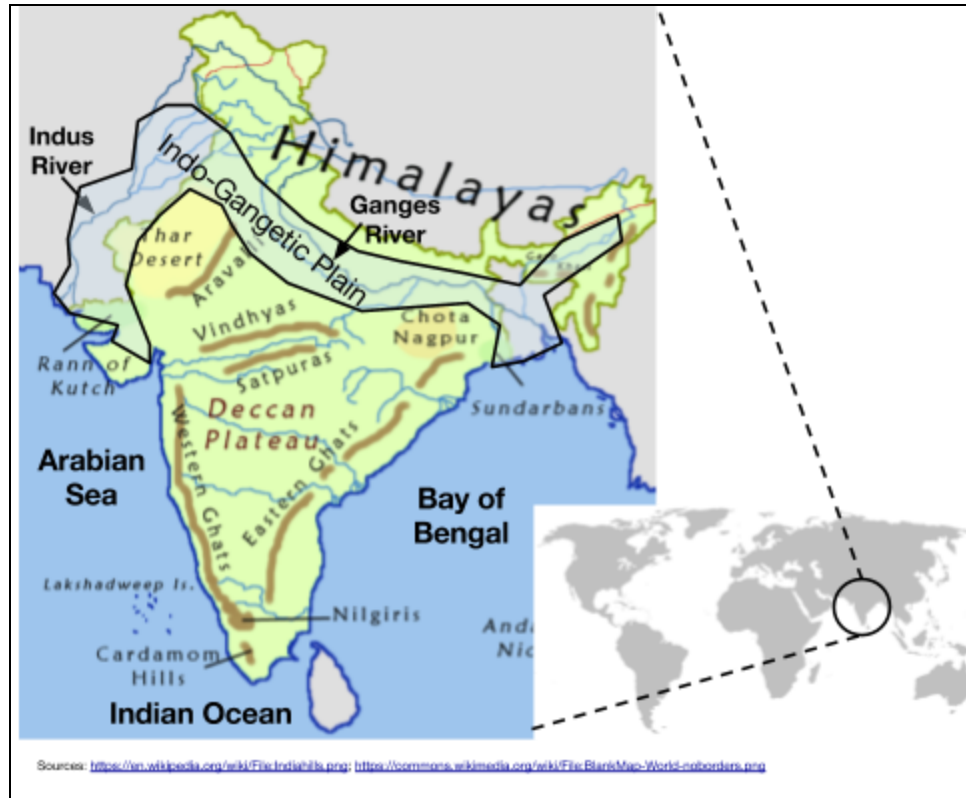
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Why did the British colonize India?

Objectives: Describe the motivations behind British imperialism in India.

Introduction

Directions: In the space below brainstorm what you remember about India and its history.



What do you know about India and its history?

What was India's place in the British Empire?

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Great Britain had the largest empire in the world. It was said that the British Empire was so expansive that “sun never set” on it because it had so many colonies that no matter what time it was, part the empire was lit with daylight. India, was referred to as the “jewel of the empire” because it was the most populous and prosperous (or wealthiest) British colony.



A map of the British Empire in 1921 when it was at its height. Its dominance of India started in the 1600s.

Adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:British_Empire_1921.png

Why did the British want to trade with, and later control, India?

Reason #1: Raw Materials



The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain sparked a new desire for colonies to supply raw materials for British factories. India was known for its cotton and crops like indigo that are used to make cloth.

Reason #2: Market to Sell Goods



As a result of industrialization in Great Britain, factory owners wanted new groups of people to sell their manufactured goods to for a profit. Industrialists hoped that India, with its large population, would be a profitable new market.

Why did the British want to trade with, and later control, India?

How did the British gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India?

Objectives: Describe the methods used by the British to gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India.

The British East India Company Establishes itself in India (1600-1857)

Directions: As you read the text below, annotate it by placing a “G” next to examples of methods that the British used to gain power in India, a “C” next to examples of methods they used to consolidate their power, and an “M” next to examples of methods used to maintain power. Then, complete the questions on the right hand side of the page.

The **British East India Company**, was a **joint-stock company** which was granted an English Royal Charter [contract] by Elizabeth I on December 31, 1600, with the intention of exploring and trading with India and the surrounding areas. The British East India Company started



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Adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:British_Empire_1921.png

out as a strictly commercial business. The goal was to make money for the company’s shareholders. In 1608, the company established its first trading post in India.

In the 1600s, the Mughal Empire, led by the emperor Jahangir, was in control of India. The Mughals preferred to work with the British over the Portuguese, who had sent their own trading ships to India. The British defeated the Portuguese in a naval battle in 1612, making them the most important European traders in India. As a result, the Mughal emperor signed a treaty that gave the British rights to reside and

1. What was the British East India Company? What was their goal in India? What did they trade?

2. How were the British initially treated by the Mughal government in India?

build trading forts in Indian coastal cities. By 1647, the company had twenty-three posts and ninety employees in India. In 1634 the Mughal emperor extended his hospitality to the English traders to the region of Bengal and in 1717 completely waived customs duties for their trade. The company's mainstay businesses were by now in cotton, silk, indigo, saltpeter, and tea.

Around 1670, King Charles II of England gave the British East India Company rights to **autonomous territorial acquisitions**, to mint money, to command fortresses and troops, to form alliances, to make war and peace, and to exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction over the acquired areas. With the freedom to manage its military affairs, the company rapidly raised its own armed forces in the 1680s. They hired local Indian soldiers to fill most of the posts. By 1689 the company was arguably a "nation" in the Indian mainland, independently administering [controlling and managing] the areas of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, and possessing a formidable and intimidating military strength.

In 1757, the British East India Company turned from a trading organization with an army to protect its business, and became an imperial force within India. For example, company-funded soldiers commanded by Robert Clive defeated the Nawab of Bengal at the Battle of Plassey in 1757 to take control of Bengal. Bengal came directly under the rule of the East India Company. Bengal's wealth then flowed to the Company, which attempted to enforce a monopoly on Bengali trade. Bengali farmers and craftsmen were forced to work for the Company with little payment, while the Company increased their taxes. The British East India Company continued its expansion through military conquest and treaties in the mid-1800s.

3. What rights did King Charles grant the British East India Company in the 1670s? How did this change the Company's role in India?

4. Based on the situation in Bengal, what effects did British East India Company rule have on Indians?

The British Government Takes Direct Control of India (1858-1947)

As a result of a two-year long revolt called the **Sepoy Rebellion** (more on this in a later lesson), in which Indian soldiers working for the British East India Company rebelled against the company, the British government took control of the lands that the Company once ruled. The British government took firm and direct control of India. They exiled the last Mughal emperor and shot his sons. Cultural and religious centres were closed down, properties and estates of



Source: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:British_India.png

those participating in the uprising were confiscated. The British transformed the colonial government to mimic their own in England. British attitudes toward Indians shifted from relative openness to insularity [ignorance to or a lack of interest in cultures] and racism. British families and their servants lived in military homes at a distance from Indian settlements. The British took a more direct role in industry and agriculture as well, controlling what and how much was produced for the benefit of the British government, usually at the expense of Indian workers and farmers.




Source: Adapted from "British East India Company," New World Encyclopedia. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/British_East_India_Company; "British Raj," New World Encyclopedia. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/British_Raj

5. What were the effects of the Sepoy Rebellion?

6. Based on your annotations, how did the British gain, consolidate, and maintain power in India?

Document Analysis Activity

Directions: After examining documents on British power in India, fill in the chart below. For each method of control listed, identify if it helped the British gain, consolidate, and/or maintain power in India. Then, explain why you think so.

<p>GAIN</p>  <p>Gaining power is the process of getting it and expanding it.</p>	<p>CONSOLIDATE</p>  <p>Consolidating power is the process of taking control from other people who also have power.</p>	<p>MAINTAIN</p>  <p>Maintaining power is the process of keeping one's power.</p>
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Method of Control	Gain, Consolidate, and/or Maintain Power? <small>Circle all that apply.</small>	Explanation <small>Explain why the method of control described made is possible for the British to gain, consolidate, and/or maintain power in India.</small>
Treaties	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Conquest and Military Strength	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Expansion of Telecommunications and Transportation Networks	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	
Expansion of Industry	GAIN	
	CONSOLIDATE	
	MAINTAIN	

Document Set 1: Military Force

The British used their military might and advanced technology to conquer and keep control of most parts of India. The British Indian Army was made up of roughly two-thirds Indian soldiers hired to defend the British East India Company and later the British government's interests, and just one-third British soldiers. The British held the highest positions in the military.

With the addition of the Maxim Gun, the first widely used machine gun, the military was nearly unstoppable. The gun could fire bullet after bullet without reloading and could swivel from side to side.



British Indian Army soldiers, 1895.

Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BritishIndianArmy.jpg>



Illustration of British Indian Army soldiers and their British commander, 1896.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Queen%27s_Own_Madras_Sappers_and_Miners_Review_Order.jpg

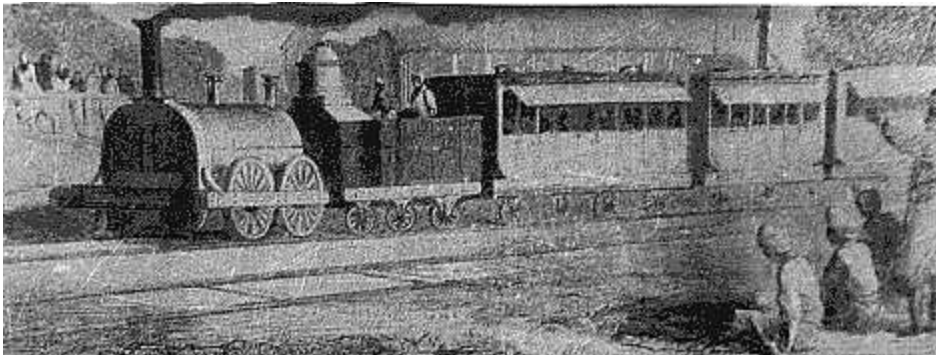


Maxim machine gun mounted on a Dundonald gun carriage, ca. 1890.

Document Set 2: Railroads

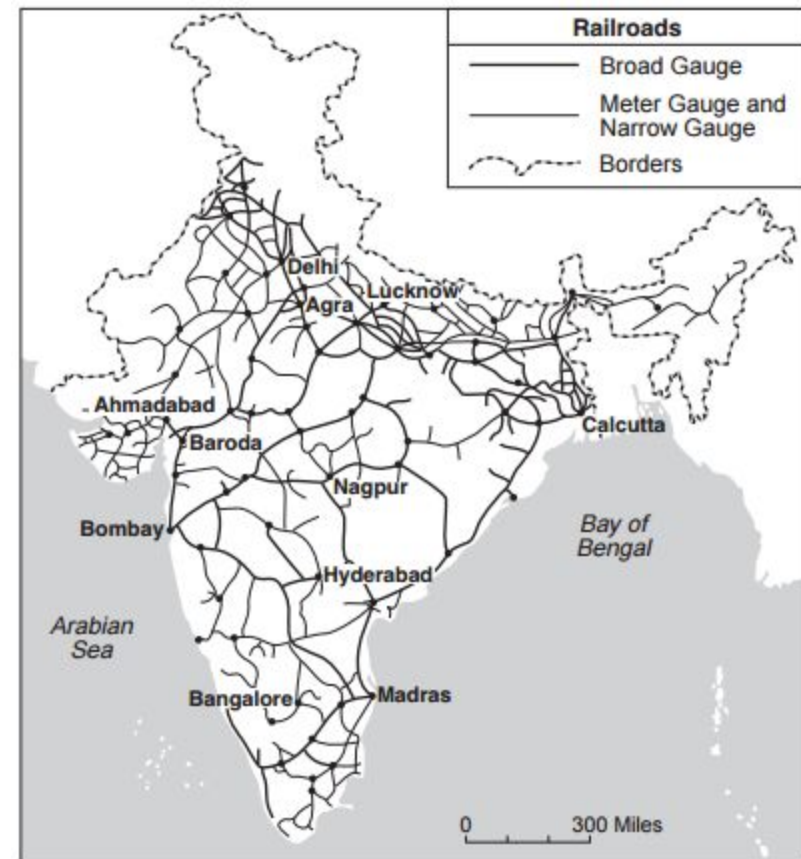
An enduring monument to British imperialism in India is the Indian railway system, which at the time of independence in 1947 had more track mileage than that of any European state and less than only the United States, Canada, and the Soviet Union. The first railway track was laid in India in 1850, and by 1915 India had better than forty thousand miles of track and approximately one hundred million railroad passengers per year. Indian railway building was supported by several powerful groups: British cotton manufacturers, for whom railways were a cheap and efficient way to get cotton to the coast for shipment to England; British industrialists, who supplied India with most of its rails, locomotives, moving stock [railroad cars], and equipment; colonial officials, who saw railroads as a way to move troops quickly to trouble spots and an essential part of the Indian postal system; and millions of Indians, who, rather to the surprise of the British, took to rail travel with great alacrity [enthusiasm]....

Source: Andrea and Overfield, *The Human Record: Sources of Global History*, Houghton Mifflin from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2012.



The first railway train on the East Indian Railway, 1854. *The Illustrated London News*.

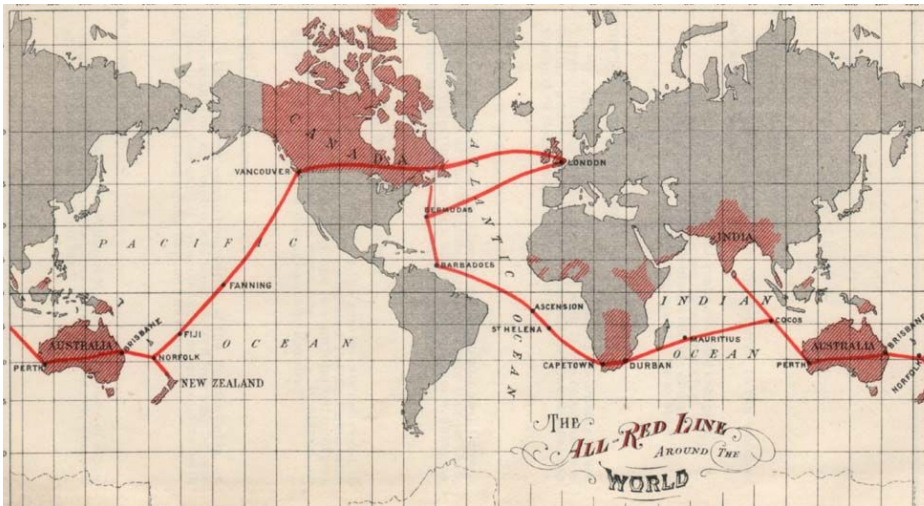
Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_Train_of_East_Indian_Railway-1854.jpg



Source: Ashok K. Dutt et al., *India in Maps*, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company

Document Set 3: Advances in Telecommunications

In what was sometimes called the “Second Industrial Revolution,” telecommunications technology advanced in the mid-late 1800s and early 1900s. The telegraph was invented, making it possible to communicate with people far away in very little time. At first, these technologies were only used for governmental and commercial reasons. The telegraph was integral to British control in India. The British put up lines all over the country connecting their military posts so they could relay information about needed supplies or emergencies. Before the telegraph, a message could only travel as fast as a train. With the telegraph, a message about a riot could be communicated while it was in progress and soldiers could be sent quickly to stop the revolt and gain control once again.



Map of the All Red Line as drawn in 1902 or 1903. The All Red Line was a telegraph line put up by the British government to connect all of its colonies around the world. It was submerged underwater for transoceanic connections.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:All_Red_Line.jpg



The progress of the century - the lightning steam press, the electric telegraph, the locomotive, [and] the steamboat digital file from original print.

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.17563/>

Document Set 4: Control of Industry and Agriculture

The British East India Company's interest in India were commercial and under the British government, making money remained an important goal. The textile industry, in particular, made the British government and British companies very wealthy. They used Indian labor to grow and harvest the raw materials they needed to make cloth, like cotton to make the yarn and plants like indigo to make dye. The British forced Indian farmers to grow "cash crops" like these instead of food that could be used to feed local populations. Later, when famine hit India those policies were identified as one of the possible causes.

The raw materials were then sent back to Britain and made into finished clothing. The British brought the manufactured goods back to India and sold them to Indians to make a profit. Indian businesses could not compete with cheap British-made goods so they closed down and the British were the only suppliers. The Indian economy was devastated by the effects of British manufacturing dominance. Before British rule, India produced about 17% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but afterwards, it was less than one percent.

Source: Adapted from "British Raj," New World Encyclopedia. http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/British_Raj

. . . First and foremost among the active imperialist groups come certain business interests. Not the whole so-called "capitalist class," as many an earnest Socialist would have us believe, but only a minority of business interests are directly interested in imperialism. They are easily identified. To begin with, there are the exporters and manufacturers of certain goods used in colonies. The following figures of English exports to India tell the story.

English Exports to India (Average 1920–1922)

Cotton goods and yarn	£53,577,000
Iron and steel, tools, machinery, and locomotives	37,423,000
Wagons, trucks, and automobiles	4,274,000
Paper	1,858,000
Brass goods.	1,813,000
Woolens	1,600,000
Tobacco	1,023,000
No other item over £1,000,000.	

Source: Parker T. Moon, *Imperialism and World Politics*, Macmillan Co., 1926 from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, June 2004.



Source: Andrea and Overfield, *The Human Record*, Houghton Mifflin, 2001 from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, June 2004.