

# Imperialism, Colonialism, Nationalism, Independence movements, and the impact of revolutions and world wars in India

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# Imperialism in India (The Mughals)

- ▶ Imperialism is described as a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force. India is a prime example of Imperialism
- ▶ India was a land that was rich in spices, as a result of this many invaders came to India. Small European ships in the early 1600's came to South Asia, in search of said spices. During this time Afghan Mughals (who were Muslim) ruled India. The Mughals were Muslims who ruled a country with a large Hindu majority.
- ▶ After almost two centuries of ruling India the Mughal Empire started to decline in India because the Indians went against the biased policies of the Mughals. The Mughals were unfair and taxed Non-Muslims at an even higher rate. The Hindus and Sikhs started hating how the Mughals ruled. As the Mughals became uninterested in India, the Europeans became interested in trade. Seeing as the Mughals were no longer guarding the coast Britain stepped right in.  
**(Kaur, Ramandeep.2013)**

- ▶ The economic interest in Britain started to expand. Before the European traders were kept under control by the strong Mughal empire, however with the decline of the Mughal empire by 1707 Britain crept and began to conquer Indian territories. An example of this is the Battle of Plessey. This battle was the start of nearly two centuries of British Rule in India.
- ▶ In India, Britain was represented by the British East India Company. The French East India company had a similar company. There was major competition between these two. These rival companies fought the Carnatic Wars for advantage in India where they maintained trading post and sought to gain influence over the local rulers. **(Kaur, Ramandeep.2013)**

# Imperialism in India (Britain) Pt.1

# Imperialism (Britain)

- ▶ \* (my comments)
- ▶ This picture gave a very clear statement. It symbolized the captivity of the Indians and showcased a very clear distinction of who was in power.



# The Battle of Plessey

- ▶ Robert Clive (British leader) decided that the best way to secure the Company's interests in Bengal was to replace Siraj with a new nawab. He found a candidate named Mir Jafar, and after many secret discussions and bribes, an underhanded contract was made.
- ▶ Siraj figured out that there was a conspiracy against him, (even though Clive constantly denied this said conspiracy) and moved south to Plassey.
- ▶ On June 13th , Clive moved north with 2,000 Indian sepoy and 600 British soldiers and close to 200 artillerymen with ten field pieces and two small howitzers.
- ▶ It was stated that Clive went into a grove of trees and meditated for an hour. When he returned, he gave orders for the army to move on to Plassey. (Bunting, Tony.2019)
- ▶ During this battle they fought each other with cannons and various ammunitions. Ultimately Siraj-ud-Daulah's army with 50,000 soldiers, 40 cannons and 10 war elephants was defeated by 3,000 soldiers. (Bunting, Tony.2019) Clive won the war and was now master of Bengal. The British victory under Robert Clive at Plassey in Bengal was a crucial event in the history of India.



**Battle of Plassey**

# The Effects of Britain taking control of India pt.1

- ▶ After the Battle, Britain took control of Bengal. They also took control of the East Indian Company over Indian territories like; modern Bangladesh, Southern India and almost all the regions along the River Ganges in North India. The East Indian Company was sadly regulated by the British Government.
- ▶ At first, the British were interested in India for its potential profit. However, with the Industrial Revolution in Britain, Britain's interest in India greatly increased. Now, India was the source of raw materials, and was a possible market for British-made goods. With this, India became the most valuable market and nation for British colonies. **(Kaur, Ramandeep.2013)**
- ▶ This had a negative impact on India. There were many restrictions that were placed on India to curb their economy. Indians were now forced to buy British-made goods and along with this, Indian goods were not allowed to compete with British goods. All of the local producers and handloom textile industry of India was put out of business.

# The Effects of Britain taking control of India Pt.2

- ▶ The British now held economic as well as political power over India. India was a great source of cotton, coffee, tea, jute, indigo and opium. As a result of this Britain laid down an extensive railroad network for transporting raw material from interior parts of India. There was less production of crop for food, many villages suffered, and suffered through a great famine. Even the religious as well as traditional life in India started to getting affected as British increased the number of missionaries to promote Christianity.
- ▶ By 1850, almost the entire India was under the control of British, but now many Indians started to feel resentful. The British were racist, and constantly tried to convert Indians to Christianity. The Sepoy Mutiny (movement) in 1857 was India's first war for independence, in which 85-90 Indian sepoys refused to accept cartridges that they believed were greased with beef and pork fat. (Kaur, Ramandeep.2013)The movement was so huge that the East India Company took almost a year to regain full control over India.

# The effects of Britain taking control of India

## Pt.3

- ▶ Mutiny was a turning point in Indian history. After the Mutiny, the British government took full control of India. As a result of this, India directly came under British rule. Indian Mutiny, of 1857 stirred the initial feelings that led to the ultimate independence movement. Britain's harsh response to this rebellion opened the eyes of many Indians and planted the seeds of future independence movements. The Indians were enlightened, and after this they joined forces regardless of varying religions and struggled to be free. This unity between the Indians was short-lived, because of contention between the Hindus, and the Muslims the movement was dropped.
- ▶ British imperialism wreaked havoc in India, and severely impacted the nation. India's wealth was drained, Religious conflicts and gaps expanded. Local handicraft and cotton industries were ruined, simply because the British wanted to sell their products. (Kaur, Ramandeep.2013) Food production was reduced as more and more opium was being produced for selling it to other countries. This led to great famines and poverty in India.



# Colonialism in India

- ▶ Colonialism is a distinct form of imperialism in which a colonizing nation exerts direct controls over a colonized state by military, economic, and political means. Colonialism of India took effect when Britain took a serious interest in India, and conquered territories.
- ▶ Colonialism was a traumatizing experience for the Indians. *Alexander, Colin* stated that during Colonialism the Indians suffered greatly. They suffered from poverty, malnutrition, disease, economic exploitation, political disadvantage, and dealt with many systematic programs that aimed to make them feel socially, and racially inferior.

# Nationalism in India

- ▶ In 1885, the Indian National Congress was created to try to increase Indian autonomy and lessen the hold that the British had over many of India's internal affairs. The I.N.C pushed for many reforms to counter the poverty in their country which they considered to be the result of British rule. This group was very influential, and they organized boycotts of British goods and other non-violent means of weakening British control and power in the country.
- ▶ Nationalism started to develop in India simply because the people were waking up. The sole reason that imperialism, and colonialism developed was because the people were not unified. People started coming together as a collective unit. They came to realize for themselves that colonial rule was the major cause of India's economic backwardness and that the interests of the Indians involved the interests of all sections and classes.

# Nationalism in India pt2.

- ▶ There were many things that gave Indians a sense of Nationalism.
- ▶ Firstly, the introduction of the railways, telegraph and postal systems brought the different parts of the country together and caused mutual contact among the people, especially among the leaders.
- ▶ Secondly, The historical researches by Europeans scholars, and by Indian scholars painted a new picture for the Indians. These historical researches which stated that " Indo-Aryans belonged to the same ethnic group of mankind from which stemmed all the nations of Europe" gave the Indians a major psychological boost. **(Aggarwal, Mamta)**
- ▶ Thirdly, The Indian Press also played an immense in gathering public opinion, organizing political movements, fighting out public opinions and promoting nationalism.
- ▶ **(\* Comments)** These reform movements sought to remove social problems that divided the Indian society. I believe that these reforms had a positive effect because they brought different sections of the society together. It also caused the Indians to be filled with a new spirit of Nationalism.

# India's Movements (Salt March)

- ▶ Britain's Salt Act of 1882 prohibited Indians from collecting or selling salt. Indians were now forced to buy salt from their British Rulers, and were charged with a heavy tax rate.
- ▶ Gandhi, one of the most influential people during this time was fed up with the treatment of his people.
- ▶ He wanted to fight for the civil Rights of Indians. In 1930, Gandhi led a 200-mile march protest.
- ▶ Gandhi scooped a handful of mud at the beach and stated that he was "shaking the foundations of the British Empire" He then boiled mud in seawater to produce illegal salt. Thousands followed his act, him and 60,000-100,000 people who participated in this mass public demonstration was arrested. This movement declared resistance to the unjust Salt policies that the British created.

# Non-Violent movements that the Indians participated in

- ▶ Indians rebelled in various ways :
- ▶ They rejected authority
- ▶ Burned British cloth
- ▶ Picketed liquor shops, and participated in Rent Withholding
- ▶ They Withdrew from educational institutions, and boycotted schools
- ▶ Mass petitions, and public speeches were conducted by Ghandi, and other civil rights leaders.
- ▶ They withheld allegiance, and refused public office

# Ghandi's fight for Independence

- ▶ Being imprisoned for one year didn't stop the movement. On the contrary it expanded his movement. He gained many more followers. After he got out of jail, he began the Quit India Movement. The quit India Movement was a campaign to get Britain to withdraw from India during WW2. Ghandi demanded the British to transfer political power to a representative government and fought against sending the Indians to WW2.
- ▶ Over the next 25 years Ghandi led the Indian independence movement. He created non-violent strategies and organized many protests to help Indians gain their civil rights.
- ▶ On June 1947 Louis Mountbatten (The British Governor/General of India) announced the partitioning of British India into India and Pakistan. India finally became a sovereign and democratic nation. **(Kurtz, Lester.2009)**
- ▶ \*\* (comments like it's an actual presentation) I think that ghandi was very impactful. His strong drive to see change along with his movements helped to propel India towards Independence.

# India's fight for freedom (Ghandi's Movement) pictures.

His March



Dandi March

Ghandi's movement



Non-Cooperation Movement

# The Impact of Great Britain's rule in India

- ▶ Great Britain's Rule greatly impacted the minds, bodies, and souls, of the Indians. Great Britain pillaged, destroyed, and ravaged Indian empires. They colonized the Indians stripped them of their self-worth and treated them as "half humans". They subjected them to being wet nurses and made them do other demeaning tasks.
- ▶ Britain monopolized the sale of all kinds of raw materials and bought these at low prices whereas the Indian weavers had to buy them at extremely high prices.
- ▶ During Britain's rule there was more than 30 million famine related deaths in Indian from 1870-1910.
- ▶ They forced treaties and created land revenue policies to help keep the poor farmers in check while getting huge sums of revenues in return.
- ▶ (\* Comments)
- ▶ Even though India faced many hardships, their spirits were not broken. Although they still had slight discord between their people, they persevered, and with the help of civil rights leaders, and revolutionary demonstrations they became independent.



# Citations

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