

Chapter 21, Section 3 (Pages 702–707)

# British Rule in India

## Big Idea

The British brought stability to India but destroyed native industries and degraded Indians. As you read, use a chart like the one below to identify some causes and effects of British influence on India.

Cause	Effect
1. British textiles	
2. cotton crops	
3. school system	
4. railroad, telegraph, telephone services	



## Read to Learn

### The Sepoy Mutiny (page 702)

#### Predicting

*When people are ordered to do something that deeply offends their religion, they may be expected to*

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During the 1700s, British power in India increased. The power of the Moguls declined. The British government authorized the British East India Company to take an active role in Indian affairs. The British East India Company hired Indian soldiers, called **sepoys**.

Sepoys rebelled in 1857. They had just been issued a new kind of rifle. A rumor started that the cartridges, which soldiers had to bite, were greased with pig and cow fat. This offended both Hindus and Muslims. When a group of sepoy refused to bite the cartridges, the British put them in prison. Other sepoy rebelled.

The rebellion spread. Both sides committed atrocities. Indians killed 200 women and children in a building in Kanpur. The British killed many Indians as well. Within a year, Indian troops loyal to the British crushed the rebellion.

As a result of the uprising, the British Parliament transferred the rule of India from the East India Company to the British government. In 1876 Queen Victoria took the title Empress of India. She called India the jewel in her crown. Another result of the uprising was the beginning of nationalist feeling in India.



# Read to Learn

## British Colonial Rule (page 704)

### Drawing Conclusions

*From the description of the school system the British set up in India, one can conclude that the schools were primarily designed to meet the needs of the*

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After the Sepoy Mutiny, the British government began to rule India through a **vicero**y—a governor—and a civil service staff. The British administration brought order and relatively honest, efficient government. A school system, using the English language, was set up to train upper-class Indian children for civil and military service.

The British built roads, canals, universities, and medical centers. A postal service was introduced, and a rail network across India was constructed.

British rule also harmed the people of India in several ways. British manufactured goods destroyed local industries. Local officials, sent by the British to collect taxes, abused their authority. Because the British encouraged farmers to switch from food production to growing cotton, the food supply could not keep up with the growing population. Millions died of starvation.

## Indian Nationalists (page 705)

### Synthesizing Information

*In both Africa and India, many leaders of the nationalist and independence movements had a*

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*education.*

The British presence in India led to an Indian independence movement.

Early nationalists pressed for reform, not independence. However, the pace of reform was slow. Many Indian nationalists, who were English-educated, decided they could not count on the British to make changes voluntarily. In 1885 a small group met in Mumbai (then called Bombay) and formed the Indian National Congress (INC). The INC called for a share in the governing process.

Mohandas Gandhi became active in the independence movement. He began a movement based on nonviolent resistance. Its aim was to force the British to improve the lot of the poor and to grant independence to India. After many years, Gandhi's movement led to Indian independence.

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## Colonial Indian Culture (page 706)

### Identifying the Main Idea

*Read the paragraph about newspapers.*

*Write a sentence that expresses the main idea of the paragraph.*

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The relationship between India and the British led to a cultural awakening. A British college was established in Calcutta in the early 1800s. A local publishing house was opened. It printed a variety of textbooks. Newspapers were printed in the regional languages of India. Nationalists used newspapers to arouse mass support for nationalist causes.

The most famous Indian author was Rabindranath Tagore. A great writer and poet, he won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1913. He set to music the Bengali poem that became the anthem of Indian nationalism. He set up a school that became an international university.

### Section Wrap-up

*Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.*

1. What was the immediate cause of the Sepoy Mutiny?

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2. List two goals of Gandhi's movement based on nonviolent resistance.

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### Persuasive Writing

*Imagine that you were a member of the British Parliament or the British colonial administration during the period of British colonial rule in India. Make one policy recommendation for the British government related to India. Clearly state your recommendation as though in a speech or letter. Support your recommendation with arguments and specific facts related to Indian history, economics, or culture.*

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