British Imperialism in India
British Imperialism

• "The Sun never sets on the British Empire"
  – Britain had established colonies all around the world
  – India was one of their most important
    • Called the "jewel of the crown"
British East India Company

- Established to control trade between India and Britain (1600)
- Company established trading rights in India during the Mughal Empire
British East India Company

- **Mughal Empire was in decline**
  - Early 1700’s
  - States began to break away from Mughal rule

- **East India Company gained control of large parts of India**
British East India Company

- Company ran India without interference from Britain
  - Established its own army
    - Led by British officers
    - Used Indian soldiers known as Sepoys
British East India Company

- British tried to force changes on India
  - Brought western education
  - Tried to end caste system
  - Banned Hindu custom of sati
    - Practice of Hindu widows throwing themselves on husbands' funeral pyre
  - Christian missionaries tried to spread religion
  - Indians saw this as an attack on Hinduism and their culture
Answer the following Questions

• Why was the British East India Company formed?
• How did the company gain control of India?
• How did the British try to change India?
The Enfield rifle

This percussion-lock rifle was produced in the British Ordnance Factory at Enfield near London. It came into use in the British army in 1853. Shortly afterwards it was sent out for trials for the Company army in India. The 'rifling' on the inside of the barrel made the shot more accurate and gave the weapon a greater range. It was an enormous improvement on the Brown Bess smooth-bore flintlock musket which had been the standard weapon of all British forces since the early eighteenth century.

A greased cartridge

How it was loaded

1. The soldier tears open the end of the cartridge with his teeth.
2. He pours the powder down the muzzle of his rifle. Then he thrusts the bullet, still wrapped in the cartridge paper which makes it a tight fit, into the muzzle.
3. He takes his ramrod from its slot beneath the rifle barrel, and rams paper, bullet and powder to the bottom of the barrel.
British punished Sepoys who refused to load rifles

Hindus and Muslims revolted against the British in 1857
– Both sides committed atrocities against each other

British crushed the rebellion in 1858
4 The moment of death for the mutineers—the firing squad carrying out the execution.
THE BRITISH LION'S VENGEANCE ON THE BENGAL TIGER.
British gov’t rules India directly

Britain ended the rule of the British East India Company

Impact of the Sepoy Mutiny

Led to feelings of distrust between Indians and British

Atrocities committed by both sides
The British Raj

- Raj refers to the period of British direct rule in India
- Indian Civil Service
  - Government agency that carried the British administration of India
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Answer the following Questions

• Identify one long term result of the Sepoy Mutiny
• Identify one positive impact of British Imperialism on India?
• Identify one negative effect of imperialism on India?
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Indian Nationalism

• The British rule of India during the Raj contributed to the growth of Indian nationalism
  – Desire for self rule among Indians
Rise of Nationalism in India

- Indians felt they were treated as 2nd class citizens
- Barred from top jobs in Indian Civil Service
- Paid less than British workers
- Wanted more of a say in government
Indian Nationalism

- **Ram Mohun Roy**
  - Believed Indians had to change in order to be free from western control
  - Change some traditional practices
    - Sati, rigid caste structure, arranged marriages
  - Called for India to modernize and westernize
  - Writings contributed to growth of nationalism

“The present system of Hindus is not well calculated to promote their Political Interests. It is necessary that some change should take place in their religion at least for the sake of Political advantage and Social comfort”

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy
  (22 May 1772 - 27 Sept 1833)
  Social Reformer, Journalist, Educator

Social Reformers of India
http://www.facebook.com/AshwamedhFoundationTrust
Indian National Congress (1885)

Growth of Indian Nationalism

Hindu

Desire for Self Rule

Muslim League (1906)

Muslim

Became leaders of Indian Independence
Indian Nationalism

- The Indian National Congress (1885)
  - Primarily made up of Hindus
  - Pushed for self rule
  - Boycotted British goods to protest division of Bengal by religion

- Swadeshi boycott
  - Wore only traditional Indian clothing
Indian Nationalism

- The Muslim League
  - Formed to protect the interest of Muslims in India
  - Called for self rule
Points of Discussion

• Identify one positive impact of British Imperialism on India?
• Identify one negative effect of imperialism on India?
• Identify two Indian nationalistic movements that developed in the British Raj