

# British colonialism and war of independence 1857

Reasons for colonialism

British colonization of India

Causes of war of independence

## **Reasons for colonialism**

### **Economic Reasons**

- In the early 1800's, the Industrial Revolution was beginning in such places as Great Britain, and new markets and raw materials were needed to uphold the new industries.
- Nations depended on their colonies for raw materials to be used in their factories so that they could produce a growing number of manufactured goods. They then hoped to sell the manufactured goods to their colonies, which served as new markets.
- By obtaining power over foreign lands, nations were also able to strengthen their military

- **Ideological Reasons**

- Europeans used the ideas of the "White Man's Burden" to help justify their colonization of foreign lands. The White Man's Burden was the idea that as supreme beings, it was the job of the white people to spread their superior ways of living to the inferior people of other places.
- The British view tended to portray British rule as a charitable exercise - they suffered India's environment (eg climate, diseases) in order to bring to India good government and economic development (eg railways, irrigation, medicine).

# **British Colonialism in India**

- British East India Company started to annex the lands of India from the conquest of Bengal in 1757. Then They extended their rule to the southern parts of India by annexing the Mysore state and aligning with the state of Hyderabad by the year 1792. By 1818, East India company had established their rule in major regions of India except Punjab and Sindh. In 1843, Sindh came under the rule of East India company and Punjab was annexed in 1849.
- The East India Company, which was overseen by the British government, ruled India. This system was very successful, until one hundred years later, when the Sepoy Rebellion occurred

# Causes of war of Independence 1857

- . In 1857, the Sepoys, or Indian soldiers, revolted against the British East India Company. The Sepoys, who were Muslims and Hindus, were upset to learn that the British used beef and pork to seal the rifle cartridges, as eating cows and pigs was forbidden by the Islamic and Hindu religions.
- Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan has mentioned in his pamphlet, “Causes of Indian Revolt”, that a single event could not become the cause of the general rebellion. There were other reasons as well that lead to the development of discontent among the Indians.

## **Cultural and Religious Reasons**

- British started to intervene in the local cultural and religious practices. In 1806, George Barlow ordered that the Indian soldiers were not allowed to use Tilak and wear safa during the military parade.
- The officials of East India company wanted to see all the Indians united under the Banner of Christianity.
- The military Barracks were considered as ideal places for preaching of Christianity. During the time of peace the Indian soldiers were preached the teachings of Christianity.
- The Company officials also invited their subordinate Indians to their houses to listen to the sermons of the priests.
- The priests were given police protection whenever they went outside to preach Christianity.

- In case a region was hit by famine, the orphans were admitted to orphanages where they were converted into Christianity.

## **Economic Reasons**

- There was a huge difference between the salaries of the British and the Indian soldiers. An Indian Infantry soldier earned Rs 7/month whereas the Cavalry man who used to be British earned Rs 27/month.
- The Indian had no chance of promotion to the higher ranks in the army of East India Company.
- The wealth of India started to be transferred to England and the local industries suffered a lot at that time. The silk of Bengal was of finest quality at that time as compared to the silk of France and Italy. The British took the silk on half price from Bengal compared to the price of French and Italian silk. Moreover, British imposed heavy taxes on the local manufacturing industries.