

# British India



Dundee.



# India—Mughal Empire

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- 1600s—Portuguese control trade in Goa
- 1661—British East India Co. controlled trade in Bombay
- 1691—British establish port of Calcutta

*They were annoyed with Europeans but viewed them as harmless*

# European Interest in India

- Europeans need and have a high demand for spices, cotton, and other goods
- Europeans trade by land over what route?

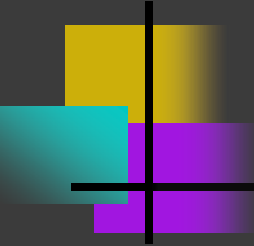
## SILK ROAD





# Company Men

- In the eighteenth century the Mughal Empire was defeated and its capital sacked by marauding Iranian armies
- Internally, the Mughal's deputies (*nawabs*) had become de facto independent rulers of their states

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- British, French, and Dutch companies staffed by ambitious young “Company Men” established trading posts and strategic places
  - They hired Indian troops (*sepoys*) to defend them.
  - By the early 1800s the British East India Company had pushed the French out of south India, forced the Mughal Empire to recognize Company rule over Bengal, and taken control of large territories that became the core of what would be called the “Bombay Presidency.”

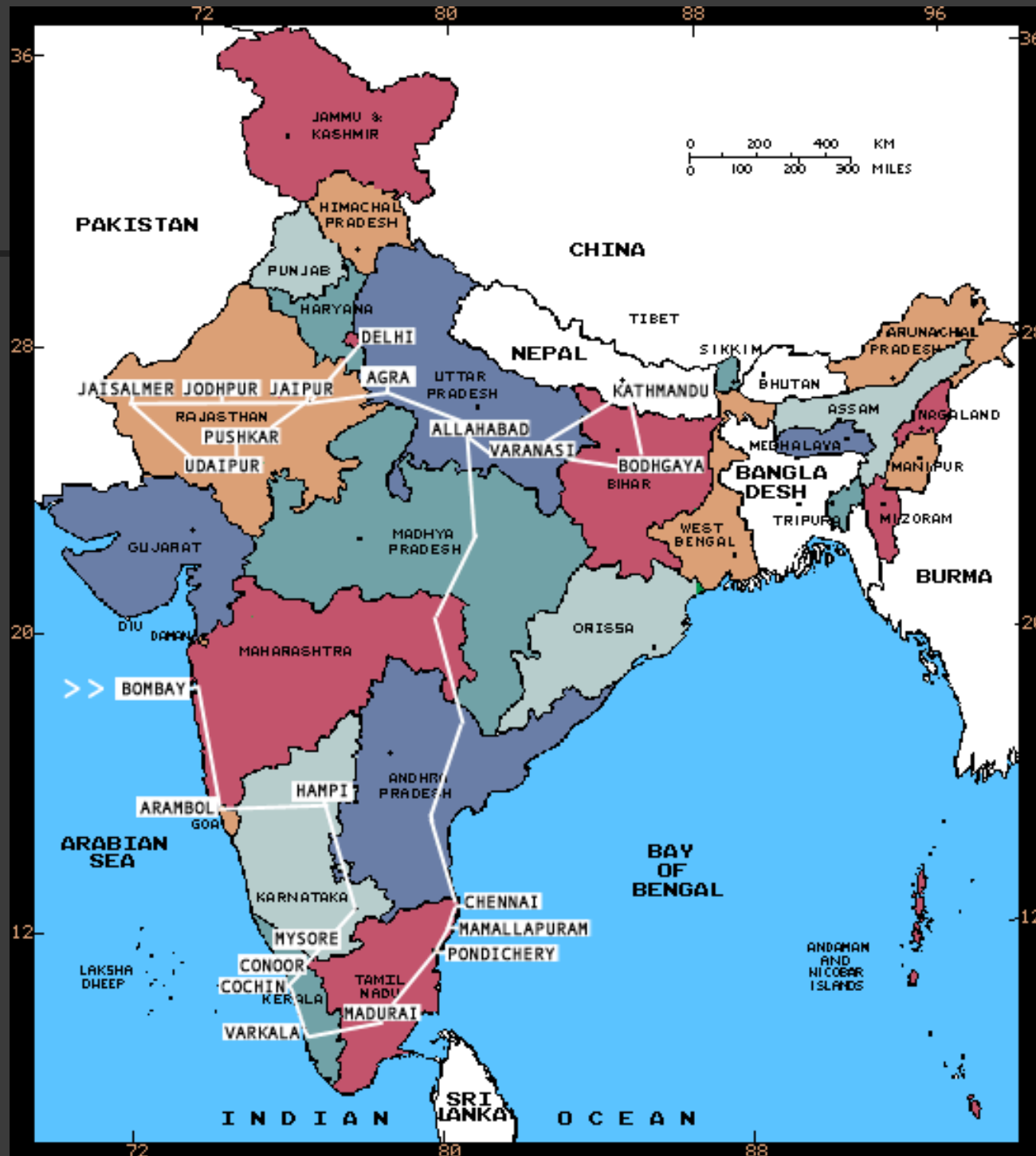
# Britain and India



- Britain uses military force to subdue local independent rulers in India

- British East India Company

- Traded Indian drugs to China for tea for English

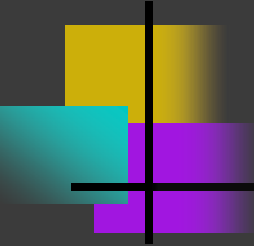




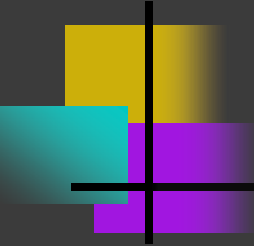
# Raj and Rebellion, 1818–1857

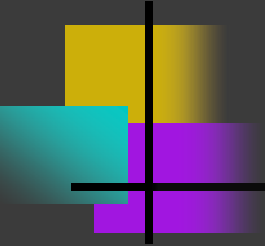
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- The British *raj* (reign) over India aimed both to introduce administrative and social reform
- Also to hold the support of Indian allies by respecting Indian social and religious customs.
- These contradictory goals led to many inconsistencies in British policies toward India

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- Before 1850 the British created a government that relied on sepoy military power, disarmed the warriors of the Indian states, gave free reign to Christian missionaries, and established a private land ownership system in order to ease tax collection.
  - At the same time, the British bolstered the “traditional” power of princes and holy men and invented “traditional” rituals to celebrate their own rule.



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- British political and economic influence benefited Indian elites and created jobs in some sectors while bringing new oppression to the poor and causing the collapse of the traditional textile industry

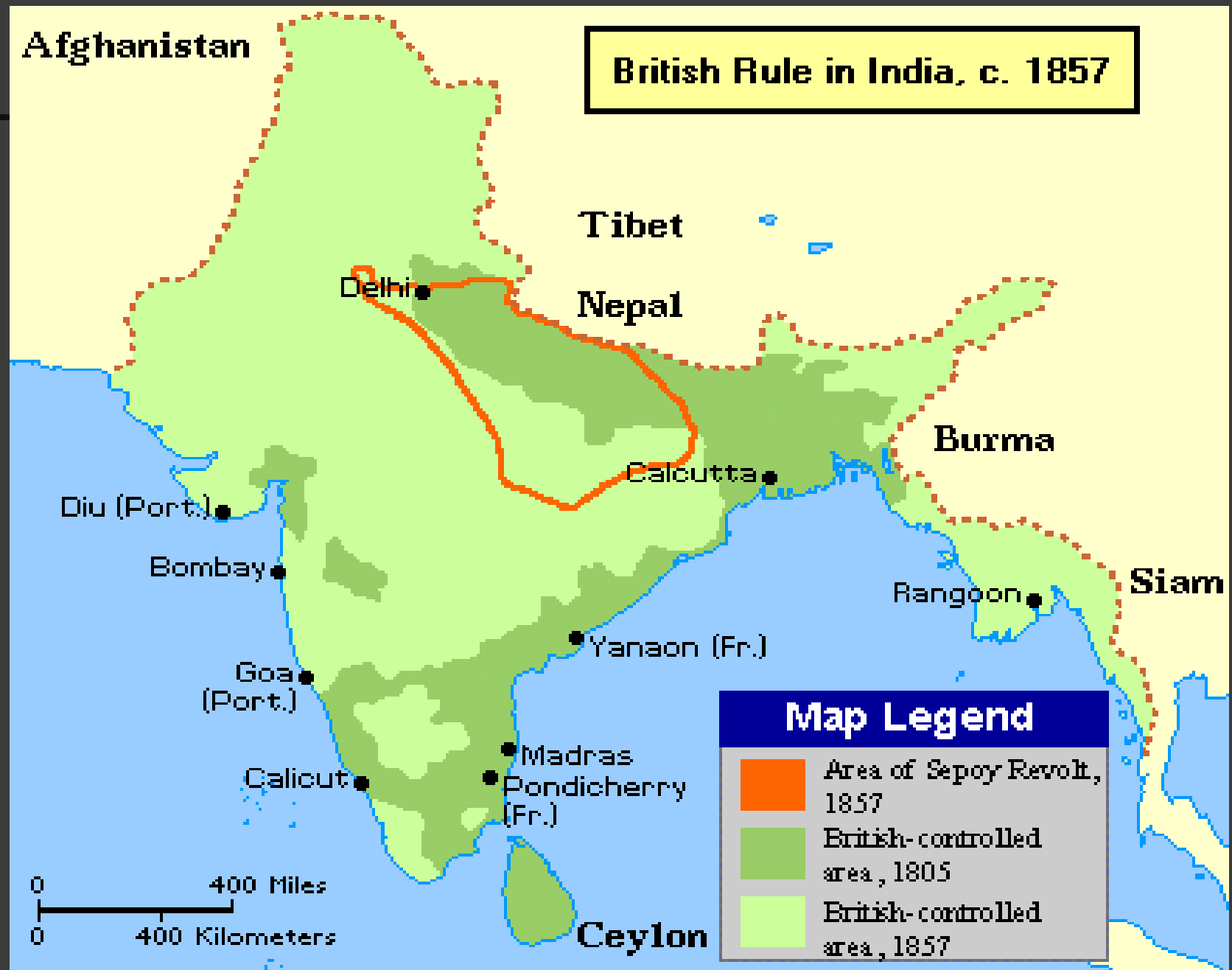
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- Discontent among the needy and particularly among the Indian soldiers led to the Sepoy Rebellion of 1857.
  - The rebellion was suppressed in 1858, but it gave the British a severe shock

# Sepoy Rebellion, 1857-58



- Sepoys: Indian riflemen in British army units
- Enfield cartridges greased with fat (cow & pig) offensive to Hindu & Muslim
- Troops mutinied, killed British officers, and targeted foreigners, killing many & laying siege to British garrisons

# India-Sepoy Rebellion 1857

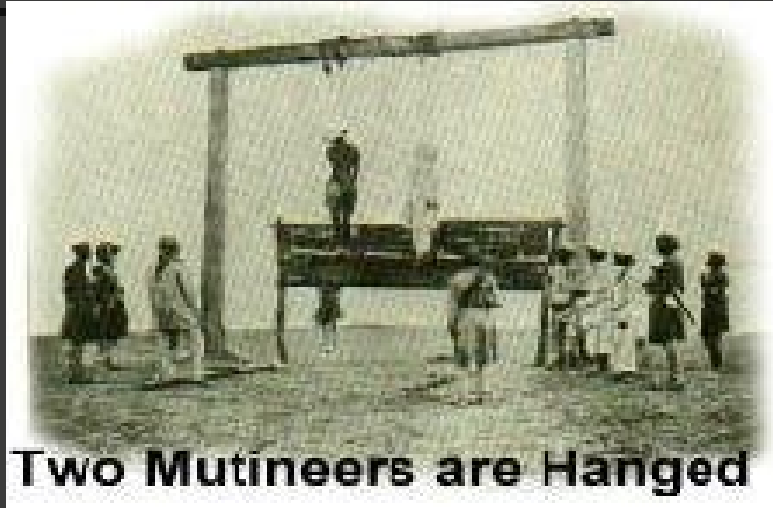


# British Response to the Mutiny



- British forces sent to reclaim India
- Bring 'divine justice' to "black-faced, blood-crazed savages"
- The Times of London: "Execute every mutineer"

# “The Devil’s Wind” (British Retaliation)



- Whole villages hanged for ‘sympathizing’
- Blown to bits to deny entry to paradise
- ‘divine justice’ – “God is on our side”





# India—British Parliament

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- 1858 British parliament took control of India from the East India Company
- Mughal rulers were sent into exile
- 1877—Queen Victoria—Empress of India
- Upper caste learned English, Christianity spread, and RRs and canals were built

# British Government Takes Over



- After the Sepoy Rebellion → British government takes control
- Viceroy or governor set up
- India becomes main source of cotton for English textile mills
  - Finished goods were re-sold in India
  - Destroyed local hand-made clothes



**India was a major  
supplier of raw  
materials**

**Indians must  
produce raw  
materials for  
Britain**

**Indians must  
buy finished  
goods from  
Britain**

**Jewel in the Crown**

**Tea, indigo, coffee,  
cotton, and jute,  
opium**





**England:**

- Turns raw materials into finished goods
- Sends finished goods to Indian market for sale

**India:**

- Sends raw materials to England
- Purchases finished goods from England



# The Good and the Bad

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- Britain improved:

- Hospitals
- Transportation
- Communication
- Road
- Canals
- Education
- Laws & safety
- Improved status for women

- Britain ruined

- Freedom
- Self-determination
- Social system
- Habits/customs
- Increased racism
- Economic exploitation

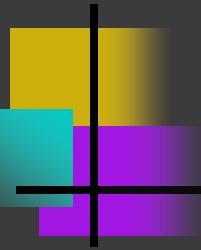


# Political Reform and Industrial Impact

- After the rebellion of 1857–1858 the British eliminated the last traces of Mughal and Company rule and installed a new government, administered from London.
- The new government continued to emphasize both tradition and reform, maintained Indian princes in luxury, and staged elaborate ceremonial pageants known as durbars

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- After the Sepoy rebellion a rise in Indian nationalism begins to take effect.

# India Independence → Where This Is Headed



- 1880's India sets up a national congress to work towards independence
- Britain reluctant to give up prize
- World War I and World War II interrupt India's independence
- Mohandas Gandhi leader in peaceful movement to gain independence in 1848
- India divides into Pakistan (Muslim) and India (Hindu)

