

## Case Studies: the New Imperialism:

### India

Marathas  
Challenge  
Mughals

#### Marathas challenge Mughal rule (5.3.III.A.)

- Enlightenment ideas and nationalism intensified already strained relations between subjects and the imperial powers who ruled over them
- The Mughal Empire, which had ruled South Asia since 1526, was weakened by the rise of the Marathas on the western border of the subcontinent *Western boarder*
  - The Marathas were a collection of farming, landowning and warrior castes united by a single language

Farmers,  
landowners, warriors  
Single language

#### ■ Their strict adherence to Hinduism further set them apart from their Islamic Mughal overlords

- In the previous era, Akbar (1542-1605) inaugurated a period of peace and prosperity in the Mughal Empire by tolerating other faiths *AKbar*
- Shortly after his death, conservative leaders returned the dynasty to its policy of favoring Islam above other religions
- The Hindu majority once again had to pay the hated Islamic tax for non-Muslims, alcohol was forbidden, and Hindu temples were permitted to go into disrepair
  - These measures galvanized the Hindus Marathas against Islamic Mughals
- A leader named Shivaji (1627-1680) forged a powerful Marathan confederacy which launched major revolts against the Mughals
- By the early 1700s the Mughals were in an advanced state of decline

Islamic  
tax  
for non-  
muslim  
schools

Mughals  
decline &  
EIC gained de  
facto control

divided by religion and doctrine, plagued by suspicion and accumulated grievances, India was vulnerable: Afghans conquered part of the Punjab in the north and the East India company gained de facto control over large areas of India

- After defeating the Maratha Empire in 1818, the East India Company briefly became the protectors of the Mughal Empire
  - By 1858 the British had colonized them outright

1858

British  
directly  
controlled  
India

#### British and Sepoy Rebellion (5.2.I.A)

Between 1750 and 1870 nearly all of India came under Britain's direct or indirect rule. Sepoy Rebellion is a turning point because led to India being ruled directly by the British government

led to Britain directly ruling the  
country

During the 250 years after the founding of East India Company in 1600, British interests commandeered the colonies and trade of Dutch, fought off French and Indian challenges, and picked up pieces of the decaying Mughal Empire.

The rebellion in 1857-1858 was a turning point in the history of India.

Indians gained a new centralized government, entered a period of rapid economic growth, and began to develop a new national consciousness.

Political:

Britain eliminated the last traces of Mughal and Company rule.

Proclamation guaranteed all Indians equal protection of the law and freedom to practice their religions and social customs

A powerful and efficient bureaucracy controlled the Indian masses

Indian Civil Service

**Anti-colonial movements: Raj, British education, formation of INC and Muslim League.**

**(5.3.III.D.)**

**There was a development of nationalism that began to occur.**

**Many Indian intellectuals turned to Western secular values and nationalism as a way to reclaim India for its people.**

**Western education and missionaries played an important role.**

**Some educated and ambitious members of the new nationalists convened the first Indian National Congress in 1885.**

**They sought a larger role for Indians in the civil service and reduction in military expenditures**

**Africa**

**Congress of Berlin and Great Scramble: British, Dutch, French, German Empires (5.2.I.B.)**

**Belgium in Congo (5.2.I.C.)**

**Settler colonies, French in Algeria, British in South Africa (5.2.I.D)**

**Contraction of Ottoman Empire, their loss of Egypt (5.2.II.C.)**

**Anti-colonial movements: Millenarian anti-colonial revolt, Xhosa Cattle killing movement (5.3.III.E.)**

- One morning in 1856, a 15 year old Xhosa girl named Nongqawuse went with another girl to scare birds from her uncles crops in the fields by the sea at the Gxarha river mouth in present day Wild Coast area of South Africa
- when she returned she said she had seen a man, who had told her that the whole community would rise from the dead; that all cattle now living must be slaughtered.
- Her uncle, a diviner believed it to be a message from his dead brother
- as a result between April 1856 and June 1856, Xhosa people of the Eastern Cape slaughtered almost all their cattle and killed their crops
- This apocalyptic event, rather than being some kind of mass suicide described by early colonial historians was actually the earliest example of a mass passive resistance movement in South Africa