|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16th Century  Mughals establish power in India | 16th and 17th century  British trade with India grows | 17th and 18th centuries  Mughal Empire in chaos | 18th and 19th centuries  East India Company establishes power across India | 1857  Rebellion against East India Company rule in India | 1858  British government takes direct control in India | 1947  Independence and Partition into India and Pakistan | |
|  | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |

Key people, ideas and developments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | How did the British Empire change over time? | 16th century: Britain started establishing colonies. 17th century: Britain had a large empire with colonies in the Americas and Africa. 18th century: after a revolution, the USA became independent from the British Empire. 19th century: different colonies, mostly in Asia and Africa were added to the British Empire. 20th century: decolonisation |
| 2 | ‘Civilisation’ | The idea of civilisation – a complex society with a political and social structure – was used as a justification for empire, as people saw Britain as ‘improving’ colonies by introducing aspects of British society and ways of life |
| 3 | Decolonisation | Colonies gained independence and became independent countries in the second half of the twentieth century |
| 4 | What was the Mughal Empire? | An empire that originated in Persia, which came to rule most of India in the 16th and 17th centuries. Leaders such as Akbar were tolerant of the local population. |
| 5 | Why did the Mughals start to lose power? | Later Mughal leaders such as Aurangzeb were less tolerant of non-Muslims. The empire was also run less well. Rebellions started, and by the late 1600s many parts of India were at war. |
| 6 | What was the East India Company? (EIC) | As trade become more important, trading companies were set up in Britain to trade with various parts of the world. The East India Company was set up to establish trade between India and Britain. However, it later came to rule India. |
| 7 | How did the EIC take control? | They took advantage of the difficulties in the Mughal Empire, supporting local leaders who wanted to break away using conquest. By the mid-1800s, they controlled most of India. |
| 8 | Why were Indians discontented? | The East India Company was repressive. They banned certain cultural practices, and there was a general fear that they might force Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs to convert to Christianity. They did not run India well, for example there was a famine in 1770 in Bengal. |
| 9 | Why did gun cartridges cause people to rebel? | There was a rumour that there was pig and cow fat in the cartridges, which had to be bitten to use. This went against Muslim and Hindu religious teachings. A rebellion started in Meerut, near Delhi, and spread. |
| 10 | What did the rebels do? | Some refused to obey orders. Some helped imprisoned rebels escape from prison. Some attacked British bases. The rebellion spread around northern and central India. Some rebels massacred British soldiers and their families. |
| 11 | What does Lakshmibai of Jhansi show? | Lakshmibai was the leader of Jhansi, a kingdom in northern India. After originally supporting the British, she fought against British troops with other rebel leaders until she was killed. She has become a symbol of resistance to British rule in India. |
| 12 | What happened to end the rebellion? | The East India Company regained control and harshly punished those involved, including executing some by firing them out of canons. In 1858, the British government took direct control of India, which they held until independence and partition in 1947. |
| 13 | How did British government interpret the rebellion? | The Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, called it the ‘sepoy mutiny’ as a way of suggesting that it was a small-scale event that only involved people from the army not following orders, rather than large-scale discontent among soldiers and civilians. This terminology was what it was commonly called in Britain for a long time. It is criticised because it makes it seem that British rule of India was justified. |
| 14 | How did Vinayak Damondar Savkar describe it? | He called it the Indian War of Independence. The rebels persuaded a descendant of the Mughals to become a new emperor, many people who joined the rebellion wanted to be free from British rule, such as Lakshmibai. However, some have criticised this terminology, because many Indians supported the British against the rebels, and people like Lakshmibai wanted impendence for their own kingdoms rather than for a united India. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Definition | In a sentence |
| **independence** | When a country runs itself. | India and Pakistan gained independence in 1947. |
| **nationalist** | An ideology (set of political ideas) which focuses on the nation or country. It can mean **either** thinking your country is the greatest **or** wanting your country to be independent. | Gandhi led a nationalist movement in India. |
| **colony** | Territory (a country or area of land) that is ruled as part of an empire. | India was a colony in the British Empire. |
| **officer** | Someone in the army who gives orders to ordinary soldiers. There are several ranks of officer, some with more power (e.g. general) and some with less power (e.g. lieutenant, pronounced leff-tenant). | In the army of the East India Company, most ordinary soldiers were Indian but most officers were British. |
| **partition** | Divide into parts. | The Partition of India in 1947 split it into two separate countries, India and Pakistan. |
| **rebel** | verb to fight against the people who have power (pronounced reb-ELL)  noun a person who fights against the people who have power (pronounced REB-ull) | Verb: Gandhi encouraged people to rebel against British rule in India through nonviolent methods.  Noun: Lakshmibai was one of the rebels who resisted the East India Company. |
| **mutiny** | When people in the military stop following the orders of their officers. | Some people refer to the events of 1847 as the Indian Mutiny. |
| **repression** | Using or threatening violence to maintain political control. | The East India Company used repressive measures to keep control in India. |