

## **Class Notes**

### **East India Company**

- **Trading rights since 1600's**
- **Governed India for Britain**
- **Main goal = make money**
- **By 1800, converted Indians to Christianity, introduced western education and legal procedures, attempted social reform**

### **Causes of Discontent**

- **Disregarded Indian culture**
  - **Passed law allowing Hindu widows to remarry**
  - **Required Sepoys, Indian soldiers, to serve anywhere**
    - **Overseas travel was an offense to Hindus**
  - **Issued rifles to Sepoys, tips of cartridges needed bit off**
  - **Greased w/ animal fat**
    - **Pig = forbidden to Muslims**
    - **Cow = sacred to Hindus**

### **Sepoy Rebellion (1857)**

- **Sepoys (Indian soldiers) brutally massacred British men, women and children across northern and central India**
- **British crushed revolt**
- **Parliament ended rule of the British East India Company, India came under British rule (1858)**
  - **Direct Rule (Viceroy)**

### **British Colonial Rule**

- **Britain saw India as a market and source of raw materials**
- **Flooded India w/ cheap, machine-made textiles, ruining the hand-weaving industry in India**
- **Massive deforestation (cutting down trees)**
- **Pushed farmers to grow cash crops (cotton, jute, opium)**
- **Medical Improvements & new farming methods led to rapid population growth; causing famine**
- **Expected Indians to copy their manners, customs, and beliefs**
  - **Did not expect to adopt any Indian traditions or beliefs themselves**

### **Benefits to Colonial Rule**

- **Revised legal system to promote justice regardless of class/caste**
- **Built roads and large railroad network**
- **Telegraph**
- **Postal system**
- **Western Education for Upper classes**