

## F. The British Conquest of South Asia (c.1756-1858)

1. The destiny of India was permanently changed by the arrival of the British, who engaged in a colonial war with France called the *Seven Years War* from **1756 to 1763** to take over North America and India at the same time.
2. There are many separate conflicts starting with the *Seven Years War* up until 1858. The only thing that still matters is the overall trend, so we will use the *entire period* of the **British Conquest of South Asia (1756-1858)** as our anchor fact.
3. In 1858, by the **Government of India Act**, Great Britain became the imperial ruler of India. Queen Victoria, the famous English queen, became Empress of India.

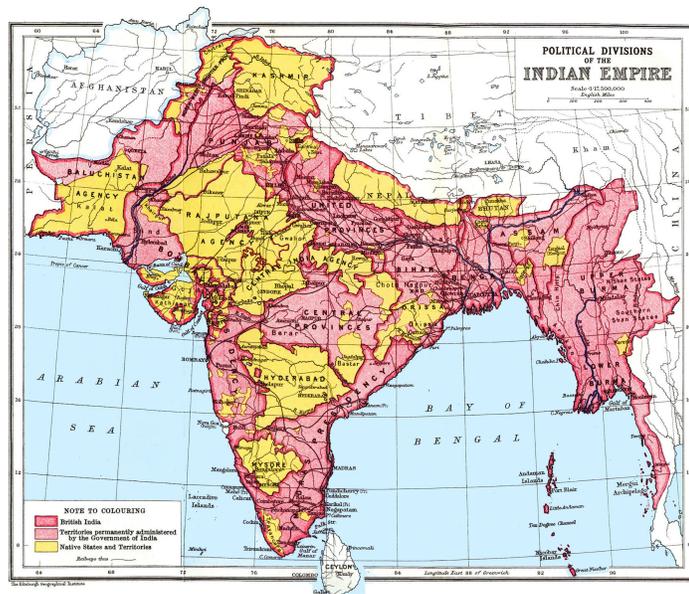
## G. The Tutelary Imperialism of the British “Raj”

1. Britain took over a politically un-integrated South Asia that was still at a very low level of technological development.
2. Although the British certainly wanted to take advantage of South Asia’s resources, they also proposed to do something more. They proposed to help the people they had conquered, to serve their needs, and promote progress in their society.
3. This kind of imperialism can be called “*tutelary imperialism.*” (The word “tutelary” means “educational.” It shares the same root as the word “tutor”).
4. Among the improvements made by the British in India was a vast railway network, and a system of universities (and associated schools). Wealthy Indian families could also send their children to universities in England, to receive professional training.
5. The outcome of Britain’s tutelary efforts were that Indian society adapted itself to British rule, and grew into a culture that could manage its own affairs better than ever.



South Asia experienced political integration for the first time under the British Raj, which stretched from Pakistan to Burma (Myanmar today).

(The regions in yellow were princely states that had some autonomy, but were ultimately controlled by Britain).



## H. The World Wars and the Push for “Swaraj”

1. When **World War I (1914-19)** arrived in Europe, India became entangled despite being completely outside Europe, because it was a part of the British Empire.
2. Being forced to participate in the war created a greater desire for “swaraj” (*self* rule) in South Asia.
3. The champion of this movement was Mohandas Gandhi, a lawyer trained in England.
4. As the war came to a close in 1919, a protest in the city of Amritsar resulted in the massacre of protesters by British troops.
5. Gandhi became an advocate of non-violent resistance as a way to avoid bloodshed of this sort. He referred to this type of protest as “satyagraha,” which literally means “truth-force,” but it often figuratively translated as “non-violent resistance.”
6. The first satyagraha was a general strike after the Amritsar Massacre. It was at this point that Gandhi began to dress differently, in very humble garb, as a way to symbolize a refusal to participate in the British imperial system of trade.



Mohandas Gandhi, dressed in very simple Indian garb, invented a simple spinning wheel to make thread, which became a symbol of Indian independence.

The point of the humble dress, and the practice of making clothes in a traditional way, was to peacefully resist the British imperial system of trade.

8. Another famous satyagraha was the “Salt March” or “Salt Satyagraha” of 1930. Because Indians had to buy salt from stores and pay taxes to Britain, Gandhi marched 240 miles to pick up a handful of sea salt, in a symbolic protest.
9. The British had no direct answer to satyagraha, but it also did not produce any quick or decisive outcomes.
10. When **World War II (1939-45)** also required India’s participation, the desire for “swaraj” mounted.
11. Gandhi’s satyagraha against the war was known as the “Quit India” movement. When he gave a speech about it, he and tens of thousands of his supporters were immediately imprisoned. He was kept in prison for two years.
12. The efforts of Gandhi and others at satyagraha did not directly result in independence, but Britain was exhausted by fighting for its national survival against Germany and ultimately decided that it was not practical or proper to retain control of India.