India -- and Imperialism

How did India resist and succumb to imperialist domination?

0. Midterm: blue/green books; study guide online
1. India from Mughals to British rule
2. Ideology: “White Man’s Burden”
3. Imperialism in Africa

Music: Ashwariya Rai--Bollywood star (Buty Aur Babi)
(youtube: 5:23 percussion; 2:15 slow; 5:27 chup chup ke)

India Timeline

• 1498: Vasco da Gama – Calicut
  – Textbook p. 539: case study founding of Goa
  – Massacre of Muslims, cooption of Hindus, internecine fighting
• Mughal Empire: 1526 - 1857
  – 1556 Akbar the Great – 1707 Aurangzeb’s death
• 1600, 1602 British & Dutch East India Co.s
  – Use of calico cloth (not gold) to leverage spices
  – Competition among British, Dutch, Port., French: religion and commercial “styles”
• 1707-1739 (sack of Delhi): Mughal decline

India Timeline II

• 1700s: Muslims vs. Hindus vs. Sikhs
  – Sikhism: synthesis M & H, 10 Sikh gurus 1499-1708, in Punjab region
  – Persistence of Hindu culture w/ caste system
• British & French rivalry (Madras vs. Pondicherry)
  – 1757 “Black Hole of Calcutta”: 146->23 Battle of Plassey: Robert Clive vs. Siraja Dowlah: Hindu bankers, Muslim nobles: 2,800 vs. 50,000
• 1820s: British “Westernization”
  – Monetization of taxes (ended rural stability)
  – By 1857: 200,000 sepoys, 10,000 British off.+sold.
• Textiles & tariffs

1770-1860: British control expands

1767 -> 1805

1800: China as the dominant regional power
1805 -> 1858

1757: Clive meets Indian Leaders
Mir Jafir, who seized power from anti-Brit. Siraja Dowlah

British and Sikh leaders meeting
Sikh kingdom in Punjab fell, 1845-1846

Sikh sepoys (also Marattas, Gurkhas from Nepal)

British vs. Sepoys, 1857

British Mem-Sahib
Indian Railroad Station, 1866
Social classes mix; largest network in Asia

Clicker Q1: Chat experience
How much experience do you have using chatrooms?
A. A lot—I use them all the time [6%]
B. Some, I'm comfortable using them [34%]
C. Only a little [44%]
D. What's a chat room? [16%]

Midterm chat tonight, 8-9pm
Gauchospace
(activity for this week; upper left also)

Clicker Q2: Film next week
“Gandhi” (1982, 3 hours, 8 Oscars)
Who will attend the extra credit screening?
A. NEXT week, Tue, 12-3 OR
B. NEXT week, Wed. 1-4
C. Cannot make either time
D. Don't want or plan to see it

[Even though Tue has a few more takers, we'll screen it on Wed., since it was Tuesday last time. So:
Wed. 11/4, 1pm]

Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi (1869-1948)

Ideology & Imperialism
• "Mission civilisatrice" (civilizing mission): justification for colonies in 1860s France
• US: Manifest destiny (westward expansion)
• 1835, Th. Babington Macaulay (Brit. hist. & leg.):
  "A single shelf of a good English library is worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia"
• Scientific racism
  Charles White, 1728-1813
Source Interpretation

- Rudyard Kipling's poem "White Man's Burden"
  – Feb. 1899: US Senate just ratified annexation of Puerto Rico, Guam, Cuba, and the Philippines
  – Published in McClure’s magazine
- Kipling (1865-1936)
  – born in India
  – ages 6-17 school in England
  – 1882 newspaper editor in India (father: museum)
  – 1889 round the world to England; 1892 marriage
  – bankruptcy, Vermont with wife, Jungle Books
  – 1897 move to Britain; 1898 Africa: Cecil Rhodes

Kipling: The White Man's Burden
McClure’s Magazine, Feb. 1899

Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go, bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait, in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child.

Take up the White Man's burden--
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain,
To seek another's profit
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden--
The savage wars of peace--
Fill full the mouth of Famine,
And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
(The end for others sought)
Watch sloth and heathen folly
Bring all your hope to nought.

Take up the White Man's burden--
No iron rule of kings,
But toil of serf and sweeper--
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go, make them with your living
And mark them with your dead.
Clicker Q3: Poem’s meaning

Does this ode support or criticize the “civilizing mission”?
A. Supports it [31%]
B. Criticizes it [69%]

How did people at the time understand it?
[I’d tend to agree that he did not mean this seriously, but many of his contemporaries thought he did—see the following slides.]

White Man’s Burden cartoons

Kipling’s idea: selflessness
Kipling’s critics: why?

Cartoons II

How to decide:
Ask: Who benefits? ("follow the money")

Imperialism in Africa

- Main powers in late 19th century: Britain, France, Germany
  - various reasons
  - varying degrees of success
  - Mutual competition
    - Suez Canal (1859-1869)
    - 1874-77: Henry M. Stanley’s explorations
      - 1879-1884 as Leopold II (Belgium)’s envoy “Congo Free State”
    - 1884: Bismarck/Berlin, the “honest broker”
      - Joseph Conrad: “the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs”
1850-1880: “Scramble for Africa”

Ivory Tusks, Zanzibar
New export products after the end of the slave trade

Diamond Mine in South Africa

Maxim Gun
- 1884
- 600 rounds/minute (30x faster than breach/bolt)
- 1894: 50 soldiers fought off 5,000 warriors

Successful African Resistance
- Ethiopians rout Italians at Adowa, 1896