

## GT27 India Under British Rule, 1805–1886

Use this transparency to stimulate discussion about the British colonization of India.

### BACKGROUND

The quest for commercial profit drove the English to India. By the middle of the 17th century, the British had established 27 coastal trading posts there. Among these establishments were the three main centers of British economic and political activity in India—Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta.

The British posts were actually walled forts. They consisted of homes, gardens, and offices of the British East India Company. They also contained warehouses to store the goods to be shipped to England. However, political conditions in India eventually changed the purpose of these places. In the early 18th century, India was beset by political instability and violence. As a result, these forts evolved into defensive military installations. Local people flocked to the forts for protection, and the British extended their control to the surrounding regions.

In 1799 and 1803, the third governor general of India greatly expanded British influence by defeating two Indian princes in two different battles. By the beginning of the 19th century, British authority in India rested on three principles: the support of local Indian princes who supported Britain, a large army of Indian soldiers to defend British authority, and an efficient civil service.

### Questions and Activities

1. What do the four cities on the map have in common? Explain. (Possible answer: They are all located on the coast because they were among the first British trading centers.)
2. Where is most of the territory under British rule in 1805? (Most of the land is located along the eastern and southern coast of the subcontinent.)
3. By what year did the British directly control parts of central and northern India? (1856)
4. How is the territory added by 1886 different from the land added by 1805 and 1856? (Possible answers: One possibility is that it does not have access to water. Another is that it is one massive clump, not fragmented. Another is that it connects separated land taken in 1856.)
5. What was the one exception to total British control of India by 1886? (Portugal controlled a tiny sector of land on India's west coast.)

## GT28 Japanese Imperialism, 1875–1910

Use this transparency to discuss Japanese imperialism.

### BACKGROUND

In 1867, a group of samurai, the warrior nobility of Japan, ended the military rule of Japan. They restored the political power of the emperor. This was called the Meiji Restoration, a turning point in Japanese history. Convinced of the value of Western military and industrial ideas, new Emperor Mutsuhito moved to reform Japan along Western lines. He was convinced that “Japan must be reborn with America its mother and France its father.”

In 1871, these new Japanese leaders formed a unified state, declared social equality, allowed freedom of movement, created a competitive economy, and built railroads and factories. Furthermore, the Japanese created a powerful modern army and navy organized similarly to those in France and Germany. By 1890, the Japanese had followed the German Empire in rejecting democracy and creating an authoritarian style government in which an elected legislature had limited power.

Japan began following European imperialist habits. By 1890, it was the strongest military power in Asia. In 1895, the Japanese defeated the Chinese in a war over Korea. The Japanese took the island of Formosa (modern Taiwan) and greatly increased their influence in Manchuria. This brought them into contact with the Russians. The Russo-Japanese War of 1905 ended in humiliation for the Russians. In 1910, Japan annexed Korea. The Japanese had now proven that a modern Asian country could defeat a Western power.

### Questions and Activities

1. Russia controlled Port Arthur from 1898–1905. Why do you think this was a great loss? (Possible answer: Vladivostok is surrounded by the Japanese archipelago, and Port Arthur gave the Russians easier access to the Pacific Ocean.)
2. What geographic advantage did Japan gain with the annexation of Korea? (Possible answer: Control of Korea gave the Japanese complete control over the Sea of Japan, access to Manchuria, and a buffer against Russia.)
3. How did the battle sites in the Russo-Japanese War compare with those in the Sino-Japanese War? (Possible answer: Most of the battles of the Russo-Japanese War were fought at sea, while the Sino-Japanese War was fought on land.)