



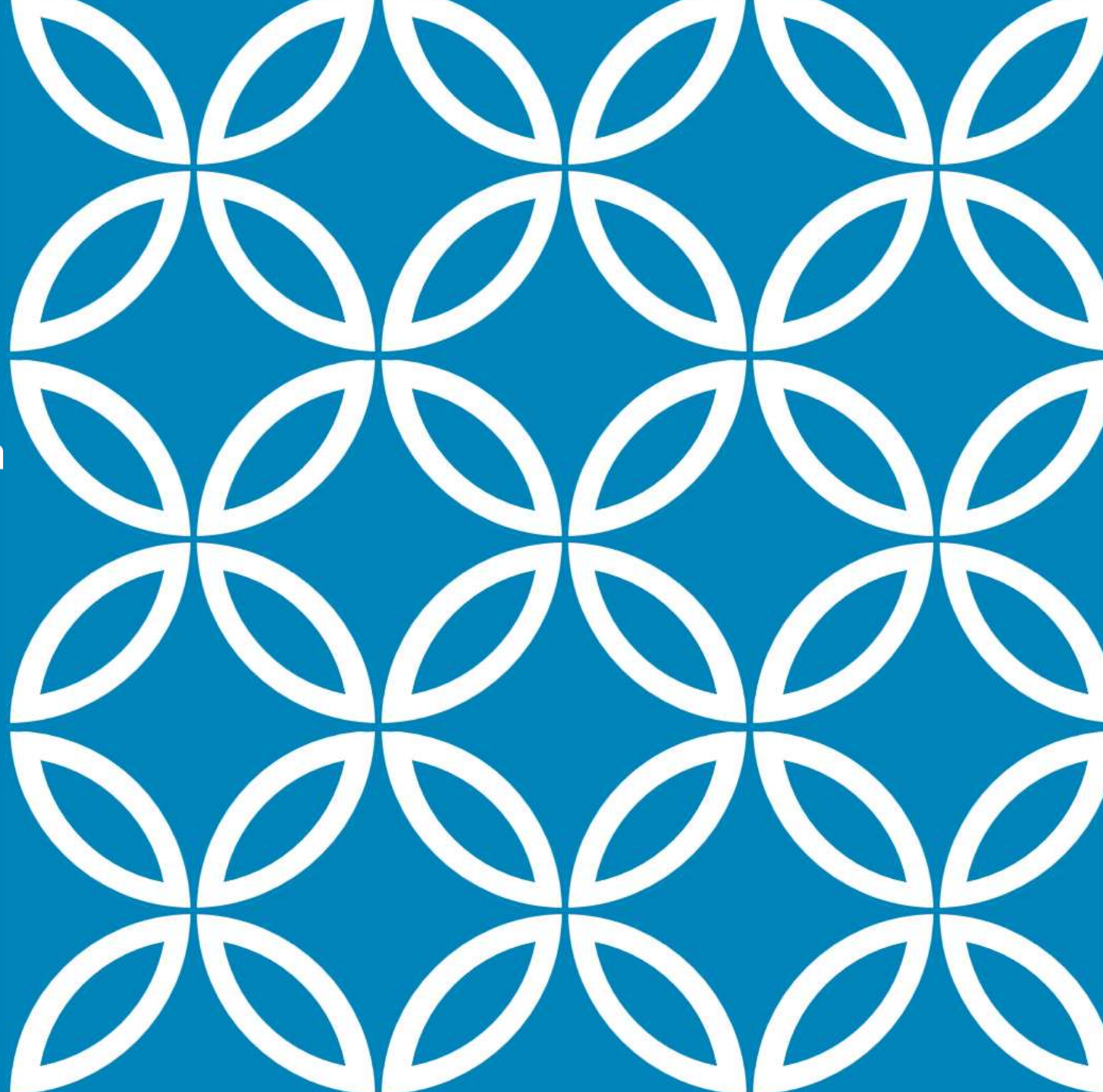
THE IMPACT OF EMPIRE 1815-1914

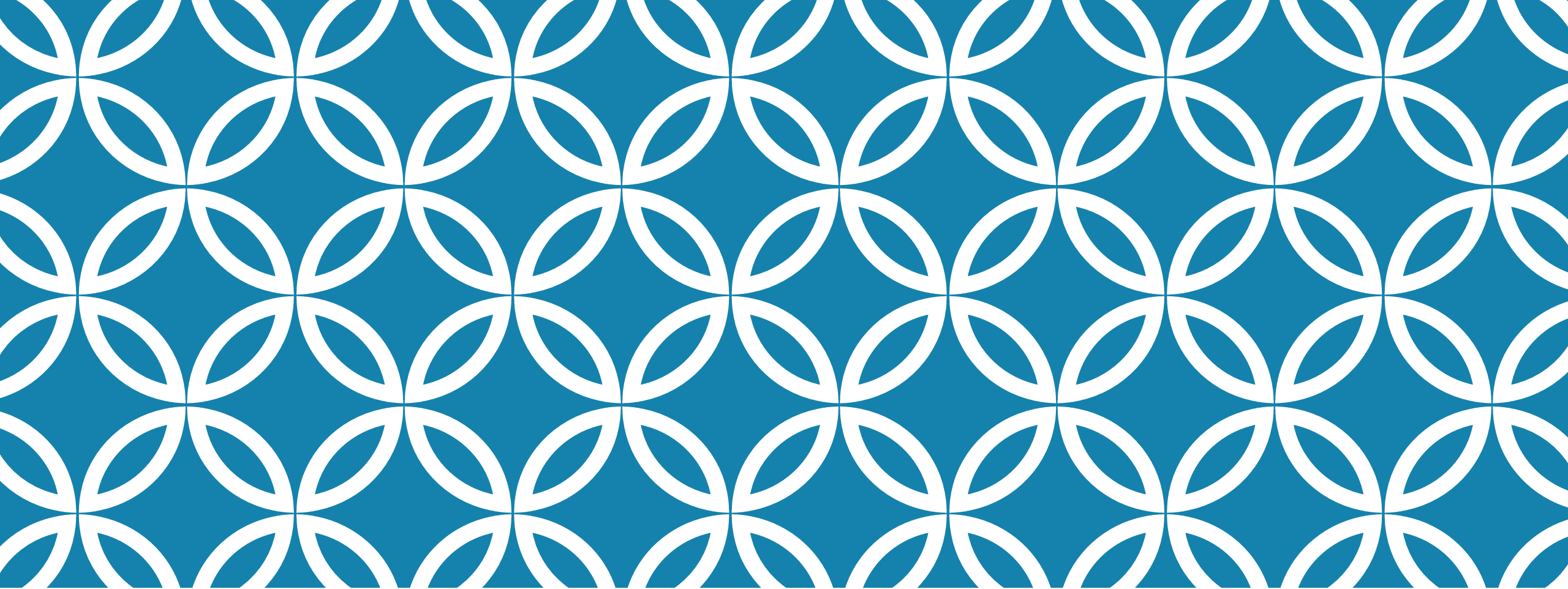
4. INDIA



BRITAIN IN INDIA

1. From Company to Crown
2. The Indian Mutiny
3. Beer, gin and opium
4. Empress and Raj





FROM COMPANY TO CROWN



‘Without India and the naval power that cemented it, Great Britain was but a medium –sized country. With it, she was great among the greatest, boasting a worldwide Pax Britannica. Without India, the subordinate empire would be scarcely more than a string of colonial beads.’

– H.V. Hodson, Advisor to the Viceroy of India



THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

Joint-Stock Company

Charter issued from Queen Elizabeth I in 1600

Interested in spice trade

Launched to compete with European rivals



The East Indiamen *St Vincent* (1807)

INDIA — THE BACKGROUND

East India Company founded 1600

1613 established port of Surat on west coast, Madras and Calcutta.

1661 Bombay gained as part of marriage dowry of Catherine of Braganza

Lucrative commercial goods: silk, cotton, salt-petre, peppers, tea, textiles



L'Inghilterra a Surat.
1. La Chiesa. 2. La Casa. 3. i Magazzini. 4. La Carrozza.





UNWILLING CONTROL?

- 1756 Calcutta attacked by Nawab of Bengal and Robert Clive sent to recover it
– victory at Plassey in 1757
- 1764 defeat of combined Indian army at Buxar, and treaty of Allahabad the following year, gave GB near sovereignty over Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Governor of province, with tax-raising powers.

Expansion took place vs wishes of company and parliament

- 1767 secretary of the Company 'we do not want conquest and power; it is commercial interest only we look for'
- 1782 Parliament passed resolution against 'schemes of conquest' there



GROWTH OF INDIAN TRADE

1697 £263,000 of imports

1712 £457,000

1744 £743,000

1748 £1,098,000

1760 £1,786,000

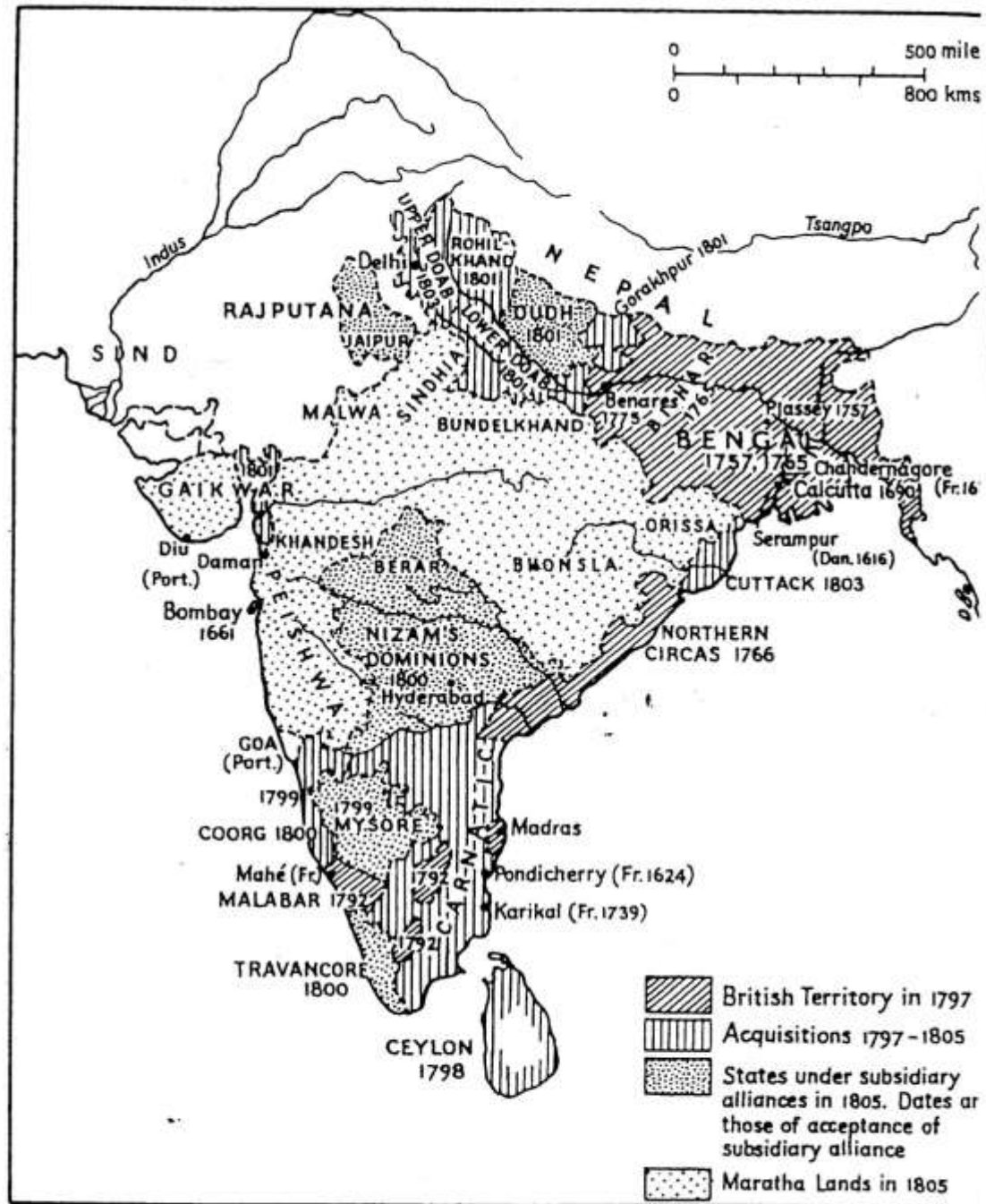
1763 £1,059,000

1776-80 £1,303,000

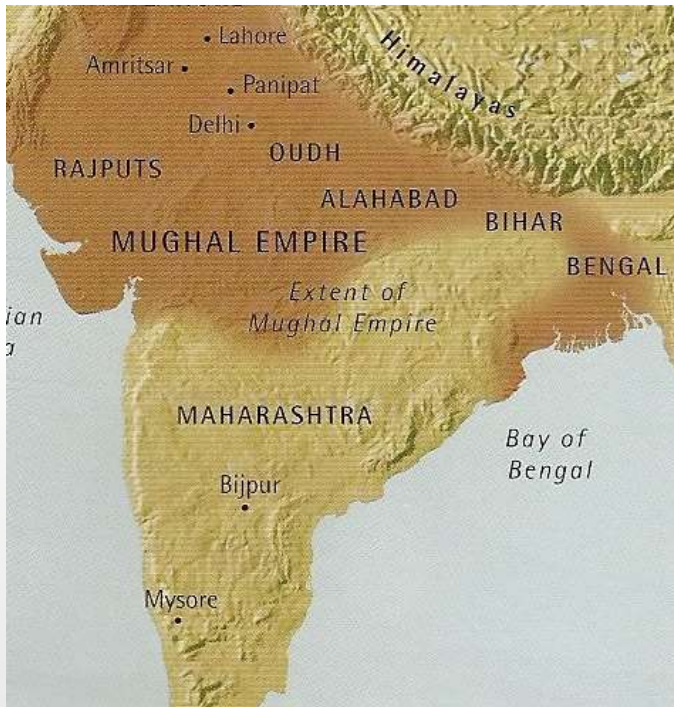
1781-5 £2,030,000

1791-5 £4,024,000

1795-1800 £4,834,000



Map 6. The Growth of British Power in India



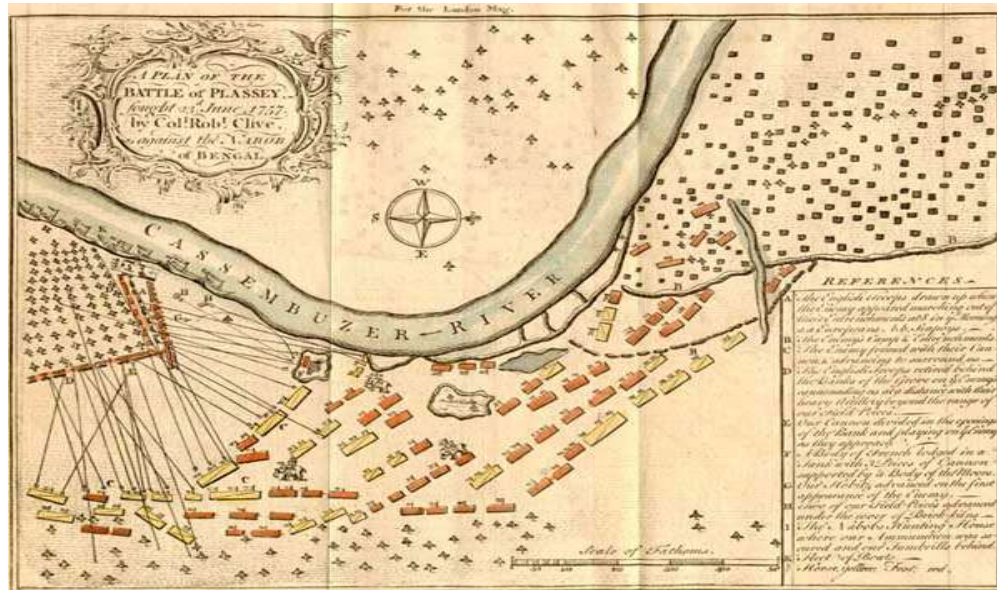
SURAJAH DOWLAI.
Miniature in India Museum.



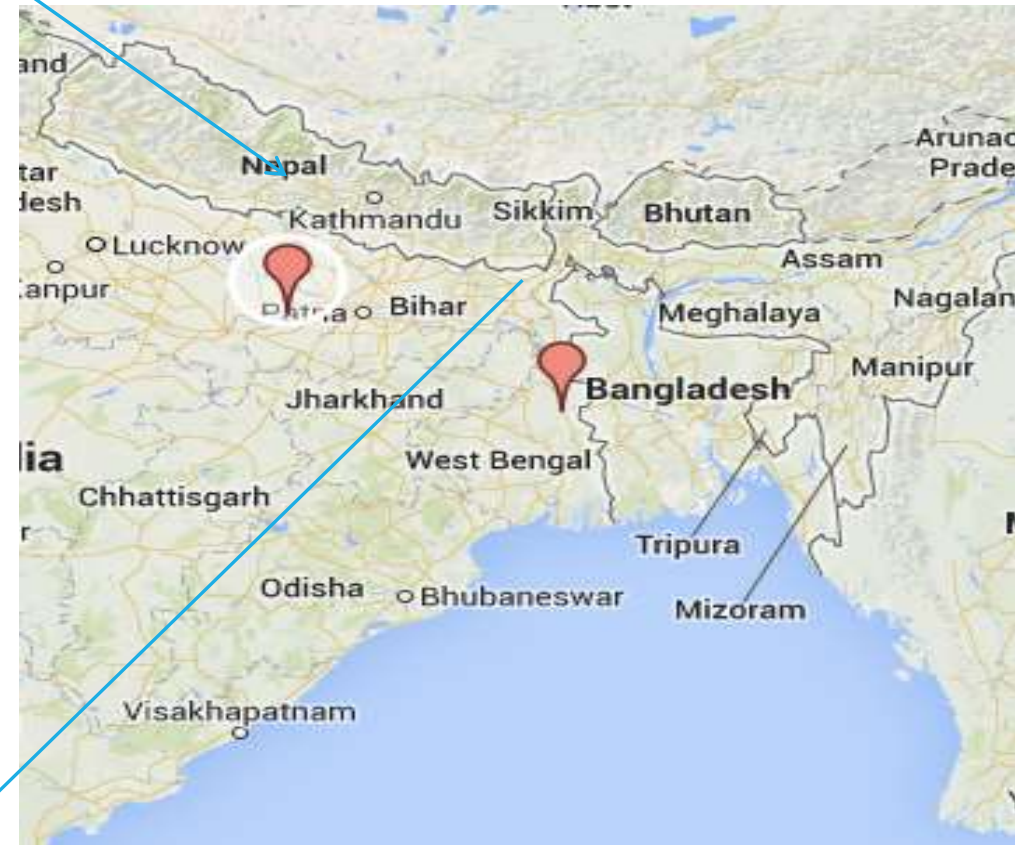
Bengal, 1757; Last Mughal emperor Aurangzeb dies in 1707

PLAN OF THE 'BATTLE' OF PLASSEY, 1757

Battle of Buxar



Battle of Plassey







Clive meeting Mir Jafar at
the battle of Plassey

LATE 18THC / EARLY 19THC: BRITISH POWER EXPANDS

French presence, wars with France and disintegrating Mughal empire allowed and encouraged British expansion in India

By 1793 the French settlements in India had been seized

But France aided Tipu Sultan of Mysore – Britain invaded 1799 and annexed part of Mysore [Tipu had defeated British forces in 1779]

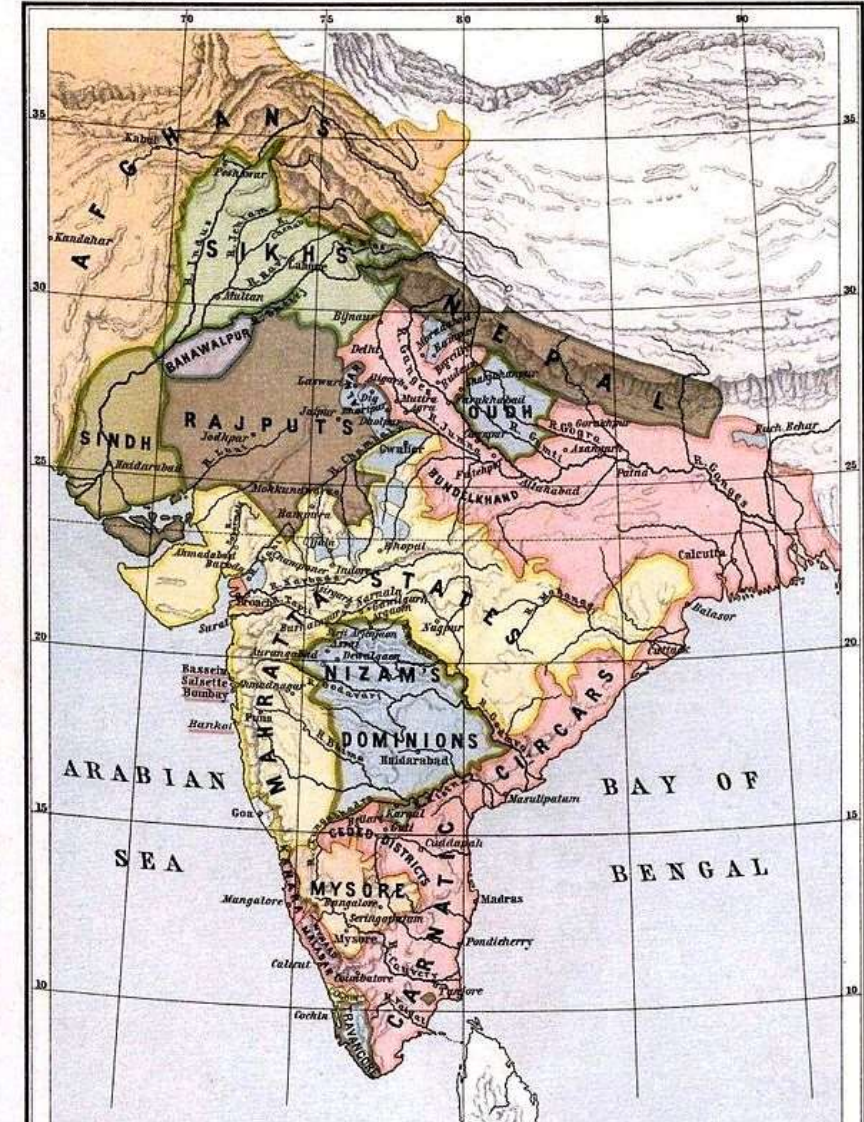
North of Mysore lay the pro-French Nizam of Deccan – he was forced to expel French troops

The Nawab of the Carnatic had been in negotiation with Tipu, so Carnatic also seized.





INDIA in 1805.



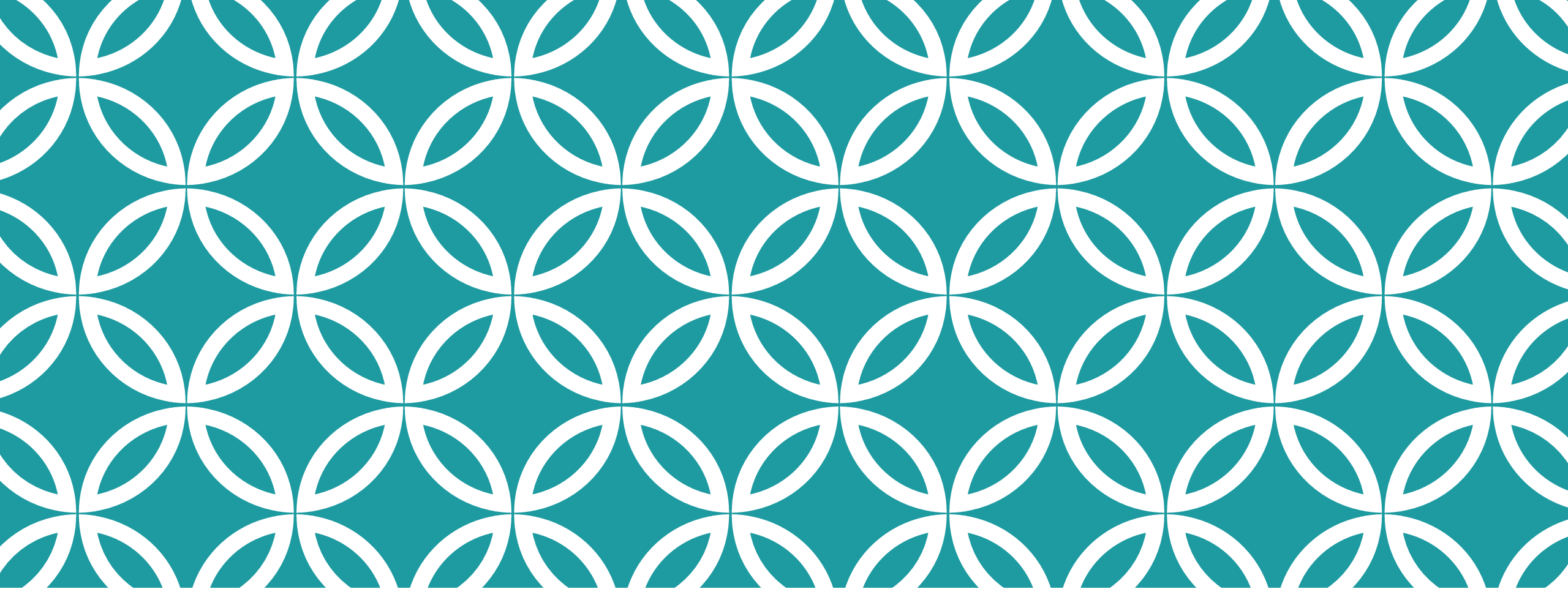
EXPANSION OF BRITISH CONTROL

Fear of French influence with the Maratha confederacy led to further intervention 1800-2 – British victory under Arthur Wellesley, future duke of Wellington. British forces reached Delhi.

1815 France regained settlements but under strict conditions – no fortifications or troops and recognition of East India Company control.

Marquis of Wellesley: 'No greater blessing can be conferred on the native inhabitants of India than the extension of British authority, influence and power'

By 1813 Britain ruled 50-60m people



CONTROLLING INDIA



NABOBS



Robert Clive's Personal Balance Sheet:

- 900 sq miles of territory south of Calcutta
- Elected himself governor of this land
- Gave himself a reward of £234,000
- Gave himself an annual salary of £30,000 for his services

Equivalent in 2018 (against average labour earnings): £485,900,000

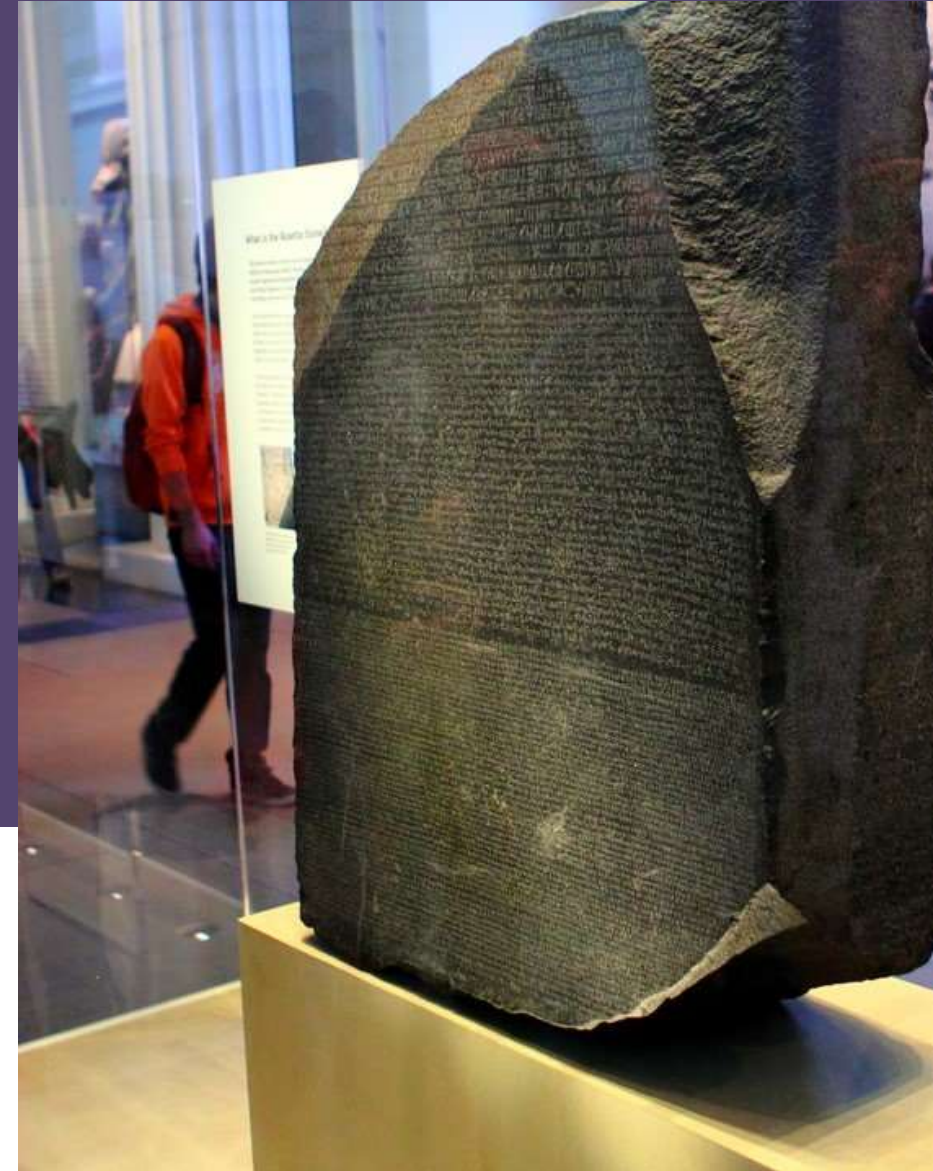
Also suggested direct rule...

THE UNHAPPY CONTRAST



Sub. 2-1-20 by E. Bunker Co. & Co. Secretary Board

Capt^l Lions towards the
serving the Crown.



PROTECTING THE APPROACH TO INDIA

Malta – important staging post

Egypt – Napoleon invaded 1798 and captured Cairo; Nelson, battle of the Nile trapped Napoleon there until escape in 1799.

Mauritius – captured 1810

Cape of Good Hope

Ceylon – capture of Trincomalee in 1795. 1818 war led to death of 10% of population and repression of Buddhist culture





Major General Sir David
Ochterlony, 'The Conqueror
of Nepal' (c. 1818)



David Ochterlony
in Indian dress
smoking a hookah
and watching a
dance in his house
in Delhi (1820)



*The Palmer Family, by
Johann Zoffany (1785)*

HOW TO RULE INDIA?

1784 Sir William Jones founded Asiatic Society. Belief that India was better governed the more it was understood. Warren Hastings (governor 1772-85): 'the people of this country do not require our aid to furnish them with a rule for their conduct or a standard for their property'. But Hastings also accused of accepting bribes (part of local custom?)

1793 Permanent Settlement imposed GB law.

Rising missionary pressure. William Wilberforce and evangelism: Hindu divinities were 'absolute monsters of lust, injustice, wickedness and cruelty'.

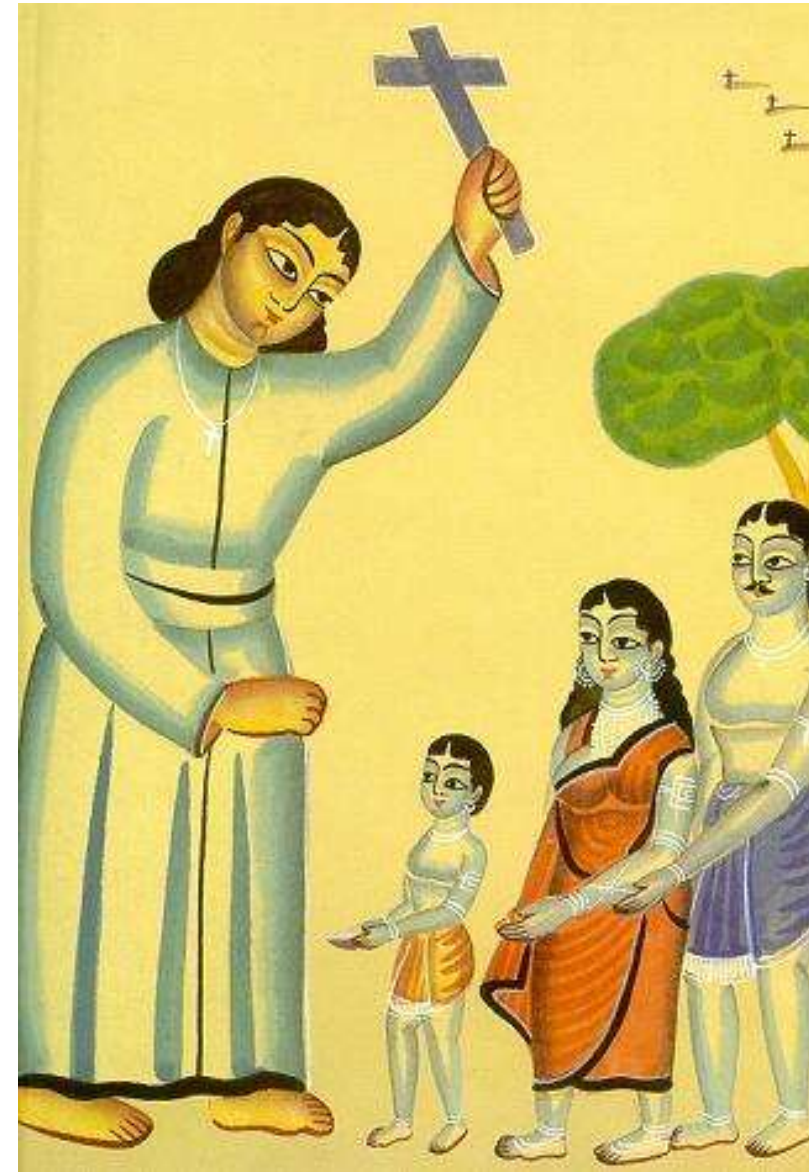
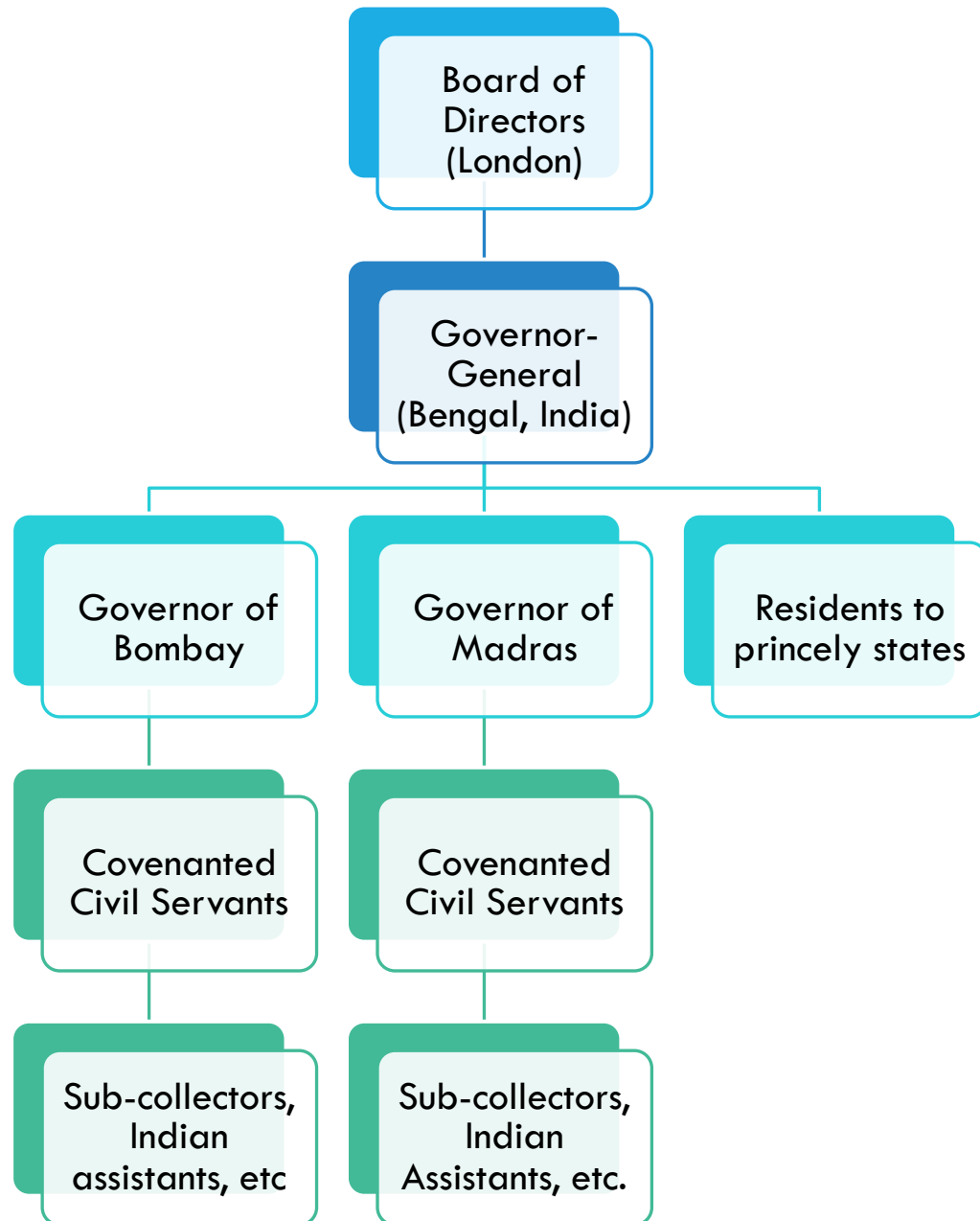
Charles Grant thought evangelism would boost trade: he hoped to diffuse 'the lights and benign influence of the truth, the blessings of a well-regulated society, the improvements and comforts of active industry'.

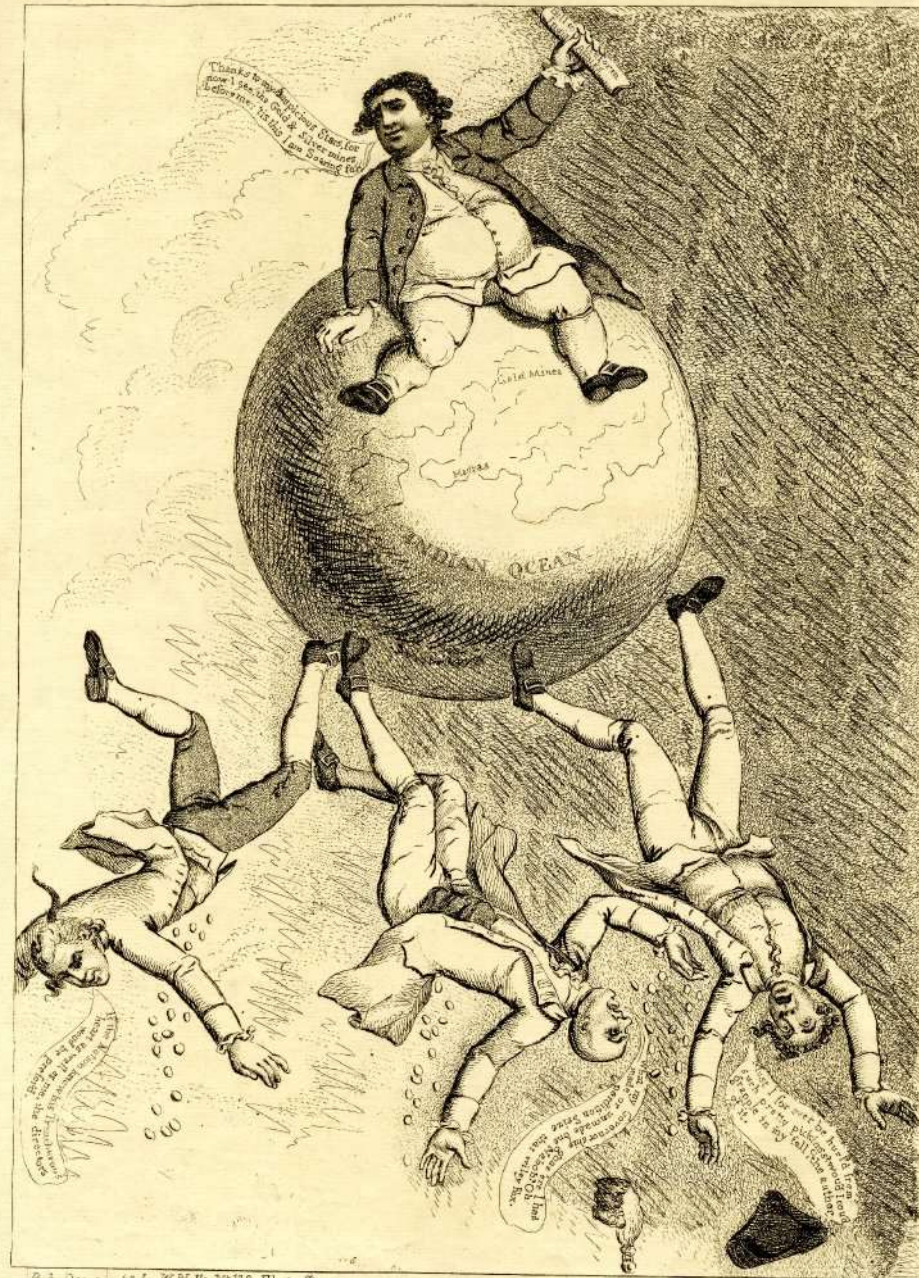
MACAULAY'S MINUTE ON EDUCATION (1835)

I have no knowledge of either Sanscrit or Arabic. But I have done what I could to form a correct estimate of their value. I have read translations of the most celebrated Arabic and Sanscrit works. I have conversed, both here and at home, with men distinguished by their proficiency in the Eastern tongues.

... I have never found one among them who could deny that a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia. The intrinsic superiority of the Western literature is indeed fully admitted by those members of the committee who support the oriental plan of education.







Pub. Dec. 4/743 by W. Wells N° 132 Fleet Street

THE POLITICAL BALLOON; or, the fall of EAST INDIA STOCK.



Political Game of Shuttlecock or Fluctuation
of India Stock

3 Dec 1784

GRADUAL IMPOSITION OF CONTROL

1773 act: Governor General with a supreme council. Treasury and secretary of state oversaw actions of governor and council.

1793 Cornwallis Code: restricted ranks of government to Europeans

1813 Company monopoly broken

But Company power heavily reliant on a very large local army of sepoys and local alliances

In 1850: 300,000 men in army - 50,000 British

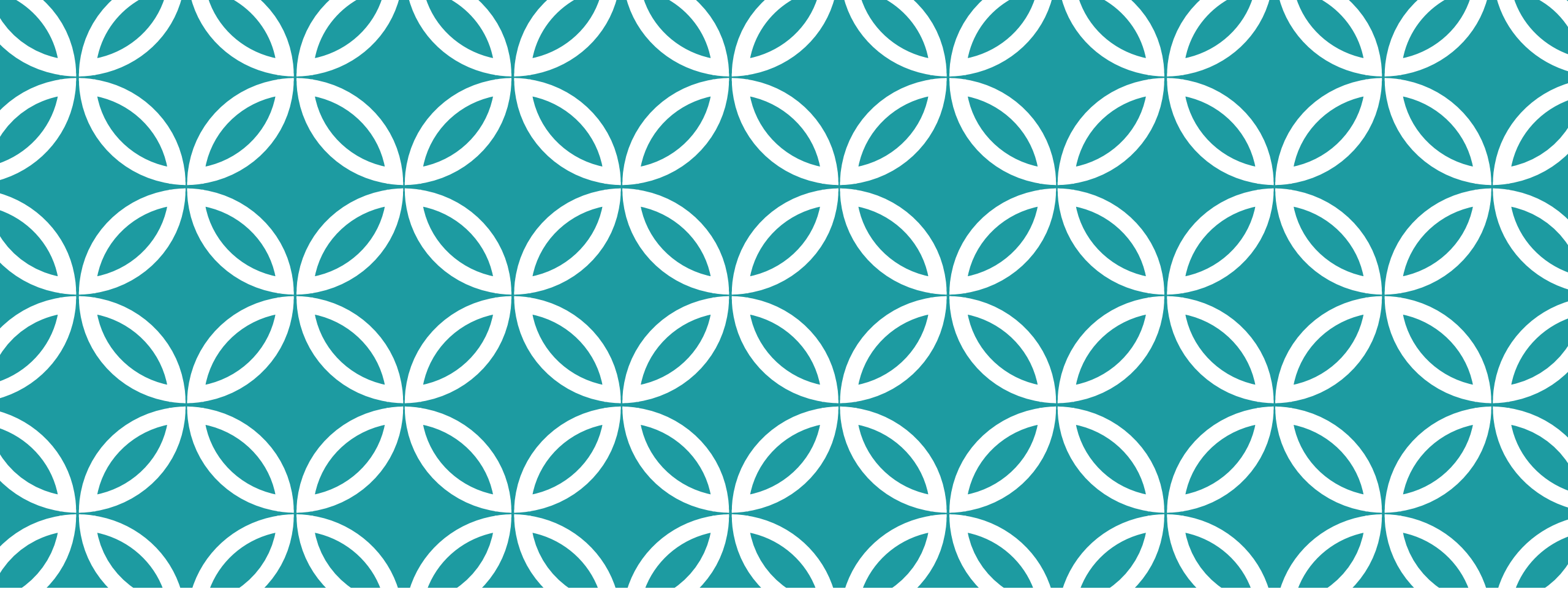
100,000 British men ruling over 200 million Indians

TABLE 9.2. *The expansion of the East India Company army, 1793–1815*

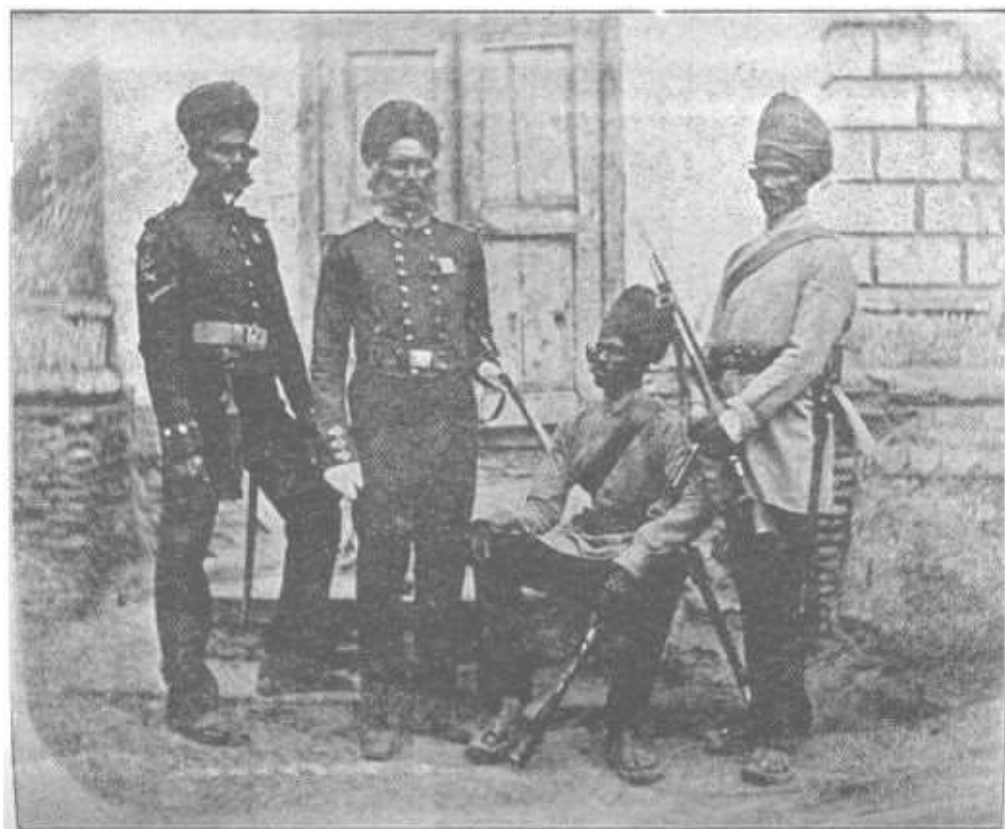
	1793	1798	1805	1815
Bengal army				
European	5,440	7,389	7,811	12,617
Native	29,482	40,105	81,257	116,925
Madras army				
European	9,981	11,283	12,990*	13,903
Native	29,914	36,501	68,842*	57,741
Bombay army				
European	3,347	3,494	4,090	5,031
Native	10,265	14,541	17,575	23,906
Total				
European	18,768	22,166	24,891	31,611
Native	69,661	91,147	167,674	195,572
Grand total	88,429	113,313	192,565	227,183

Note: * includes detachments seconded from the Bombay army

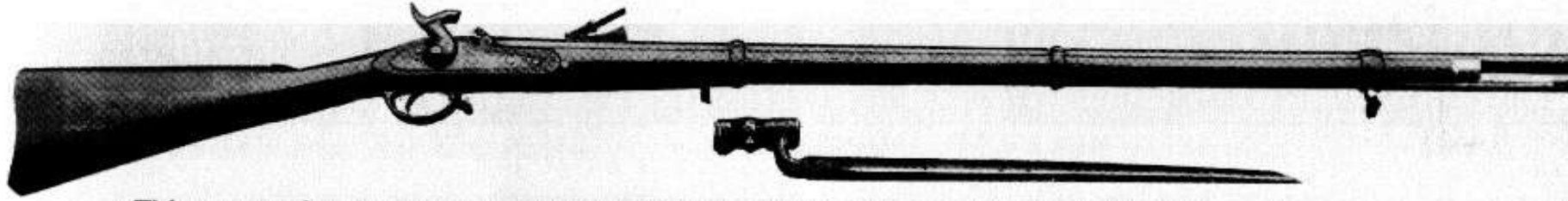
Source: *Parliamentary Papers* (1831/32), Vol. XIII [p. 289]: Report from the Select Committee on the Affairs of the East India Company, p. 195.



2. THE INDIAN MUTINY

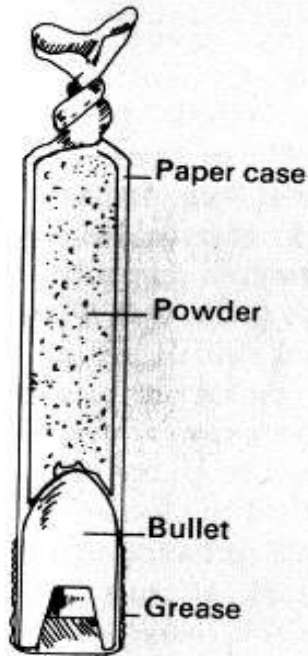


The Enfield rifle



This percussion-lock rifle was produced in the British Ordnance Factory at Enfield near London. It came into use in the British army in 1853. Shortly afterwards it was sent out for trials for the Company army in India. The 'rifling' on the inside of the barrel made the shot more accurate and gave the weapon a greater range. It was an enormous improvement on the Brown Bess smooth-bore flintlock musket which had been the standard weapon of all British forces since the early eighteenth century.

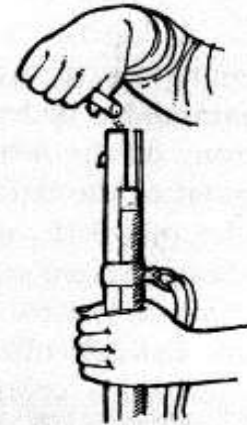
A greased cartridge



How it was loaded



1.
The soldier tears open the end of the cartridge with his teeth.



2.
He pours the powder down the muzzle of his rifle. Then he thrusts the bullet, still wrapped in the cartridge paper which makes it a tight fit, into the muzzle.



3.
He takes his ramrod from its slot beneath the rifle barrel, and rams paper, bullet and powder to the bottom of the barrel.

INDIAN MUTINY, 1857

Immediate cause: Sepoys protested against using new Enfield rifles, whose bullet cartridges were greased with beef or pork extract

A nation-wide revolt emerges, with violence and atrocities on both sides

Wider issues: resistance against the imposition of Christianity; double standards; doctrine of the lapse whereby the EIC automatically seized land from a feudal leader who died without leaving an heir

Britain eventually reconquers Delhi in 1858, in the process massacring many

The Sepoys were divided – many Muslims didn't join them; some Indian princes did not get involved; some groups like Sikhs supported the British

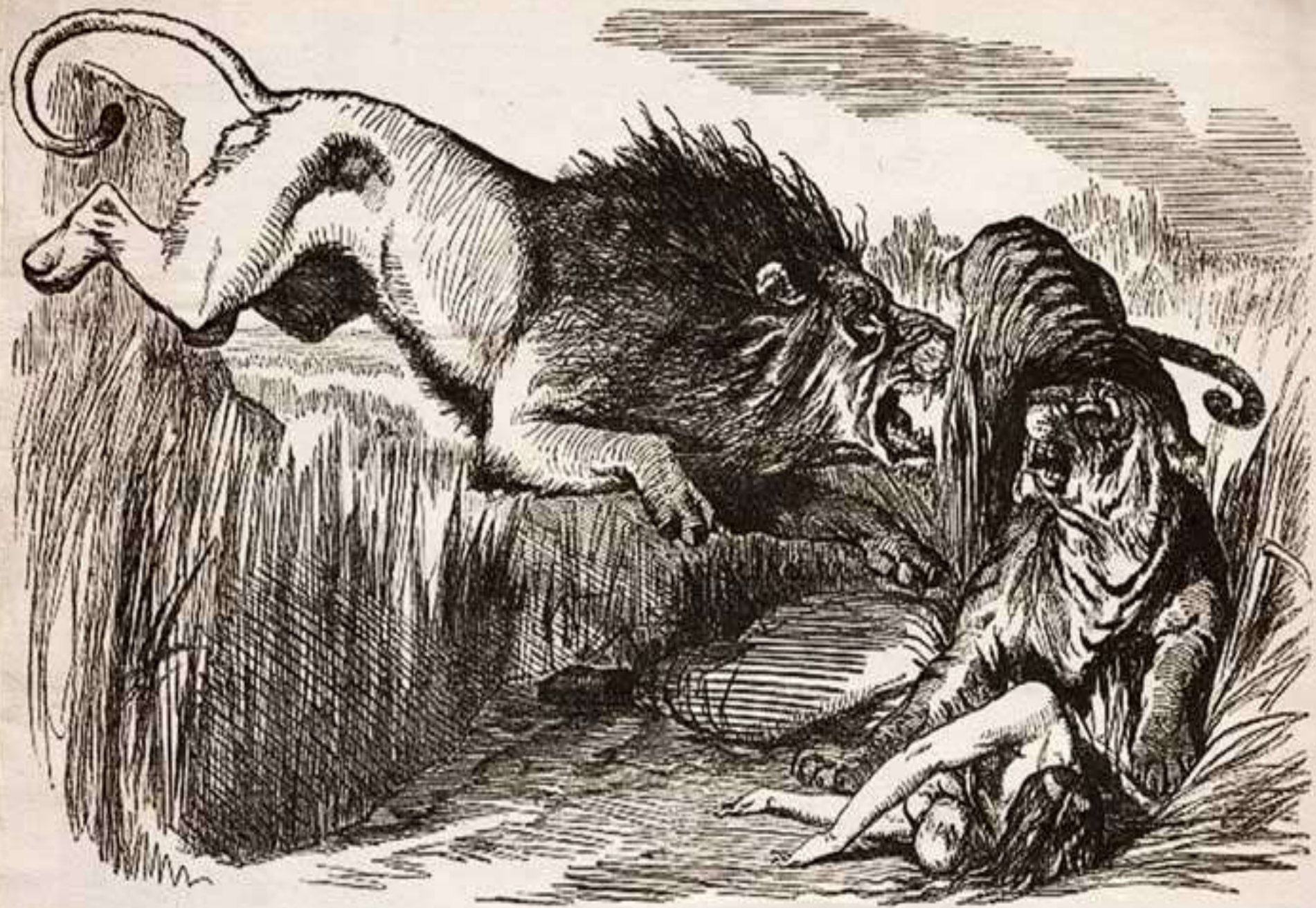


SEPOY INDIAN TROOPS dividing the spoils after their mutiny against British rule (1857-1859).





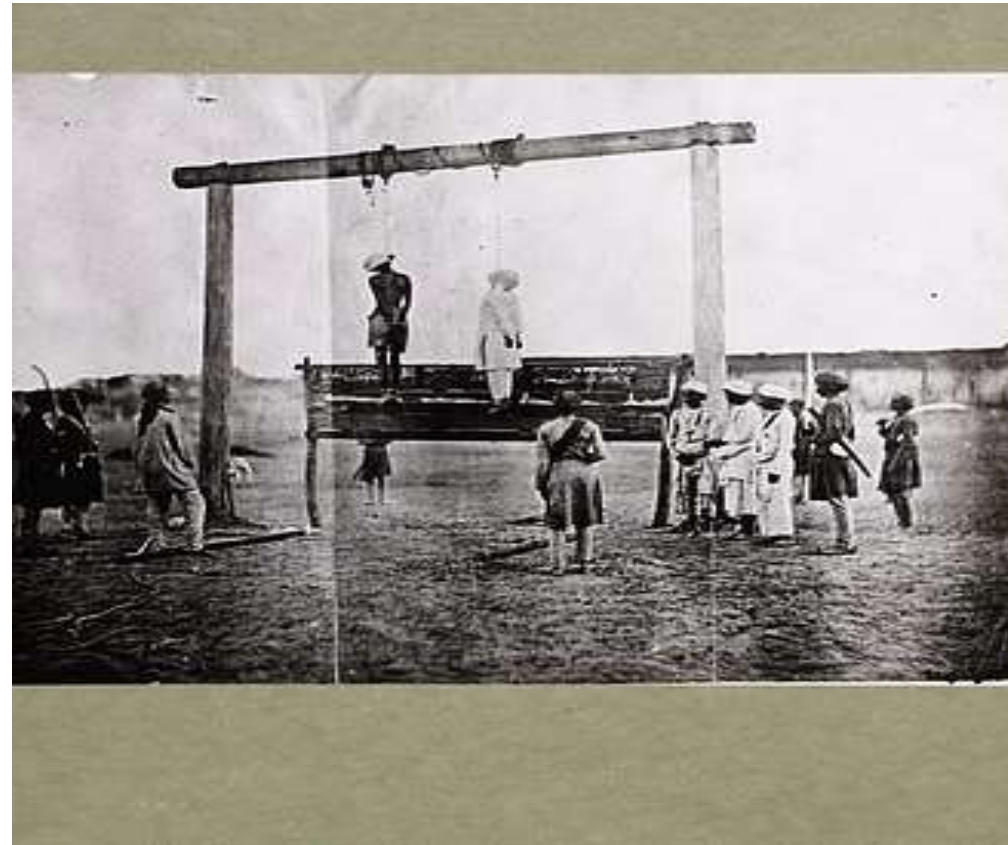
4 The moment of death for the mutineers—the firing squad carrying out the execution.



THE BRITISH LION'S VENGEANCE ON THE BENGAL TIGER.

PUNISHING REBELLION: EXECUTION OF 'MUTINEERS' & CIVILIANS

'All the city's people found within the walls of the city of Delhi when our troops entered were bayoneted on the spot, and the number was considerable, as you may suppose, when I tell you that in some houses forty and fifty people were hiding. ***These were not mutineers but residents of the city, who trusted to our well-known mild rule for pardon. I am glad to say they were disappointed.***'

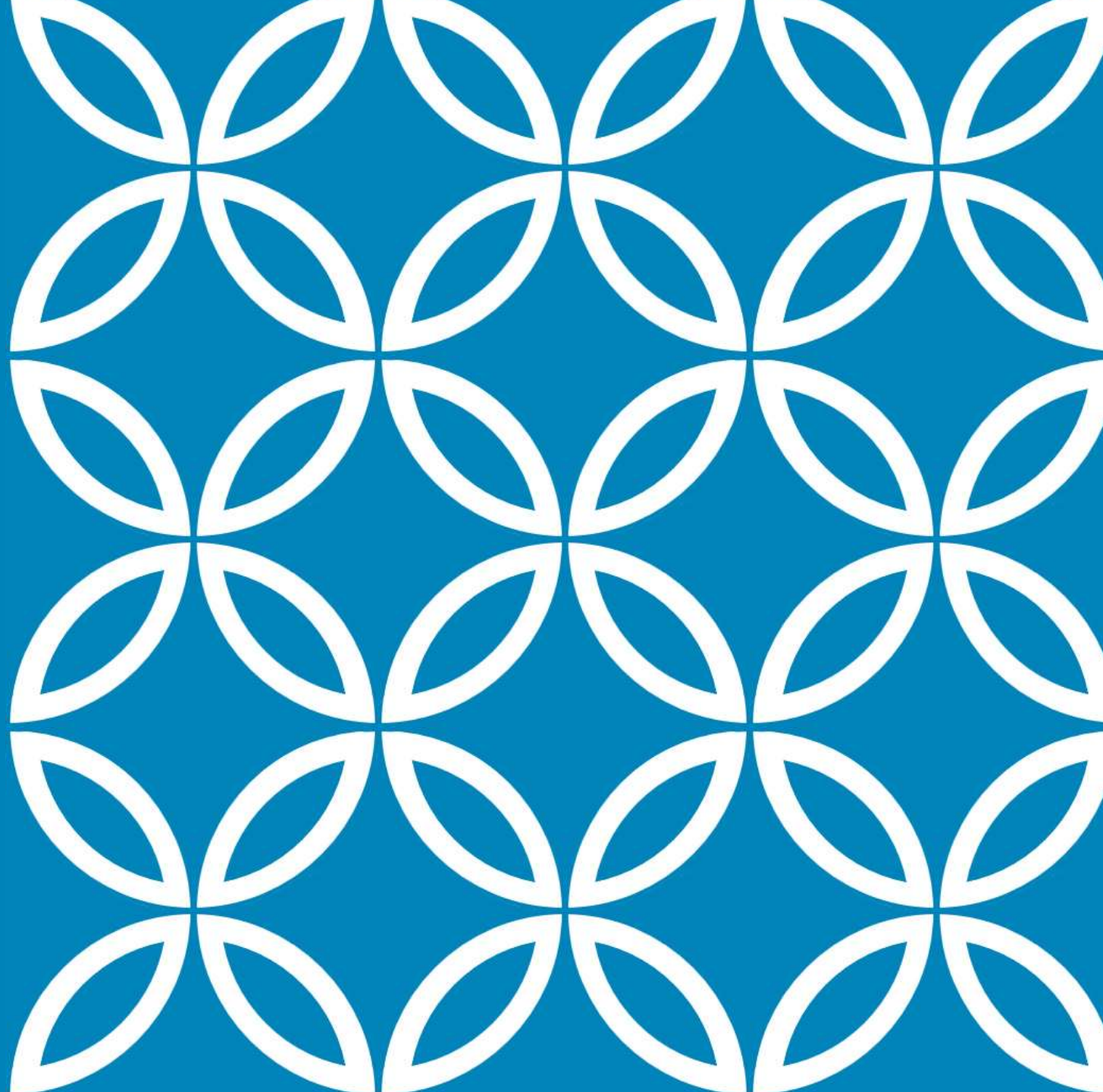




Mutiny or rebellion?

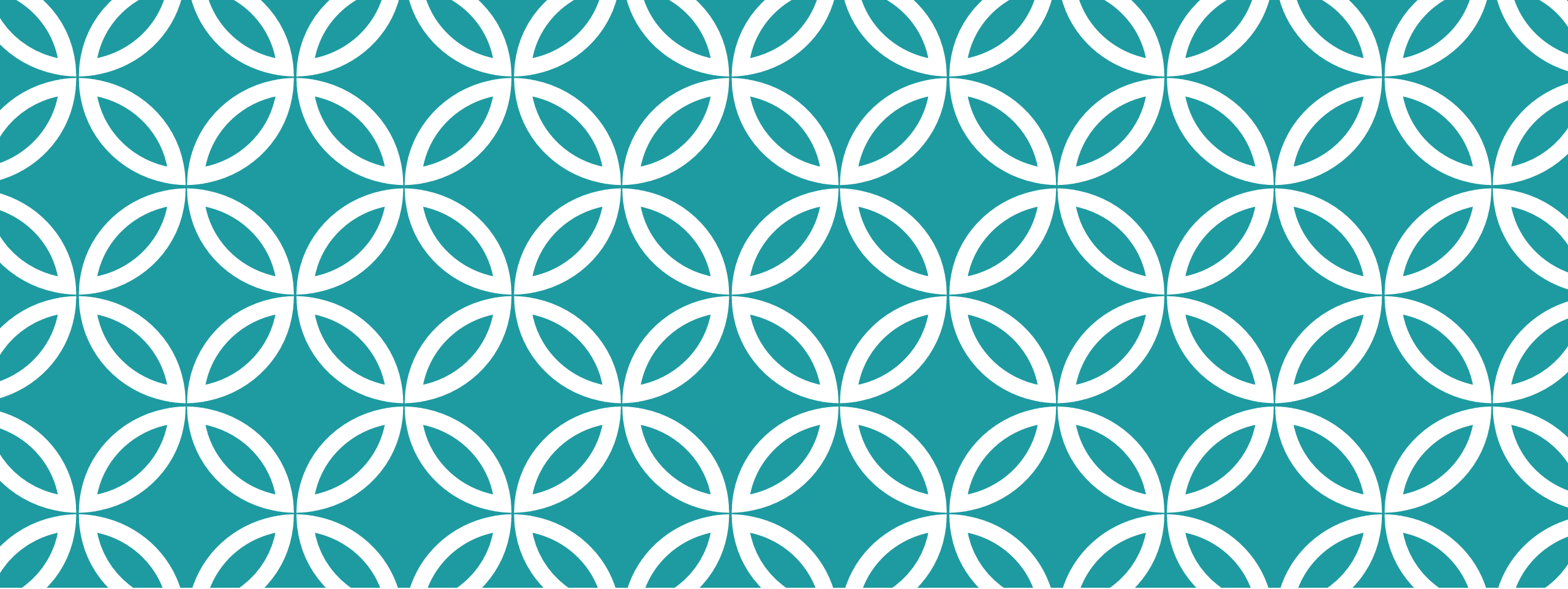
OVER TO YOU

In small groups, focus on either excerpt a) or b) under 1. What do we learn about the mentality and strategies of British power in India over the 19th century?

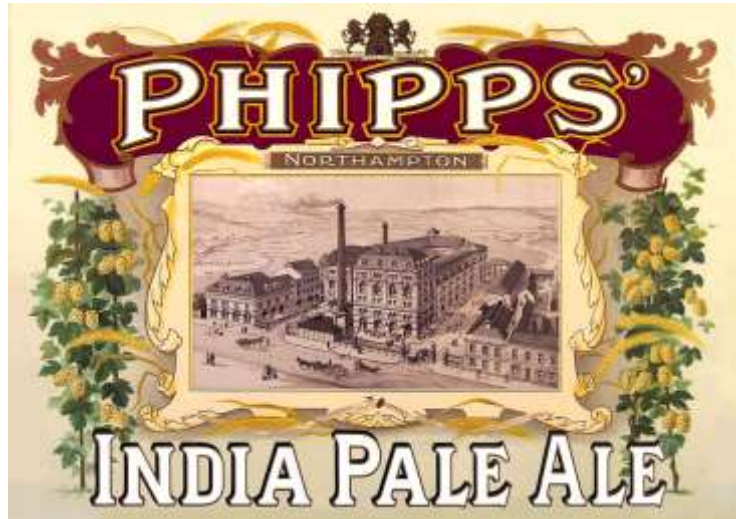


PROCLAMATION BY THE QUEEN TO THE PRINCES, CHIEFS, AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA. 1 NOVEMBER 1858

- ...all treaties and engagements made with [the native princes of India] by or under the authority of the East India Company are by us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained, and we look for the like observance on their part
- We desire no extension of our present territorial possessions; and while we will permit no aggression upon our dominions or our rights to be attempted with impunity, we shall sanction no encroachment on those of others
- We shall respect the rights, dignity and honour of native princes as our own; and we desire that they, as well as our own, subjects should enjoy that prosperity and that social advancement which can only be secured by internal peace and good government
- Firmly relying ourselves on the truth of Christianity, and acknowledging...the solace of religion, we disclaim alike the right and desire to impose our convictions on any of our subjects.
- It is our further will that...our subjects, of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to office in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity duly to discharge



3. BEER, GIN AND OPIUM



There's no Gin like Gordon's!

It's important to remember that all gins are not alike—and Gordon's has the Advantage of Liquor Quality and High Purity, 96.4. That means richer

flavor, vibrant aromatics—drinks that never taste thin. Naturally, Gordon's costs a little more—but you get so much more enjoyment for your money!

100% HAYTHAM WHEAT DISTILLED FROM GRAIN • COPYRIGHT 1941, GORDON'S GIN COMPANY, LTD., LONDON, NEW YORK

DRINKS NEVER TASTE THIN WITH

Gordon's Gin

SOLDIERS ON OTHER SOLDIERS

‘The non-commissioned officers possessed no control whatever over the men, by whom they were thoroughly despised.’ – Staff Sergeant John Macmullen, 1846

‘the English soldier exhibits...a disgusting specimen of the European character, - the Christian character, and even of human nature itself. This abominable vice of drunkenness, which brings such dreadful evils upon themselves, and such disgrace upon our national character and religion, among our native subjects, is almost universal among the English soldiery.’ – Monier Williams, 1823



Rook chess piece (1820)

‘the most drunken and probably the worst man of the trade or profession to which he belongs or of the village or town in which he lives.

There is not one in an hundred of them who, when enlisted, ought not to be put in the second or degraded class of any society or body into which they may be introduced; and they can be brought to be fit for what is to be called the first class only by discipline...’

- Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington





Henry Liverseege, *The Recruit* (1830)



DRUNKEN SOLDIERS

10% of European soldiers in India hospitalised for drink-related illness

Normalisation of drunkenness

Emergence of military regulations introducing military police and martial law: 1809, 1810, 1832

Regimental canteens: 1832

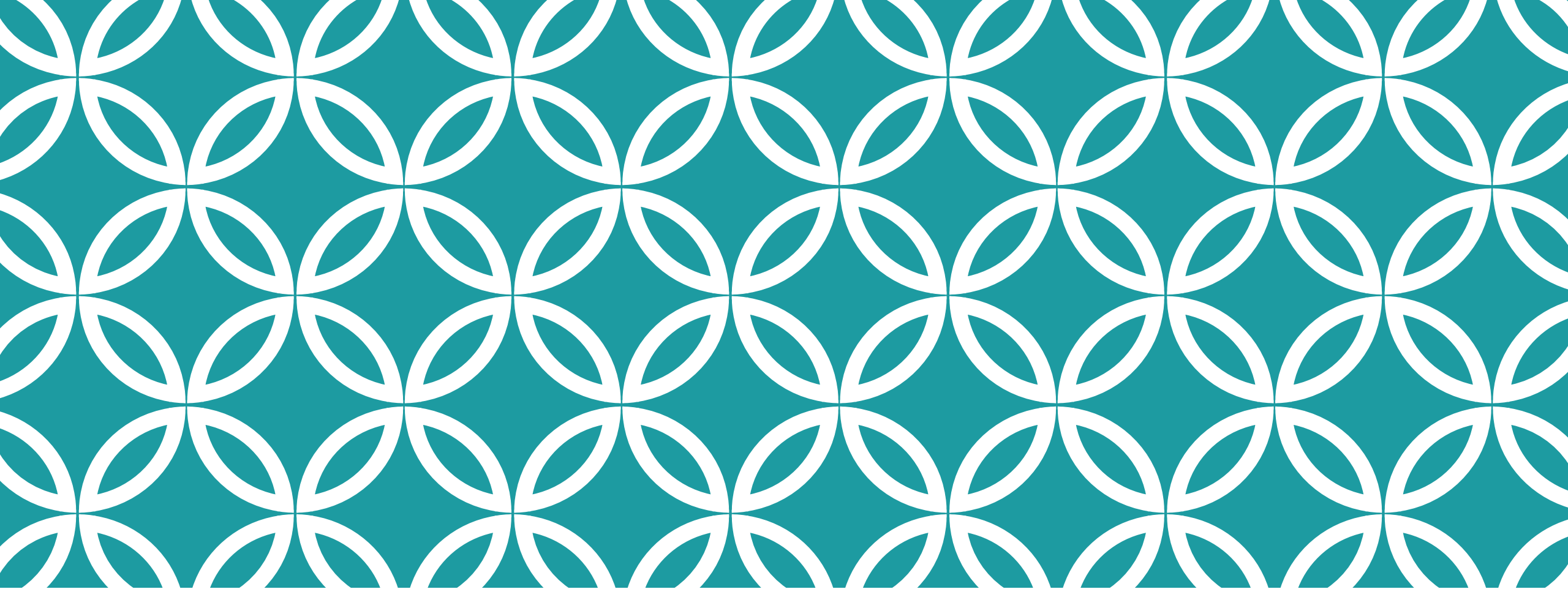
Officers clubs: 1860





THE OPIUM WAR, 1839-1841

Chinese warship guarding the approach to Canton being destroyed by the British HMS *Nemesis*, January 1841



4. EMPRESS AND RAJ

QUEEN VICTORIA AND HER MUNSHI, ABDUL KARIM





SEARCH FOR ALLIES : THE IMPERIAL ASSEMBLAGES — THE 1877 DELHI DURBAR







Life under the British Raj

Raj Building Projects

- During Raj, British built railroads, roads, canals in India
- By 1910, India had fourth-largest railroad network in world
- British invested in transportation to move troops; help sell British products

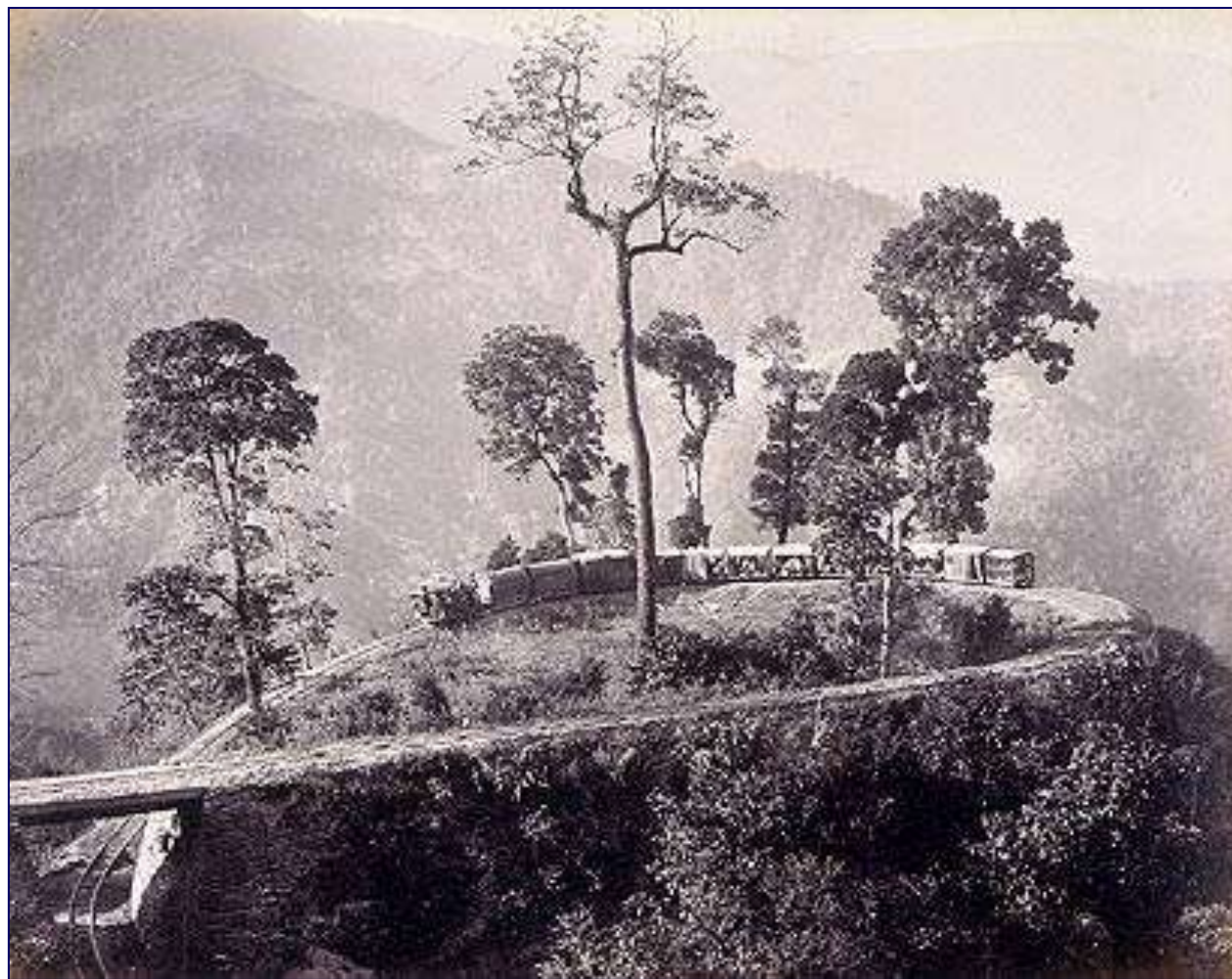
Raj Commerce

- India important market for British manufactured goods
- Also source of raw materials like cotton, tea, indigo, jute
- Taxes from Indian landowners paid for administration of India, Indian army

Raj Impact

- British manufactured goods devastated India's pre-existing textile industry
- Had been major exporter; British closed factories to prevent competition
- Mid-1800s, India primarily exported raw materials, not manufactured goods

DARJEELING RAILROAD, 1880S







Madras Famine 1876-77



The Irish famine

Bridget O'Donnel and her
children

Illustrated London News,
22 December 1849

FAMINES AND FREE TRADE

- Belief: Famine corrects over-population, following Thomas Malthus.
- Belief: charitable relief promotes idleness and saps initiative, following Bentham. People must work for their keep.
- Famines: 1876, 1896, 1899 (and later 1943)
- Inadequate distribution and transportation of food, not a shortage
- “Colonial genocide” – Mike Davis. Annual grain exports over 1875-1900 increase from 3 to 10 million tons
- Famine Codes – drawn up in 1880, but only implemented effectively after 1900.



SO, WAS THE BRITISH EMPIRE A 'GOOD THING'?

Controversialist **Niall Ferguson**, *Empire* (2003):

'Today, the principal barriers to an optimal allocation of labour, capital and goods in the world are, on the one hand, civil wars and lawless, corrupt governments – which together have condemned so many countries in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia to decades of impoverishment – and, on the other, the reluctance of the United States and her allies to practise as well as preach free trade, or to devote more than a trifling share of their vast resources to programmes of economic aid.

By contrast, for much (though certainly not all) of its history, the British empire acted as an agency for imposing free markets, the rule of law, investor protection and relatively incorrupt government on a roughly a quarter of the world. The empire also did a good deal to encourage those things in countries which were outside its formal imperial domain but under its economic influence through the 'imperialism of free trade'. *Prima facie*, there therefore seems a plausible case that empire enhanced global welfare – was, in other words, a Good Thing'.

SO, WAS IT A 'GOOD THING'?

Priyamvadha Gopal: 'Ferguson's 'history' is a fairytale for our times which puts the white man and his burden back at the centre of heroic action. Colonialism - a tale of slavery, plunder, war, corruption, land-grabbing, famines, exploitation, indentured labour, impoverishment, massacres, genocide and forced resettlement - is rewritten into a benign developmental mission marred by a few unfortunate accidents and excesses'.

Andrew Porter: 'Ferguson's own 'on-balance-beneficial' legacy of empire offers no new insight but rather the refurbishment of a much older conventional – some would say Whiggish – wisdom. Far from updating our view of empire, in highlighting the interplay of 'liberty' and 'slavery', Ferguson looks backward to an outdated literature, and at times is consequently wide of the mark'



TRIP: NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM SLOANE SQUARE BARRIERS, 2.15

Meet at the ticket barriers of
Sloane Square underground station
(Circle line) at 2.15

Any delays: 07784 084754