

**DBQ 16: IMPERIALISM IN INDIA: AN EVALUATION**

**Document 1**

This excerpt points out the positive and negative results of imperialism.

Modern progressive nations [European colonizers] . . . seek to control "garden spots" in the tropics. Under their direction, these places can yield the tropical produce that their citizens need. In return the progressive nations bring to the people of those garden spots the foodstuffs and manufactures they need. They develop the territory by building roads, canals, railways, and telegraphs. The progressive nations can establish schools and newspapers for the people of the colonies. They can also give these people the benefit of other blessings of civilization which they have not the means of creating themselves.

Source: O.P. Austin, "Does Colonization Pay?" *The Forum*, 1900 (adapted)

According to this author, what are the benefits of imperialism to the colony?

What are the benefits of imperialism to the colonizer?

**Document 2**

In this speech, Dadabhai Naoroji, an Indian, describes the effect of imperialism on India.

To sum up the whole, the British rule has been—morally, a great blessing; politically, peace and order on one hand . . . on the other, materially, impoverishment. . . . The natives call the British system . . . "the knife of sugar." That is to say there is no oppression, it is all smooth and sweet, but it is the knife, nevertheless.

In these later comments, Naoroji stresses the negative aspects.

Europeans [the British] occupy almost all the higher places in every department of government. . . . Natives, no matter how fit, are deliberately kept out of the social institutions started by Europeans. . . . All they [the Europeans] do is live off of India while they are here. When they go, they carry all they have gained.

Source: Dadabhai Naoroji, *Essays, Speeches, Addresses and Writings*, Caxton Printing Works, 1887 (adapted)

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How is British imperialism both positive and negative for India, according to Naoroji?

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### **Document 3**

This excerpt comments on benefits to India during British imperialism.

Englishmen . . . have given the people of India the greatest human blessing—peace. They have introduced Western education. This has brought an ancient and civilized nation in touch with modern thought, modern sciences, and modern life. They have built an administration that is strong and efficient. They have framed wise laws and have established courts of justice.

Source: Romesh Dutt, *The Economic History of India Under Early British Rule*, K. Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. Ltd, 1902 (adapted)

What benefits has India gained during British imperialism, according to Dutt?

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### **Document 4**

This excerpt describes additional benefits of imperialism.

British brains, British enterprise, and British capital have changed the face of India. Means of communication have been developed. There are great numbers of bridges, more than 40,000 miles of railway, and 70,000 miles of paved roads. These testify to the skill and industry of British engineers. Irrigation works on a very large scale have brought 30 million acres under cultivation. This has greatly added to the agricultural wealth of the country. Industrialization has also begun. India now has improved sanitation and a higher standard of living. It has a fine transport system and carefully thought-out schemes for relief work. Because of these things famines have now almost disappeared.

Source: J.A.R. Marriott, *The English in India*, Clarendon Press, 1932 (adapted)

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List at least five benefits of imperialism cited by this author.

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### **Document 5**

This excerpt points out the social and economic impact of imperialism on India.

British rule brought with it from the West certain standards of humanity that Indian society had not yet reached. Early action was taken to stop infanticide [the killing of female babies]. . . . The slave trade was ended and the owning of slaves was forbidden. . . . One result of the new order was a steady rise in the value of India's export trade.

Source: Sir Reginald Coupland, *India: A Restatement*, 1945 (adapted)

What benefits of imperialism does this author identify?

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### Document 6

This excerpt explains how India became a “typical” colonial economy.

This process continued throughout the nineteenth century. Other old Indian industries—shipbuilding, metalwork, glass, paper—and many crafts were broken up. Thus the economic development of India was stopped and the growth of new industry was prevented. . . . A typical colonial economy was built up. India became an agricultural colony of industrial England.

It supplied raw materials and provided markets for England’s industrial goods. The destruction of industry led to unemployment on a vast scale. . . . The poverty of the country grew. The standard of living fell to terribly low levels.

Source: Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India*, The John Day Company, 1946  
(adapted)

What negative effects of imperialism does Nehru point out? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Document 7

In this excerpt, Mohandas Gandhi offers a complaint about imperialism.

You English committed one supreme crime against my people. For a hundred years you have done everything for us. You have given us no responsibility for our own government.

What is Gandhi’s criticism of imperialism? \_\_\_\_\_

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## PART B

What were the positive and negative effects of imperialism for Great Britain (the mother country) and for India (the colony)?