IMPERIALISM in INDIA

European and American Territories by 1870

- British
- Dutch
- French
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- United States

2 1586–1795 Russia acquires northern Asia.

5 1867 United States purchases Alaska from Russia.

1 1565 Explorers claim the Philippines for Spain.

3 1620s Dutch take control of Indies.

4 1788 Britain first uses Australia as prison colony.
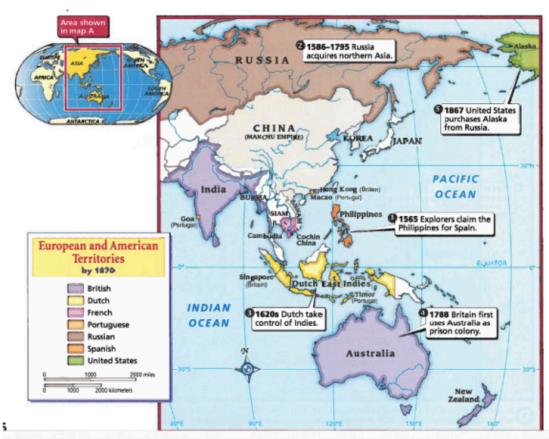
In the 1800s, a trade group called the British East India Company controlled over half of India. Agents used Indian soldiers, or **sepoys,** to protect their power. They angered the sepoys by ignoring Indian customs and demanding that the soldiers follow rules that were against their religions. In 1857, anger turned into the Sepoy Rebellion. Many lives were lost before Britain crushed the revolt. Britain saw that the East India Company could not keep control. In 1858, it made India a colony.

The British tried to solve problems in India but also caused new ones. Better farming methods and health care sparked a population boom that increased poverty and brought famine. Imported goods put local industries out of business. Top jobs went to the British. It was clear to the Indians that the British looked down on them.

Sons of the upper classes often went to school in Britain. As they learned about democracy, many wanted freedom for their own people. In 1885, they founded the Indian National Congress (or Congress party). The early 1900s brought demands for self-rule. By 1906, Muslims began to fear the Hindu-run Congress party. They formed the Muslim League and talked of a separate Muslim state.

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