

India – Part 2

Background

Following the Second World War, the British had come to three important realizations about India.

First, the British realized that nationalism made independence inevitable in India.

Second, the British realized that competing Hindu and Muslim factions would lead to the partition of India.

Third, the British realized that possession of India was no longer profitable.

These considerations pushed the British towards an acceptance of Indian independence, but there was still a sense of colonial responsibility.

British rule ended in August 1947, and India and Pakistan were born.

What followed was a real human tragedy. With the partition of India, thousands were killed in the streets as Hindus and Muslims struggled to apply self-determination.

Still, there was a silver lining to the tragic ending of British rule in India.

India became a parliamentary democracy . . . the world's most populated democracy.

Assignment

1) After the Second World War, what was the predominant movement in India?

2) Within this movement, what were the conflicting views?

3) What did the British promise Indians during the Second World War?

4) What were the two primary ethnic groups in India?

5) Gandhi and Nehru were _____, and leaders of the Congress Party.

6) Jinnah was a _____, and leader of the Muslim League.

7) After Britain decided to let India solve her problem of independence alone, what was decided by the leadership of India?

8) What occurred in India in August 1947? What form of government was established?

9) Describe the violence caused by breaking this former British colony into India and Pakistan.

10) Which state was to become a major point of conflict between India and Pakistan?
