European Colonization in India

Why did the British colonize India and how did it effect the people already living there?
What is India like prior to the arrival of the Europeans?

- India was large territory with a giant and growing population
  - Then = 300 million people
  - Today = over 1 billion people

- Ruled by a changing group of Hindu / Muslim rulers
  - Mughals
The Taj Mahal
The Tombs of Shah Jahan & Mumtaz Mahal
Why were the British interested in India?

- The British became interested in India for two (2) reasons:
  1. Raw materials
  2. Consumers (300 million population)

- Originally India was operated by a corporation (The East India Company)
  - Later taken over by the British government
British East India Company Agents (1800’s)
Lord Cornwallis, appointed governor-general of India after his defeat at Yorktown in 1781
How did the people of India react to the colonization?

- Indians benefited from colonial rule:
  - Modern goods
  - Modern transportation
  - Education increases
  - Health care increases
  - Protection

- On the negative side:
  - The British controlled the government / economy
  - Indians were seen as “half” citizens
Bengal Medical Service, 1860
Theosophical Library – Madras, 1913
A Life of Leisure for the British!
Did an Indians groups try to force out the British?

- **The Sepoy Rebellion (1857)**
  - Sepoy = an Indian soldier in the British army

- Offended by British military practices, Indian soldiers revolted
  - Cause = seals on gun cartridges

- The rebellion was eventually put down
  - Divisions between Hindu & Muslims
The Indian Sepoy
The Sepoy Rebellion (1857)
Area Controlled by the Sepoy, 1857
The Siege of Lucknow (1857)
Brutal Consequences for Sepoy
How did the Indian independence movement begin?

- The movement starts with the creation of two (2) groups:
  - Indian National Congress (1885)
  - Muslim League (1905)
- Both wished to see India become an independent state