Effects of British Imperialism on India

negative:

Cultural  
British destroyed the native culture of India.  
They absorbed a people who did not want to be absorbed.  
They destroyed Indian culture: replace it with British culture  
EX.  Sepoy rebellion: rumors that the grease for the guns was animal fat (Hindus feel that cow’s are sacred, Muslims do not eat pig)  
ex. of British sensitivity to Indian beliefs  
British knew that it would be an issue to ‘bite the bullet’ but did it any way

While English was good in some ways, but leads to a loss of native language.

British hypocrisy: British set up “European Only” parks, clubs, railroad cars. Major segregation, the only Indians at these places were servants.  
Best stuff saved for British  
ex. Indians served as servants to the British, even acted as servants for their dogs.

Europeans set up a separate society, very racist, best doctors treated Europeans not the “N------s”  
Europeans did not walk, they were carried by natives.  
Missionaries-- converted to christianity

Economics  
Increased Indian poverty.  
Ex. Bengal  
1600-1800 Indian made goods were the best in the world--Why?  
The caste system-children were raised from a young age to do their job.

positive:

Cultural  
Some cultural changes were good  
ex. allowing widows to remarry, better than widow suicide (suttee)

ex. learning English, Indians could communicate better bc they learned another language, won’t necessarily destroy the old, good for international business

still allowed to practice their religion.

British didn’t support and spoke out against Indian treatment of the lowest ‘caste’ the untouchables

Servants- gave Indians jobs

After English left- 1947-Indians got polo clubs and the nice train cars.

Education- created schools and colleges in the British system.  
Gandhi and Nehru India’s ‘founding fathers’ were British trained lawyers  
British and Indians together researched Indian history and religion

Economics  
speaking English enabled

International trade. ex. today’s Indians are getting high paying jobs on the high tech industry, many US jobs are being outsourced to India.
1800-- after the Industrial Revolution
British passed laws forbidding the sale of Indian made goods any where in the world even in India. Only buy British goods. All Indians lost their manufacturing jobs, and were forced to work on farms to grow cash crops for British cotton, tea, jute, indigo. Led to massive poverty and famine. Today still lots of poverty in India- 300 million in dire poverty.

Increased taxation, but limited ways to make money.

Politics
Princes did not want democracy-- did the people support them? Only got democracy when the British left.

Politics
Today, India is the world's largest democracy-- looks like Britain. Relatively, human rights are protected in India.

Long term negative effects of imperialism:
Political rivalries and fighting as an effect of 'bogus borders' drawn by the Europeans as they left. Ex. Partition of Pakistan and India. Britain left India quickly (in 7 months) led to 14 million Hindus and Muslims moving across the border-- 1 million people died, terrible violence, leads to a major security risk. Security experts believe that India and Pakistan place where nuclear war is most possible, bc both countries have nuclear weapons. They have fought three wars since 1947 two over borders drawn by the British at independence.