British Imperialism in India

India was a very important colony to Great Britain. India was one of the most important "jewels of the crown".

- British East India Company
  - established to control trade between India and Britain.
  - Company established trading rights in India during the Mughal Empire.
  - Mughal Empire was in decline
    - early 1700s
    - states broke away
  - East India Company gained control of large parts of India.
  - Company ran India without interference from Britain
    - established army
    - used Indian soldiers called Sepoys
      - British tried to force changes on India
        - brought western education
        - tried to end caste system
        - banned Hindu custom of sati
        - tried to spread Christianity
        - Indians saw this as an attack on Hinduism

What were the causes of the Sepoy rebellion?
- Sepoy mutiny
  - British punished Sepoys who refused to load rifles
  - Hindus and Muslims revolted in 1857
  - British crushed the rebellion in 1858
- Impact of the Sepoy mutiny
  - British ended rule of the British East India Company
  - British ruled India directly
  - Atrocities committed by both sides
    - led to feelings of distrust between Indians and British