The retention of Gibraltar (G)

- Admiralty considered Gibraltar a key port as it could be used to block French naval movement from Minorca and Toulon (the two main French ports).
- Gibraltar was ceded to Britain from Spain after the War of Spanish Succession in 1708.
- Gibraltar’s strategic importance displayed when Britain failed to stop French fleet slipping through Strait of Gibraltar during American War Independence. Moreover, Gibraltar was used for resupplying, e.g. resupplying Nelson’s fleet before Battle of Trafalgar.

The acquisition of Malta, Ceylon and Cape Town in 1815

- **Ceylon**: cinnamon was a very valuable export and in abundance in Ceylon. When Dutch Royal family fled to England after Napoleonic invasion of Holland (1794), the Dutch settlements surrendered and Britain received £300,000 in goods. Ceylon retained at the Treaty of Amiens (1802), as it was strategically located and self-financing. There were many problems with the Kandy Kingdom (esp. in the interior) and caused Governor Brownrigg to brutally supress the inhabitants of Ceylon.
- **Cape Town**: Cape Town had no economic benefit but was strategic in controlling shipping between the Atlantic and India.
- **Malta**: initially seen as strategically useless, however by 1815 had a deep water port but was only really enhanced by the opening of the Suez Canal.

The acquisition of the Falklands in 1833

- First established settlement in 1766, but abandoned due to over commitment with the American War of Independence. Sealing was the major economic export.
- In 1833 merchant Verne surrendered to superior British forces and internal abandonment.

The acquisition of Aden

- **Entrepot** during Middle Ages. British interest originated in 1798 with Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt. Governor of Bombay 1834-38, Sir Robert Grant, was one who believed India could only be protected by pre-emptively seizing ‘places of strength’ to protect the Indian Ocean.
- Growing importance of Aden: initially wanted for the Suez Canal, and as a Europe to India coaling station. Commander Stafford Haines demanded in 1837 satisfaction for the ‘outrage’ of Duria Dowlat and he demanded control of the port. Haines, after negotiations broke down, sent two frigates and 700 men to Aden. Haines quickly captured port and presented a fait accompli.

The acquisition of Cyprus in 1878

- **Extending British influence**: part of inchoate principle whereby seizure of territory justified by defending territory, rather than securing additional profit. By the 1870s Palmerstone’s imperialism was dominant with Disraeli, Salisbury and Conservative party, i.e. large naval budgets and territorial expansion. Contrastingly, the Liberal party (typified by Gladstone) was committed to less govt and minimal overseas involvement.
Why did tensions between the colonists and the British reach a point of no return between 1770 and 1775?

Causes of the American Revolution

- **Stronger imperial authority**: increasing westward boundaries meant defence had to be increased so as to stave off Native American attacks. In 1763 PM Earl of Bute announced 10,000 troops to be permanently stationed in North America. These troops were to be funded by the colonies as the British national debt had increased as a result of Seven Years’ War 1756-63: it was 72m GBP in 1755 but 137m GBP in 1763.

- **Grenville’s ministry**: Grenville succeeded Bute in the premiership. Grenville was concerned with the national debt (as over ½ of govt revenue was going towards financing just the interest).

- **Territorial claims**: the 1763 Pontiac rebellion by the Ottowa chief was quashed by British troops, however it buttressed the case for increased American defence. In response to the rebellion the government issued the **Proclamation of 1763** which prescribed colonial settlements west of the Appalachian mountains. This action angered many colonists, notably George Washington, as it territorial expansion was a key part of the case for the Seven Years’ War. The proclamation, moreover, was poorly enforced: by 1763 there were 30,000 white settlers west of the Mountains.

- **Grenville’s anti-smuggling measures**: 1763 Board of Trade estimated 700k worth of goods smuggled without paying tariffs. To ameliorate this Grenville passed these measures:
  1. **Sugar Act (1764)**: reduced sugar and molasses tariff from 6d to 3d. However, in contrast to previous measures, it was actually enforced — thus ended salutary neglect and acted as a precursor to unjust interference.
  2. **Currency Act (1764)**: banned use of paper money in colonies.
  3. **Stamp Act (1765)**: required stamps to be affixed on to anything formally written/printed e.g. legal documents. This meant it was pervasive. It inspired obloquy: triggered the Stamp Act Congress and slogan, ‘No taxation w/o representation.’ Repealed in 1766 with a accompanying **Declaratory Act (1766)** which upheld the indivisibility of parliamentary sovereignty.

- **Townshend Crisis**: Light duties introduced on imports of glass, wine, china, lead, paint, paper and tea. The duties were expected to raise £40k for the Treasury. The duties were enacted externally so as to respond to the colonists’ demands that internal tariffs (i.e. affecting the domestic American market) were unjust and illegal. However, the reaction to the duties was as fierce as that to the Stamp Act: Massachussets Assembly published denunciation of violating ‘no tax without representation’ principle and 7 other colonies endorsed this letter.

- **Boston Massacre and why it didn’t begin War of Independence**: British Army shot 5 in mob (Sons of Liberty). Didn’t trigger War of Independence as: (i) lack of unity; (ii) popularity of unionist cause; (iii) British repeal of Townshend Acts. During years of calm (1770-73) Sam Adams et al. promoted unity through setting up Committees of Correspondence. By Feb 1774 every colony except North Carolina and Pennsylvania had one.

**Boston Tea Party:**
lence of the region. It was taken by the Company on 7 Feb 1858, the 7th annexation to occur under Dalhousie’s doctrine.

- It was resented in Awadh, the traditional source of Bengal’s sepoys. In an attempt at reform, the British announced land owned by talukdars (landowners) was to be taken if they couldn’t prove legal title to the estate. As the talukdars provided vast employment, e.g. servants, an attack on them destabilised the social order.

Outbreak of rebellion and events in Meerut

- The immediate cause of the Indian Mutiny was rumours amongst sepoys that new cartridges were to be issued, lubricated with animal fat – against Muslim and Hindu religions. This, for them, certified that Britain was intent on Christianisation.
- The Bengal army was already unrestfully after the General Service Enlistment Act of 1855 that applied to new recruits and meant they may have to travel abroad – thus removing their caste status. As recruitment traditionally came from high caste Indians this was particularly contentious.
- After 85 sepoys were court martialed for failing to load the new rifles on 9 May 1857, all three sepoys regiments rose in revolt while the British were at church.

Cawnpore and Delhi

- The mutiny percolated the Bengal army; Britain was ineffectual as it had only a single European regimented between Calcutta and Agra. The Mutiny spread and the British temporarily lost control of Awadh, Delhi and some of Punjab.
- Discontented talukdars and peasants, concerned mostly with regional issues, joined the mutineers. On 11 May Bahadur Shah II, the last of the Mughal dynasty, was restored to his imperial position in Delhi. However the stagnation of the Mutiny meant neither him nor his sons emerged as national leaders.
- In Cawnpore, Sir Hugh Wheeler’s poor preparations meant they held out only 18 days. Having been promised safe passage, on their way to the boats 400 were killed on the riverbanks and boats. The remaining British were held and massacred one day before relief arrived.

Siege and relief of Lucknow

- Sir Henry Lawrence shepherded the Europeans into the fortified residency from the end of May with enough supplies to last 5 months. The siege commenced at the end of June, Lawrence himself dying on the 4 July by a shell. Successful relief reached Lucknow with a force of 3,000 troops – 87 days after the siege began.

**How accurate is it to say that the Indian Rebellion occurred because of the attack on Indian religion and customs by the British in the years leading up to 1857?**

**Why the British retained control**

1. Lack of unity within the rebels: different social groups, different religions, different regions, etc.
2. The other two presidency armies remained loyal: the Punjab sepoys proved decisive in putting down Bengali sepoys. When Delhi was retaken 82% of the soldiers killed were sepoys.

**Results: barbaric punishment of rebels**

- In Cawnpore mutineers were forced to lick clean blood stained buildings, before being forced to eat pork or beef and then publicly hanged. In Peshawar 40 men were strapped to cannon and blown apart (the old Mughal punishment).

**End of Company Rule**

- Government of India Act of 1858 ended Company rule and placed India under direct British rule via a viceroy with a Secretary of State for India and India Council. A royal proclamation laid out HM subject’s rights: freedom of religion, legal equality, and rights of native princes.
- Annexation of territory ceased and indirect control occurred with princely states. This was successful, as the 560 autonomous princely states remained loyal to the Raj until Indian independence in 1947.
- The cost of suppression was 50m pounds; and a new tax was introduced on wealthier urban groups to placate rural elites with the purpose of defraying this cost.
- Officials kept allowing missionaries to proselytise however they did not let it affect policy. Despite prohibitions on sati, etc. remaining in place, it was only in 1891 that the age of consent for female marriage was raised from 10 to 12.
- The stories of rape and abuse of women increased racial animosity and officials remained stark reactionaries, in contrast to the increasingly liberal Britain.

**Changes to the Indian army**

- Sepoys as a proportion of the total army decreased by 40% and British troops increased by 50%; making the ratio 3:1 rather than 9:1. From 1858, recruitment moved away from high-caste to areas deemed more loyal, namely Sikh Punjab and the Muslim northwest. The melange of religions and regions was meant to prevent a comparably rebellious situation.

**Longer term lessons of the rebellion**

- In contrast to Bentinck and Macaulay’s idealism, officials post-1858 were no longer imbued with self-confidence and optimism of the modernising agenda.
- The British turned away from cultural and political problems to economy and strategy. By 1861 the rail network had c.1500 miles compared to 288 miles in 1857 and by 1900 c.25,000 miles had been constructed. Moreover, prevention of famine was said to be the most important policy to prevent discontent.

**The Nile valley, 1882-1898**

*Why did the British intervene in Egypt in 1882?*

**The problem of the Ottoman Empire**
1885 the Mahdi broke through British fortifications at Khartoum and the unevaluated garrison was extirpated.

**General Charles Gordon’s mission in Sudan, 1884-85**

- Gordon’s intentions have received contrasting treatment: (1) to try to generate enough publicity to change government policy from evacuation to intervention; (2) the orders were impossible to execute without adequate reinforcement, with Baring and London refused to sanction.
- Gordon was obstinate in defence. He wrote his diary with strong Christian principles and was evidently written with an eye for posterity, it being smuggled out during the siege of Khartoum.
- The Mahdi broke through the fortifications at Khartoum on 26 Jan and the entire garrison was killed, Gordon’s head having been decapitated – the reinforcements dispatched by Gladstone arriving 2 days late. The news reached London on 5 January 1885.
- Gladstone’s sobriquet changed from GOM (‘Grand Old Man’) to MOG (‘Murderer of Gordon’). Gladstone’s prevarication contributed to the Liberal defeat at the 1885 GE.
- The geopolitical problems caused Gladstone to continue with his evacuation of Sudan – leaving it to the Mahdi. In the long run, however, the defeat had a lasting impact: Kitchener went in the 1890s to quell the Mahdi and Gordon was commemorated with a surfeit of statutes, etc.

**The conquest of the Sudan, 1898**

- In 1896 Lord Salisbury ordered the annexation of the Sudan, due to the Scramble for Africa: the perennial French conflict over the Nile and the dangers of pan-Islamic nationalism.
- The Battle of Adowa further convinced Salisbury that a strike of European supremacy was needed so as to temper Islamic political ambition. The operation was assiduous and cautious: setting Dongola as the objective and keeping the supply lines intact at all times.

**The fear of French occupation**

- In 1890 Britain declared the whole Nile valley as within its ‘sphere of influence’; Edward Grey augmented this in 1894 by stating that the British would interpret French interference in the Nile valley as a hostile act. The Nile valley was important as a water source to keep Egyptian cotton fertile.
- French ambition was to link its western colonies with its port in Djibouti (East Africa). Britain’s interests were contrary: The White Nile linked Egypt with Britain’s East African colonies.
- Fashoda Incident (1898) was the apogee of Anglo-French tension: The British outnumbered the French 10:1 and both countries made competing claims over the Upper Nile, both to prevent their rivals from claiming it.
- On 3 November France dropped their claim to Fashoda, amidst a political imbroglio engendered by the Dreyfus Affair.

**The role of General Horatio Herbert Kitchener**