

Lesson 4: A Passage to India

Colonialism: historical point of view

- British imperialism developed as a result of British trading in North America, Asia and Africa and all other colonies all over the world. The whole process of colonialism and imperialism started with this trading during the 16th and 17th century. During the peak of its imperialism, Britain owned $\frac{1}{4}$ of world's territories and population.
- British imperialism in Africa and Asia is connected with the establishment of English East India Company, a company which started with trade of human natives. The company started trading in 1617, right by Mughal Empire.
- In the 18th century with the decline of Mughal Company and the Indian Empire, East India Company started to show other tendencies despite trading and this is the beginning of colonialism because the company started invading territories. Before 1857, East India Company was fighting against the French counterpart and the result was positive. East India won the war and covered the entire India and Asia. By 1857, England was the greatest economical power.
- Sepoys: Indian natives who worked as soldiers for the British army. The decline of English East India Company came as a result of these people because they organized a rebellion in 1857 which lasted 6 months and English East India dissolved in 1858. After this event, British Empire acquired another instrument for increasing power: the British Raj 1858.
- The events in the novel A Passage to India has to do with this period of British Raj rule. There are many incidents who were in India for a long time, and this was partially true. British Raj was able to deal with famine and drought, they defeated famine in India. This is very important because the English East India Company didn't succeed to do that.
- Common Wealth 1926: association of independent states which are allied to Britain.
- Roots of British colonialism: profit, ivory, almonds, exotic vegetables= India was the most important colony of Britain.
- India gained independence, but lost Pakistan- Europeans conducted the creation of Pakistan and Islamic people went to Pakistan, whereas all Hindus stayed in India. With the creation of Pakistan, India was robbed of a large portion of land.

Hinduism

- Hinduism is one of the oldest religions and has no single foundation. It is a mixture of different sects and movements in India in the span of 4000 years. Hinduism is not limited to one deity and the concept of trimurta is present (the Indian trinity).
- Three deities: Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (Maintainer and Preserver) and Shiva (Destroyer).

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has 10 avatars
8th Krishna
10th Kalki