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Not an expert at all. He
thinks that
a good understanding
of the many crimes - and
how well set out

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Class B.

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How the British come to be in India.

The story of the British in India is one of the most remarkable in history, for it shows how the vigorous Anglo-Saxon races with all the resources of Western civilization and science at its command, penetrated and spread all over this ancient land, leaving as a mark upon its people, vast engineering works, which can never be effaced from the countryside of India. Not only have they done this, but the British have succeeded also in stamping out many of the cruel and superstitious practices, that defied abolishment by even the most enlightened of India's earlier rulers.

At the same time, it is not difficult to realize that when nationalities and habits of life so different as those of the British and the Indians mingle together, a certain degree of friction is almost certain to arise.

The British rule in India was of gradual development. For its beginnings we have to go back almost four-and-one-half centuries to the time when in 1498, Vasco da Gama discovered the sea-route to India, leading the way for Portuguese traders and missionaries to establish themselves at Goa and Diu on the Western Coast; and then trace step by step, the growth of European powers, the rivalry for supremacy, and finally the rule of the British, in India.

For many years the Portuguese had great power, but in 1599, as a result of Sir John Mildenhall's visit to Akbar in Agra, the English East India Company was founded, with a monopoly of English trade in the East.

After the successful negotiation of a treaty with the Emperor Jehangir in 1607 by William Hawkins, the Company was permitted to establish a factory at Surat. Thus in 1612, Captain Best, with the two ships "Red Dragon" and "Hosier" arrived at Swally Roads, and after defeating a Portuguese force awaiting him landed at Surat, which with Thomas Alworth as organizer became the first British trading-post in India. From 1615-1618, under the ambassadorship of Sir Thomas Roe, it enjoyed a prosperous career, becoming a depot for cotton, muslins, saltpetre, indigo, and dyestuffs, from all parts of the interior.

Because of the terrible massacre of 1623 at Amboyna in the Indies, the English East India Company transferred all its trade to India, and in 1632 opened a second factory on the fertile Coromandel Coast at Masulipatam. The first fortified factory of the Company was founded by Francis Day, to protect the trade of the Carnatic and was named Fort St George, though it ultimately became Madras. Six years after the marriage of Charles II to Katherine of Braganza, in 1662, the Company was given Charles' dowry, Bombay, which by 1677 was assured of commercial success.

Thus the Company was establishing firm footholds on India, but after a Maratha raid on Surat, 1664, there marked the end of the old policy of unarmed trade laid down by Sir Thomas Roe. Seeing that the "Mogul's clients" must now be prepared to defend themselves, Gerald Aungier, president of Surat from 1669 to 1677 developed Bombay as the centre and

protector of British trade. In the year of his death, Aurangzeb warned the Company that they must trade, sword in hand, or perish.

Because of a similar raid, Job Charnock is head of the Bengal council in 1686, evacuated Hugli, which had been founded on the Ganges in 1650, and moved to the site of Calcutta. Although his scheme was considered unwieldy by most people, Charnock was resolute and after his death, his successors built on the scene of his labours, the future capital of Fort William.

Just as the French and British were becoming rivals in America, England found her growing Indian trade challenged by a French East India Company which had been established in 1664. By opening the factories of Chandernagore, Pondicherry, and Mahé, the French challenged the British trade in Bengal, the Carnatic, and the West.

Although at first, the two rivals avoided quarrels, the situation changed in 1707, when the decline of the Mogul Empire was hastened by the death of Aurangzeb, the last Great Emperor. In the native rivalries of claimants struggling for power, Joseph Dupleix, governor of Pondicherry saw an opportunity to make the French supreme in India, firstly by interfering in native quarrels and secondly using Sepoy, or native troops.

While France and England were at war in the Austrian Succession War, Dupleix with the aid of a French fleet, suddenly seized Madras and took the prisoners to

Pondicherry. Amongst them was Robert Clive, who with a few companions disguised as natives escaped and warned Fort St. David which was able to resist all French efforts to capture it, until the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. In exchange for Louisburg in America, Madras was returned to the Company.

However, the struggle was renewed in 1749, when Dupleix by helping Chunda Sahib to the disputed throne of the Carnatic, gained control of it except for Trichinopoli, which was just about to fall, when Clive, in command of 500 men, suddenly captured Arcot, the native capital, to distract the French from Trichinopoli. As Clive had foreseen, the French withdrew to attack Arcot, but Clive not only held out against the siege, but also relieved Trichinopoli, and defeated a force sent to relieve it; thus leaving the British Company supreme in the Carnatic.

In 1756, the Nawab of Bengal died and was succeeded by Surajah Dowlah, who, regarding the strengthening of the Calcutta defences as a personal affront attacked the town with an enormous native army. In doing so he perpetrated the Black Hole atrocity and Clive was sent in command of a force to punish him. After a long series of futile negotiations, he defeated Surajah Dowlah at Plassey in 1757. With the defeat of the French by Sir Eyre Coote at Wandewash, three years later, the Company dominated Bengal.

In England, however, the government realizing that the Company was assuming

control of the vast dominions of India, passed the Regulating Act of 1773 to control their possessions there. Moreover the Governor of Bengal assisted by a council of four, was to become the governor-general of the Company's possessions.

Meanwhile, in India, while the French and British were at war in the latter part of the American War of Independence, the French tried to stir up trouble among the native rulers, e.g. Hyder Ali of Mysore, but Warren Hastings, governor of Bengal at that period, maintained the British position, after a desperate struggle with the Mysore ruler. But in doing so, Hastings laid himself open to charges of cruelty and extortion towards the natives, and from 1788 to 1798 his impeachment, - which finally ended in his acquittal - lasted. During this period, the commercial and political functions of the Company were separated, by Pitt's Indian Act, 1784.

From 1798 to 1805 under the rule of Maquis Wellesley, marked the period of the most deliberate attempt to extend the British possessions in the history of India. Large amounts of territory were annexed by surrounding native states with British territory, thus reducing them to helplessness.

After the first Afghan War of 1836 to 1841, caused by Anglo-Russian ^{rivalry}, came another war with the best fighters yet encountered - the Sikhs. Later, largely owing to the wise rule of the Lawrence brothers, the Sikhs became one of the most loyal races in India.

In 1857, the East India Company which had achieved so much, "expired in the flames" of the tragic catastrophe of the Indian Mutiny, caused by the following grievances:

1. Indian distrust of Western ways and inventions.
2. British policy of annexing territory, where there was no direct heir.
3. Deposition of the King of Oudh for bad government.
4. Denial of Indian rights in government of their country, and
5. Discontent in the army, on account of the "greased cartridges" story.

After the Mutiny, the India Act of 1858 solved many of the grievances and rearranged the government. With the abolishment of the Company, a secretary of State for India was to be in London, and a viceroy - the first being Lord Canning - to replace the Governor-General, while the eligibility of natives to all offices was also made law.

When in 1877, Queen Victoria became Empress of India, the country was enjoying unbroken peace. The railway system was extended, new irrigation schemes developed, roads built, telephone and telegraph lines opened and all necessities of modern life introduced, over the country.

At the same time, a growth of nationalism, which was expressing itself in a campaign of assassination and rebellion, was, and still is, the most formidable problem of British India. But soon the internal troubles

were lost sight of in the 1914-1918 World War and rebellious Hindus and Mohammedans alike, laid aside their feuds to rally loyally to the British cause.

After the war, extensive reforms to increase the Indians' share in their government were introduced, for revolutionary activity had recommenced. The Home Rule and Congress Party found a powerful leader in Mahatma Ghandi, who resorted to a new policy of "passive resistance." With the encouragement of home-industry by Ghandi, British goods began to be "boycotted" in favour of the Indian products.

About this time, however, fresh troubles ^{came} from another quarter. Although an Afghan rising was easily defeated, it encouraged the North-West frontier tribesmen to revolt, and great expense and loss of life were incurred before they were finally overcome in May, 1920.

In November 1930, a "Round Table Conference" consisting of both British and Indians including Ghandi, opened in London, in order to examine thoroughly the government of India. After much deliberation, an "All-India" Federation, consisting of states, Governor's Provinces - eleven in number - and the Chief Commissioner's Provinces, was declared, owing allegiance to the British Crown, but possessing a large measure of self-government.

Up to the India Act of 1935, which brought in this new Federation, the various forms of Indian government under the British may be classified into four periods:

1. 1600 - 1858: The rule of the British East India Company.
2. 1858 - 1919: Dominance of Governor-General and Executive Council, with a growing Legislative Council.
3. 1919 - 1935: Gradual introduction of self-government, and
4. 1935 - The "All-India" Federation.

When war broke out with Germany in 1939, India contributed wholeheartedly to Britain's war-effort. In addition to the regular army of 150,000 men, volunteers "from every caste, community and walk in life" came forward rapidly, while Indian princes also helped all they could.

It was easy for critics of Britain to suggest that India was worthy to fight for freedom, but not considered worthy of liberty herself. Unfortunately the problem was not so simple, for to have granted independence to India in 1939, would almost certainly to have plunged her into a confusion and strife, which would have left her defenceless against any nation anxious to usurp Britain's control.

Though the Congress Party was the most powerful organization in India, and supported in the 1938 elections by $\frac{2}{3}$ of Britain's Indian subjects, it could not claim to speak for the 400 million peoples of India.

Roughly the British quitting of India must be conditional on the solving of the following five points.

1. Can the Indians build one independent Empire?
2. If not, are the British to support the

formation of two or more self-governing "Indias"?

3. Could such units be formed with justice to minorities, and could they be governed in tranquillity?
4. Will the Indian princes consent to such a plan? and
5. What will be the place of the British Crown, the British army, and of British trade in the India of the future?

Clearly Great Britain's problem in India is a difficult one, and the question might no longer be "whether England has the right to keep India, but rather whether she has the right to leave it." For if Britain did quit India, with all her faults of omission and commission, she gave India peace; and it was not the peace of the desert; she gave India law, and it was not the law of the strong; and in final judgement she gave India liberty, for it was the ideals of Milton, Locke, Wilberforce, Mill, Bright and Gladstone, that first kindled the Indian mind to an understanding of what liberty really is.