

# India

v.

# Britain

- Written history dates back almost 4,000 years
- Population in 1850: about 200 million
- Ethnic groups: Indians, Muslims, Sikhs, Nepalese Gurkhas, and more
- Army of many, and often conflicting, ethnic groups
- Ruled mostly by Hindu princes when not controlled by invaders, including the Mughals (Muslim rulers) in control in 1850
- English heavily involved in Indian trading from 1600 - 1850 through British East India Company

- Earliest writing appears in 9<sup>th</sup> century AD
- Population in 1850: about 16.6 million
- Little ethnic diversity: English, Scottish, Welsh; basically 2 religions
- Large army and navy with advanced weapons
- Highly industrialized and very wealthy
- Actively involved in global trade on almost every continent, including in India.
- Viewed British as "superior" to others; in India, Africa, etc.

In this lesson you will learn how Britain, a powerful but faraway power, was able to defeat and rule a nation as large and ancient as India. Before beginning, study the descriptions of the two nations in 1850 and predict which factors were **MOST IMPORTANT** in allowing Britain to control the densely populated region. Explain your ideas.

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