

Source #9: *The Benefits of British Rule, 1871*, by Dadabhai Naoroji

Benefits of British Rule

*In the Cause of Humanity*¹⁷: Abolition¹⁸ of suttee¹⁹ and infanticide²⁰

*In the Cause of Civilization*²¹: Education, both male and female.....Resuscitation²² of India's own noble literature.

*Politically*²³: Peace and order. Freedom of speech and liberty of the press. Improvement of government in the native states. Security of life and property. Freedom from oppression²⁴...

Materially: Loans for railways and irrigation²⁵. Development²⁶ of a few valuable products, such as indigo²⁷, tea, coffee, silk, etc. Increase of exports²⁸. Telegraphs²⁹.

The Detriments of British Rule

In the Cause of Humanity: Nothing.

In the Cause of Civilization: There has been a failure to do as much as might have been done.

Politically: Repeated breach³⁰ of pledges³¹ to give the natives a fair and reasonable share in the higher administration of their own country.....an utter³² disregard of the feelings and views of the natives.

Financially: New modes of taxation, without any adequate effort to increase the means of the people to pay. Unequal financial relations³³ between England and India.

Summary: To sum up the whole, the British rule has been: **Morally** - a great blessing; **Politically** - peace and order on one hand, blunders on the other; **Materially** - impoverishment..... Our great misfortune is that you do not know our wants. When you will know our real wishes, I have not the least doubt that you would do justice. The genius³⁴ and spirit of the British people is

Review: Use a T-chart to compare the costs and benefits of British rule in India.

¹⁷ Humanity – Quality or state of human life

¹⁸ Abolition – The act of doing away with; ending

¹⁹ Suttee – When a woman burns herself alive after her husband's death.

²⁰ Infanticide – The practice of killing newborn infants

²¹ Civilization - An advanced state of intellectual, cultural, and material development in human society; The act or process of civilizing

²² Resuscitation - To restore life to

²³ Politically - Dealing with the structure or affairs of government, politics, or the state

²⁴ Oppression – The act of keeping someone down by severe and unjust use of force or authority

²⁵ Irrigation - An artificial application of water to the soil usually for assisting in growing crops

²⁶ Development – Growth or progress, especially economically

²⁷ Indigo – A blue dye obtained from various plants. It was popular for use in British textiles in the 1800s.

²⁸ Exports – Items sent out of the country for sale

²⁹ Telegraphs - A communications system. This was the first machine to enable nearly immediate communication with someone across the world.

³⁰ Breach – Breaking a promise

³¹ Pledge - A solemn promise or agreement to do or refrain from doing something

³² Utter - Complete; total; absolute

³³ Relations - The various connections between peoples, countries.

³⁴ Genius – Exception intelligence