

Indian Rulers

The Gupta Empire

King Chandra Gupta I (chuhn-DRUH GOOP-tuh the first) brought northern India together. He set up a new empire. His son had the same name. He loved art and science. While the son ruled, great works of art were made. People learned new things about science. This was called the “golden age.”

Then the Gupta Empire ended. India broke apart. Small Hindu kingdoms formed. These groups fought against each other. There were wars for the next 1,000 years.



The Mughal Empire

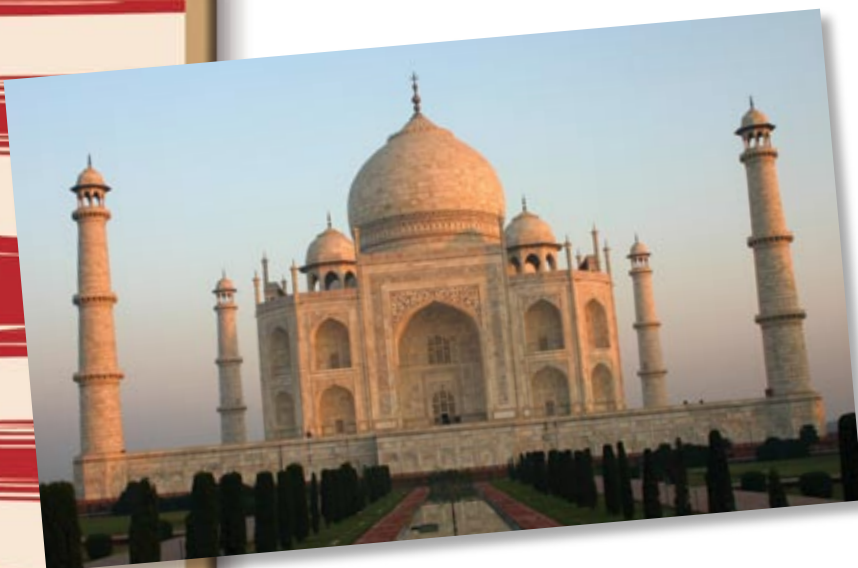
Muslims (MUHZ-luhmz) are people who believe in Islam (is-LAWM). A man named Muhammad (moo-HAM-uhd) began this faith. The Muslims came into India. They took more and more land. By 1526, they ruled much of India. They began the Mughal (MUH-guhl) Empire. They built mosques, or temples. These temples had domes and towers.

Most Mughal leaders wanted the people to follow Islam. Yet, most Hindus kept their faith. Then, the last ruler wanted all Hindus to be Muslims. He tried to force them to do that. They fought against him. This hurt the empire. The Mughal Empire ended by 1800.

Great Britain Takes Control

Great Britain came to India. It set up the East India Company. The British chose its leaders. The Company held power over half of India. Indian princes owned the other half. These princes agreed not to fight the British.

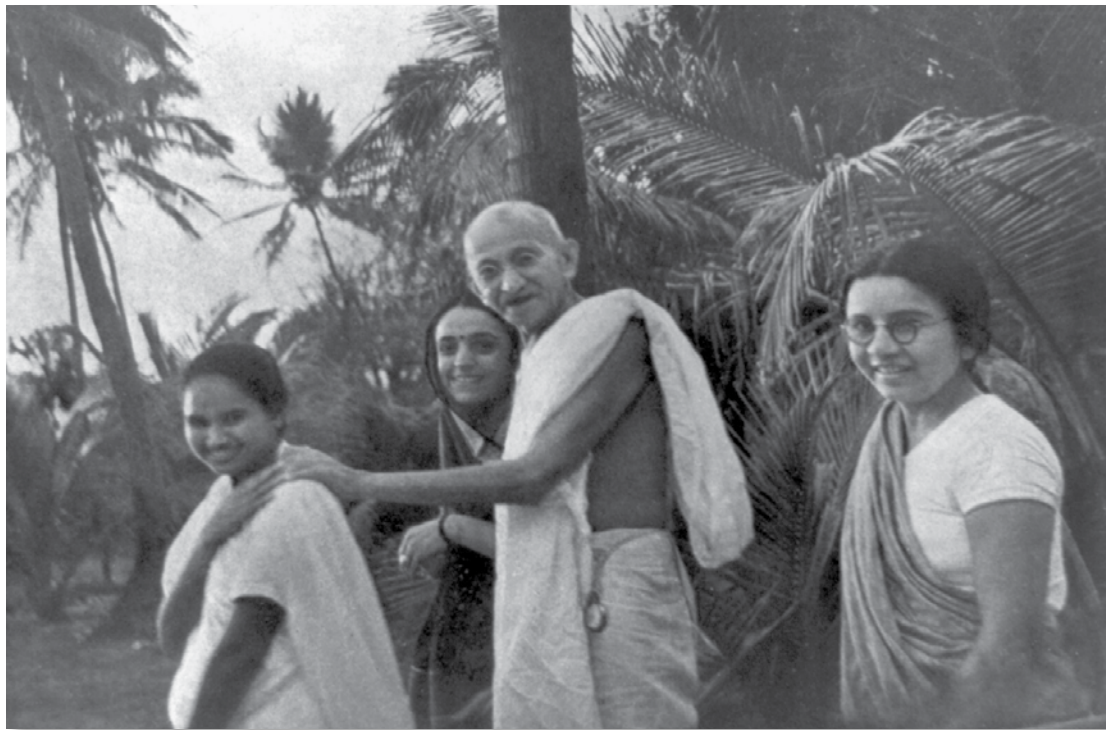
The British made changes. Some changes helped the Indians. Others hurt them. The Indians were not happy. They did not like British rule.



Indian troops were part of the British army. A rumor spread. It said that the British bullets were covered with animal fat. Some said that it was pig fat. Others said that it was cow fat. Muslims think that pigs are dirty. Hindus think cows are holy. People of both faiths got angry. They turned against the British. They started fighting. When it was over, the East India Company had ended. Yet, the British were still in control of India.

Freedom

The Indians wanted to be in charge of their country. They wanted to rule themselves. The British talked about letting them do so. But then they passed new laws. These laws cut back on their rights!



Mohandas Gandhi (mo-HAWN-duhs GAWN-dee) was a Hindu lawyer. He spent his life working for India's freedom. But, he did not use weapons. He did not use force. He used protests. He taught his people that they could disobey without hurting the British. He gave speeches. He held marches.

The British put Gandhi in jail. Still, he would not use force. His protests took time. But they worked. India gained its freedom in 1947.

Comprehension Question

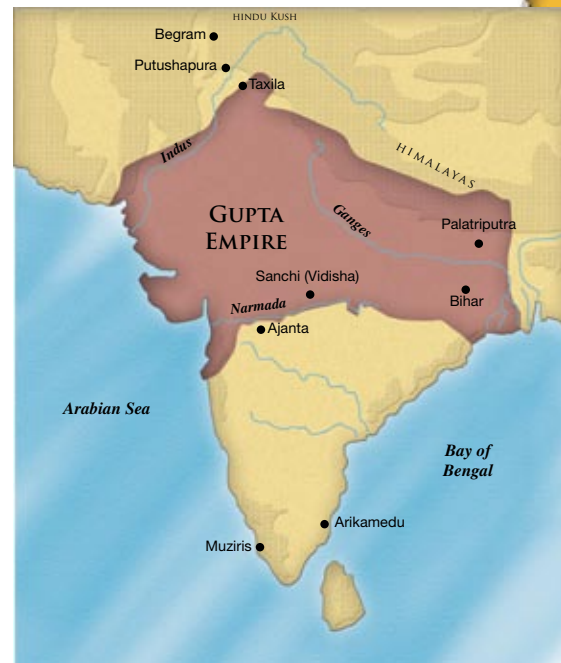
How did Gandhi help his people?

Indian Rulers

The Gupta Empire

King Chandra Gupta I (chuhn-DRUH GOOP-tuh the first) brought together all of northern India. He set up the Gupta Empire. His son wanted people to love art and science. While his son ruled, works of art were made. People learned new things about science. This peaceful time is called the “golden age.”

The Gupta Empire lasted until around A.D. 550. Then it ended. India broke apart. Many small Hindu kingdoms formed. Wars were fought on and off for the next 1,000 years.



The Mughal Empire

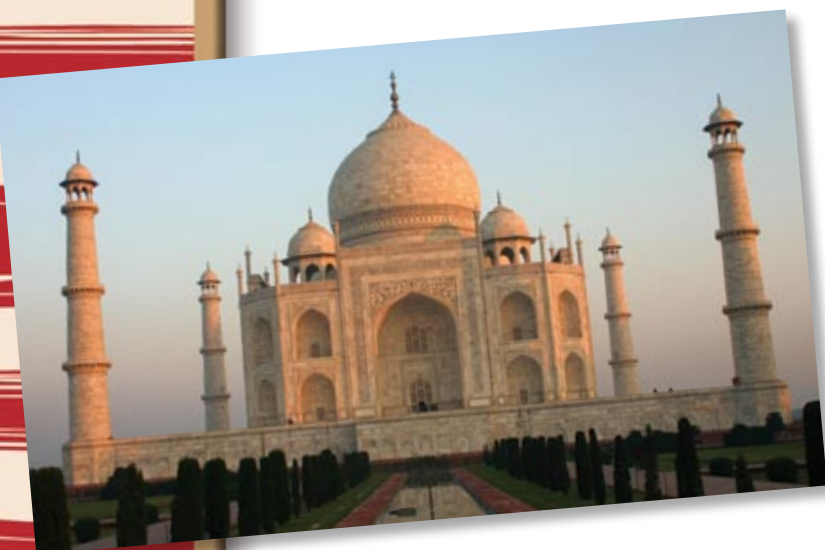
Muslims (MUHZ-luhmz) are people who believe in Islam (is-LAWM). A man named Muhammad (moo-HAM-uhd) began this faith. He started it around A.D. 600. The Muslims invaded India more than once. By 1526, they held much of India. They began the Mughal (MUH-guhl) Empire. The Mughals built beautiful mosques. These domed temples had towers. The greatest Mughal leader was Akbar (AK-buhr). He built the Taj Mahal.

Most Mughal leaders wanted the people to follow Islam. Yet many Hindus kept their faith. Then, the last ruler tried to make all Hindus be Muslims. This caused fighting. It made the empire weak. The Mughal Empire was over by 1800.

Great Britain Takes Control

Great Britain moved into India. It set up the East India Company. The British chose its leaders. The East India Company had power over half of India. Indian princes owned the other half. But these princes agreed not to fight Great Britain.

The British made changes. Some changes helped the Indians. Others hurt the people. The Indians were not happy. They did not like British rule.



In 1857, Indian troops were part of the British army. A rumor spread. It said that their bullets were coated with animal fat. Some said it was pig fat. Others said it was cow fat. Muslims think that pigs are unclean. Hindus think cows are holy. Both Muslims and Hindus got upset. They felt insulted. The Indian troops turned against the British. They started fighting. When it was over, the East India Company had ended. Yet, the British government still had control of India.

Freedom

The Indians wanted to rule themselves. The British talked about giving them control. At the same time, they passed new laws. These laws reduced their rights!



Mohandas Gandhi (mo-HAWN-duhs GAWN-dee) was a lawyer. He came from a rich Hindu family. He spent his life working for India's freedom. He used nonviolent protests. He taught his people that they could disobey without hurting the British or their property. He gave speeches. He held marches. The British put him in jail. Still, he would not use force to get freedom. His methods took time. But in the end, they worked. On August 15, 1947, India gained its freedom.

Comprehension Question

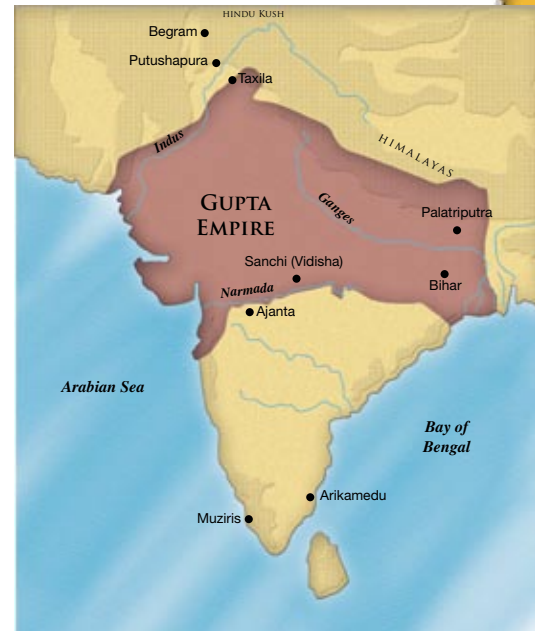
What did Gandhi try to teach his people?

Indian Rulers

The Gupta Empire

King Chandra Gupta I (chuhn-DRUH GOOP-tuh) set up the Gupta Empire. He brought together the whole northern part of India. This empire reached its peak under his son. Chandra Gupta II wanted his people to study art and science. Many scientific gains were made during his reign. This peaceful, stable time is called the “golden age.”

The Gupta Empire lasted until around A.D. 550. After it ended, India broke apart again. It became many separate Hindu kingdoms. Great conflict occurred during the next 1,000 years.



The Mughal Empire

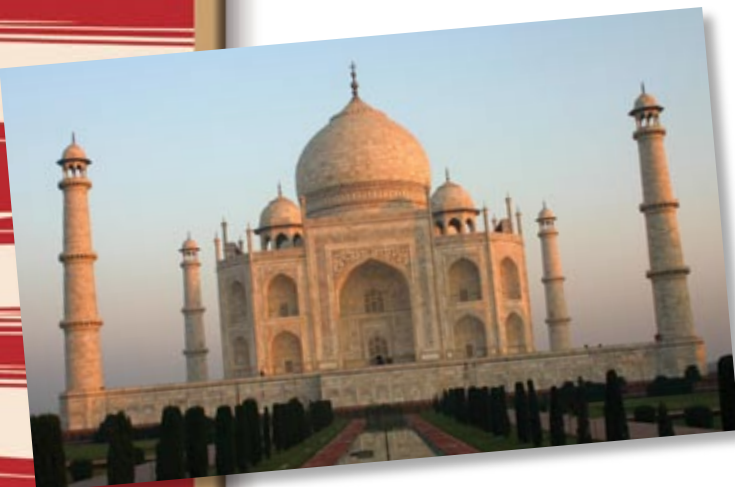
Muslims (MUHZ-luhmz) are people who believe in Islam (is-LAWM). The prophet named Muhammad (moo-HAM-uhd) began this religion around A.D. 600. The Muslims invaded India several times between 1000 and 1500. By 1526, much of India was under Muslim control. They began the Mughal (MUH-guhl) Empire. The Mughals built some of the world’s most beautiful mosques. These domed temples had towers. The greatest Mughal leader, Akbar (AK-buhr), built the Taj Mahal.

Most rulers wanted everyone to follow Islam. Still, many Hindus kept their religion. Then, the last Mughal ruler tried to force the Hindus to be Muslims. This caused a revolt. It weakened the empire. The Mughal Empire had ended by the turn of the 19th century (1800).

Great Britain Takes Control

Next, Great Britain moved into India. It set up a company called the East India Company. Leaders chosen by the British government ruled this company. The East India Company controlled about half of India. Indian princes controlled the other half. These princes pledged their loyalty to Great Britain.

The British made changes. Some changes helped the Indians. Others hurt the people. They were unhappy under British rule.



In 1857, a rumor spread among Indian soldiers serving in the British army. It said that their bullets had been greased with animal fat. Some said it was pig fat. Others said it was cow fat. The Islam religion says that pigs are unclean. Hindus think cows are holy. So, both Muslims and Hindus felt insulted. The Indian soldiers turned against the British. When the fighting ceased, the East India Company had ended. Yet, the British government kept control of India.

Independence

The Indians wanted to rule themselves. The British talked about giving them control. At the same time, they passed new laws. These laws reduced the Indians' rights!



Mohandas Gandhi (mo-HAWN-duhs GAWN-dee) was a lawyer. He came from a rich Hindu family. He spent his life working for India's freedom. He used nonviolent protests. Gandhi taught his people that they could disobey without hurting the British or their property. He gave speeches and held marches. The British put him in prison. Still, he would not use violence to gain freedom. His methods took time, but in the end they worked. On August 15, 1947, India received its independence.

Comprehension Question

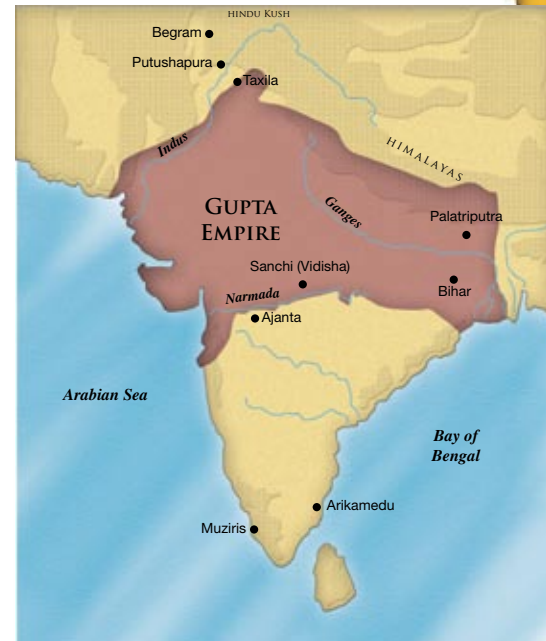
What methods did Gandhi use to gain freedom for his people?

Indian Rulers

The Gupta Empire

In A.D. 319, King Chandra Gupta I (chuhn-DRUH GOOP-tuh) set up the Gupta Empire and brought together the entire northern part of India. This empire reached its peak under his son, Chandra Gupta II, who encouraged his people to study art and science. Many scientific gains were made during his reign, a peaceful, stable time known as the “golden age.”

The Gupta Empire lasted until around A.D. 550. After it ended, India broke apart into many separate Hindu kingdoms. Great conflict occurred during the next millennium (1,000 years).



The Mughal Empire

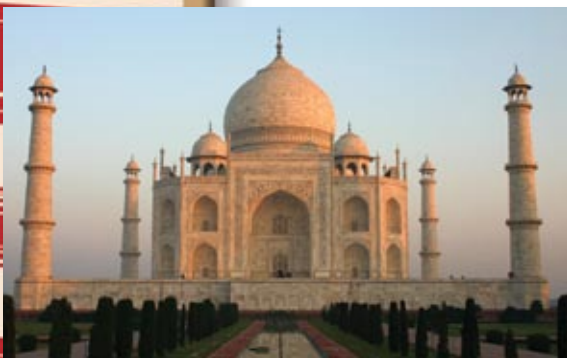
Muslims (MUHZ-luhmz) are people who believe in the Islam (is-LAWM) religion. A prophet named Muhammad (moo-HAM-uhd) began this religion around A.D. 600. The Muslims invaded India several times between 1000 and 1500. By 1526, much of India was under Muslim control, and they began the Mughal (MUH-guhl) Empire. The Mughals built some of the world’s most beautiful mosques. These domed temples had towers. The greatest Mughal leader, Akbar (AK-buhr), built the Taj Mahal.

Most Mughal leaders wanted everyone to follow Islam’s beliefs and rules. Still, many Hindus kept their religion. Then, the last ruler tried to force all of the Hindus to become Muslims. This caused a revolt that seriously weakened the empire. It was over by the turn of the 19th century (1800).

Great Britain Takes Control

In the early 1800s, Great Britain moved into India and established the East India Company. Leaders chosen by the British government ruled the East India Company, which controlled about half of India. Indian princes controlled the other half. In return for keeping this control, they pledged their loyalty to Great Britain.

The British caused many changes in India. Some of these changes benefited the Indians, while others hurt the people. The Indians were unhappy under British rule.



In 1857, a rumor spread among Indian soldiers serving in the British army that their bullets had been greased with animal fat. Some said it was pig fat, and others said it was cow fat. Muslims believe that pigs are unclean, and Hindus consider cows holy. Thus, both Muslims and Hindus were offended. The Indian soldiers turned against the British in a revolt that destroyed the East India Company. Yet, the British government retained control of India.

Independence

The Indians wanted to rule themselves. The British talked about giving Indians control while at the same time passing laws that diminished their rights!



Mohandas Gandhi (mo-HAWN-duhs GAWN-dee) was a lawyer from a wealthy Hindu family who dedicated his life to achieving India's freedom. He used nonviolent protests such as speeches and marches. The British imprisoned him. Still, he refused to resort to violence. His methods took time, but eventually they worked. On August 15, 1947, India received its independence.

Comprehension Question

How did Gandhi set an example for the people of India?