

Documents of Indian Events Before Independence

Questions

Elisa Greathed – An Account of the Opening of the Indian Mutiny at Meerut, 1857

1. From what perspective does Elisa Greathed see the Sepoy Rebellion? From a British viewpoint or Indian viewpoint? How do you know?
2. Why do you think the rebel mob is searching for Elisa Greathed and her husband?
3. What tactics are the rebels using? Do you agree with the tactics they use?
4. Overall, what does this account reveal to us about the Sepoys and their situation?

Inscription at Amritsar Memorial

1. What does this inscription reveal about the bias of its author?
2. What words does the author use to convey emotion?
3. What does this inscription reveal about the relations between the Indians and British?

Dadabhai Naoroji – The Benefits of British Rule, 1871

1. What are five benefits of British rule in India, according to Naoroji?
2. What are five detriments of British rule in India, according to Naoroji?
3. Why do you think the British have refused to give Indians positions of power?
4. What does Naoroji mean when he describes British rule as a “Sakar ki Churi,” a “knife of sugar”?

Mohandas K. Gandhi – Gandhi on Nonviolent Protest

1. Why is Gandhi such a firm believer in nonviolence?
2. What does Gandhi realize in 1893?
3. How have the British made India “more helpless than she ever was before”?
4. Why does Gandhi want the judge to give him the highest possible punishment for his crime?

Webb Miller – Protest in India, 1930

1. Who is Webb Miller? What perspective does he bring?
2. Explain the tactics of nonviolence that the marchers use. What are the results? Does this tactic have a possibility of working or is it ultimately futile?