

Opinion Piece

Indian Nationalism has been both celebrated and rejected through the history of India. India is a nation that has a complex history that has been going on for centuries. Indian Nationalism has been affected depended on the times. From my point of view, the wars for India between the two empires, the Mughal and Maratha, can be seen as being both good and bad depending on how you look at it. Personally I feel as if the wars were sometime unnecessary due to the four million deaths they caused the already famine and plague filled India at the time. When the Maratha came in power some of the positives of their rule is they mostly didn't adhere to the caste system and made it so religion was more seen as a personal affair. In my view, the Marthas empire even though can be seen as bad since they caused some war between the land of India, I am still convinced that in their rule they at least cared about India and they weren't nearly as bad as when the East India Company came in to power. The East India Company were terrible rulers since they didn't care about the people of India and only cared about profit. An example of this is after they took over Bengal, a part of Eastern India, the people of Bengal had to deal with both famines and ridiculously high taxation. Further in their rule, India experienced a revolt that led to Indian soldiers marching in a yet taken-over Delhi. This revolt was met with brutality and the ruining of crops. Moreover, this revolt allowed for the government of India act of 1858, allowing for the British crown to be in control of India. The British rule even though you can argue in some ways better than the East India Company's rule, they were still terrible leaders for the Indian people. An example of this is at the London Colonial Conference, a meeting which called for how to better the British Empire, there wasn't any representatives from India. Additionally, the negatives of India being taxed two time more as people in England and the struggles of famine getting worse far outweighs the good that British did with new buildings such as hospitals and schools. In general, the British empire was better than the East India Company in my opinion however, still not good leaders. India has a rich culture and history that should be respected by the ruling power.