How the British Came to Rule India 1600-1780
Themes

• East India Company 1600-1858
• “Jewel in the Crown”
• European Rivalries in India
• Decline of Mughal Political Authority
• Enrichment and Power
The “Jewel in the Crown”
India in British empire
From Trading company to political control
East India Company 1600-1858

- What was the EIC?
- Why a private company
- Key features of the EIC
  - Large
  - Political influence in Britain
  - Country trade
  - Why did it cease to be simply a trading company and become a political power
European Rivalries in India

- Britain not the only European power interested in India
- Portuguese and Dutch
- French
Decline of Mughal Political Authority

Tomb of Emperor Akbar

Bahadur Shah; the last Mughal Emperor 1858
Decline of Mughal Authority

- Intervention of Europeans
- Growing economic networks
- Rise of regional powers in India
Enrichment and Power

- The Nabobs
- Robert Clive
Enrichment and Power

- Battle of Plassey 1757; defeat of Indian power in Bengal

Clive accepting Surrender Mir Jaffir at Plassey
Enrichment and Power

- Clive makes his fortune
- Warren Hastings
- Award of Diwan to EIC 1767

Warren Hastings
Conclusion

- By 1780 the East India Company had been transformed from a trading enterprise to a political ruler.