

# Rebellion in India (1857) and Jamaica (1865)

# Themes

- Introduction: rebellion and methods of rule
- The Indian Rebellion (Mutiny) May 1858-May 1858
  - Events
  - Causes
  - The shock to Britain
  - Changes in government
- Jamaica: the Morant Bay Uprising October 1865
- What did it all mean?

# Introduction: where were they?

India: Area of rebellion and British advance



# Introduction: where were they?

## Jamaica: Morant Bay



# Introduction: rebellion and methods of rule

- What did these rebellions signify about the benevolent ideology the British believed marked their rule in Empire?
- Humanitarianism versus violence, coercion and repression

# Rebellion in India May 1858-May 1857

- Sepoy unrest
- Rumours: chapatis and pigs grease on cartridges
- 100<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of Plassey
- Mutiny at Meerut



# Rebellion in India

- Peasants and Princes

Nana Sahib



# Rebellion in India





# Rebellion in India

Mrs  
Wheeler at  
Cawnpore,  
about  
to die



# Rebellion in India

Relief of  
Lucknow



# Rebellion in India: causes

- The Humanitarian offensive
- Alienation of Indian ruling class
- Peasant Unrest
- Fear of Christianisation

# Rebellion in India: changes in government

- The final end of EIC
- Sovereignty transferred to British Parliament, March 1858

# Jamaica: the Morant Bay rebellion

- Post-emancipation
- Land Disputes
- Governor Eyre
- Repression
- G.W.Gordon

# Jamaica

Governor Edward Eyre



G.W. Gordon



# The Debate in Britain

- The “Governor Eyre Controversy”
- Was the Empire an empire of law or not?

# What did it all mean?

- Exposed the other side of the humanitarianism that was the ideology of empire
- A reminder of the fragility of empire
- The question of the morality of empire raised
- Fueled a racial harshness