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
- 100th. 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