

## Summary: History

### Islam Comes to India

In the 8th century A.D., Muslims conquered northwest India and converted people to Islam. In the 11th century A.D., Turkish Muslims attacked northwest India. They replaced the Arabs. Mongols from Central Asia spread west and south. The mountains in the northeastern part of South Asia protected them from invasion. Many people fled across these mountains into South Asia. These artists, teachers, government officials, and religious leaders brought their culture and learning to South Asia.

Babur, a Mughal ruler and a Muslim, invaded southward. His kingdom included northern India and parts of Afghanistan. This was the start of the Mughal Empire. Many new trade routes were established, making travel between regions easier. It also connected the empire with the world. New ideas and inventions came to South Asia. After the last Mughal emperor died, the empire collapsed.

### Arrival of the British

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I of England gave trade rights in India and East and Southeast Asia to the East India Company. The Mughals agreed to let the British set up factories and trading centers.

In 1796, Great Britain took possession of Sri Lanka, which was then called Ceylon, and the Maldives. The British were unable to colonize Afghanistan. Mountainous frontiers kept foreigners out of Nepal and Bhutan.

The British brought new technology for railroads, the telegraph, steamships, and methods of irrigation. They also introduced the British legal system, which had new laws about owning land. They made English the official language.

After World War I, Indians began to call for independence. The leader Mohandas Gandhi used nonviolence to show the British the need for independence. Eventually, Great Britain realized it would have to leave India. The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League disagreed about how to form a new government. The solution was to divide India into two countries: India for the Hindus and Pakistan for the Muslims. Each country gained independence in 1947.

### Before You Read

Find and circle each vocabulary word.

**nonviolence** *noun*, without violence; peacefully calling for governmental change

**frontier** *noun*, a geographic or political boundary between regions

### After You Read

**REVIEW** What did people who were fleeing from the Mongols bring into South Asia? Highlight the sentences that tell what the people fleeing from the Mongols brought into South Asia.

**REVIEW** Which changes brought to India by the British were cultural and which were technological? Underline the sentence that tells about the cultural changes the British brought. Draw a box around the sentence that tells about the technological changes the British brought.