

Imperialism on Trial

Research Paper Assignment

Due Date	Writing Format	Source List
Sunday, November 1, 2026	Completed during class time	Submitted on Microsoft Teams in APA format

The central question

Did imperialism primarily develop, exploit or transform the Asian societies it controlled?

Your task is to investigate evidence from several examples of imperialism in Asia and deliver an individual historical verdict. You must consider all three possible conclusions, but the majority of your paper should explain and defend the verdict that you believe is best supported by the evidence.

The three possible verdicts

1 Development	Imperialism created significant development that benefited colonized societies.
2 Exploitation	Imperialism was primarily a system of exploitation and control.
3 Development through injustice	Imperialism produced development, but through an unjust system designed mainly to serve imperial interests.

Research requirements

- Use evidence from at least three examples of imperialism in Asia.
- Use at least two primary sources and at least three reliable secondary sources.
- Use facts, quotations, statistics or historical examples from your sources to support your verdict.
- Include APA in-text citations in your paper.
- Submit a complete APA reference list on Microsoft Teams.
- Use the attached Guided Source Notes pages to prepare the evidence you will bring into the in-class writing process.

Possible case studies: British India, foreign influence in China, French Indochina, the Dutch East Indies, the American Philippines and other examples approved by Mr. Nuruddin.

Research paper checklist

☐	Choose one of the three verdicts and state it clearly.
☐	Use at least three examples of imperialism in Asia.
☐	Use at least two primary sources and three reliable secondary sources.
☐	Select evidence that directly helps you prove your verdict.
☐	Explain how your evidence supports your conclusion instead of only listing facts.
☐	Recognize the strongest opposing position and respond to it.
☐	Use APA in-text citations throughout the paper.
☐	Submit your complete APA reference list on Microsoft Teams.

Using evidence effectively

Evidence only	Evidence connected to a verdict
Britain constructed railways throughout India.	British railways connected Indian cities, but they also moved troops and carried resources to export ports. This evidence supports the verdict that development occurred inside a system designed mainly for British control and trade (Author's Last Name, Year, p. #).

In class writing expectations

- You will receive regular class time to research, plan and write the paper.
- Your research paper will be completed during class time.
- You may use the attached Guided Source Notes while writing.
- Your notes may include quotations, statistics, key facts and brief explanations of how the evidence connects to your verdict.
- Your notes should not contain complete body paragraphs or a prewritten essay.
- Use class time carefully. Your progress should be visible from one writing session to the next.

Assessment rubric

Criteria	Extending	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
Historical understanding	Accurate, detailed and comparative understanding of imperialism across the selected cases.	Accurate understanding of the selected cases with meaningful comparison.	Some accurate knowledge, but explanation or comparison is uneven.	Limited or inaccurate understanding of the selected cases.
Research and evidence	Primary and secondary evidence is specific, well chosen and consistently strengthens the argument.	Appropriate primary and secondary evidence supports the main argument.	Some useful evidence is included, but connections to the argument are inconsistent.	Evidence is limited, unreliable or mostly disconnected from the argument.
Individual verdict	A clear, nuanced verdict drives the paper and is convincingly justified across several cases.	A clear verdict is supported with relevant reasoning and evidence.	A verdict is present, but it is broad, inconsistent or only partly supported.	The verdict is unclear, unsupported or mostly descriptive.
Competing interpretation	The strongest opposing argument is treated fairly and answered convincingly.	A relevant counterargument is identified and answered.	A counterargument is mentioned but not fully addressed.	Little or no consideration of another interpretation.
Communication and citations	Ideas are organized, precise and easy to follow. APA citations and the reference list are complete and accurate.	Writing is organized and clear. Citations and the reference list are mostly correct.	Organization or clarity is uneven. Citation errors are noticeable.	Writing is difficult to follow or required citations are missing.

Final submission checklist

☐	I have clearly stated and justified my individual verdict.
☐	I have used at least three examples of imperialism in Asia.
☐	I have used at least two primary and three secondary sources with APA in-text citations.
☐	I have submitted my APA reference list on Microsoft Teams by November 1.

Guided Source Notes

Name: _____ Block: _____

Purpose: Use these pages to collect the information you will need while writing. Record useful facts and evidence in point form. Do not write complete essay paragraphs.

Sources 1 and 2

SOURCE 1

Source details	Title or author: _____ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Case study: _____ Page or date: _____
Important evidence Facts, quotations, statistics or historical details	
Connection to my verdict What does this evidence help me prove?	

SOURCE 2

Source details	Title or author: _____ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Case study: _____ Page or date: _____
Important evidence Facts, quotations, statistics or historical details	
Connection to my verdict What does this evidence help me prove?	

Guided Source Notes Continued

Name: _____

Complete notes for the remaining required sources. Use the back of the page or an extra sheet if you find additional evidence.

SOURCE 3

Source details	Title or author: _____ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Case study: _____ Page or date: _____
Important evidence Facts, quotations, statistics or historical details	
Connection to my verdict What does this evidence help me prove?	

SOURCE 4

Source details	Title or author: _____ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Case study: _____ Page or date: _____
Important evidence Facts, quotations, statistics or historical details	
Connection to my verdict What does this evidence help me prove?	

SOURCE 5

Source details	Title or author: _____ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Case study: _____ Page or date: _____
Important evidence Facts, quotations, statistics or historical details	
Connection to my verdict What does this evidence help me prove?	