Imperialism In India

Situation: It is the late 19th century and you are a newspaper reporter for the London Times. You’ve been assigned to cover the brewing situation that is happening in India around this time. You begin by traveling around the country, talking to everybody that will give a statement. You make sure to include Indians, both rich and poor, as well as British nationals that have moved to India. You want to know how people view British imperial activities in India; whether they view it in a positive or negative light. You become rather confused when you find that most people see both positive and negative effects of imperialism.

Task: Using the statements on imperialism, answer a series of questions in order to clarify the documents.

Part 1: Read and analyze each of the documents below and answer the questions that follow. Answer all questions.

Source 1: In this excerpt, adapted from O.P. Austin’s “Does Colonization Pay?” in The Forum, both positive and negative results of imperialism are pointed out.

- According to the author, what are the benefits of imperialism to the colony? What are the benefits to the colonizer?

Source 2: In this speech, an Indian describes the effects of imperialism on India:

- How is British imperialism both positive and negative for India?

Source 3: This excerpt is adapted from The Economic History of India Under Early British Rule, by an Indian, Romesh Dutt.

- What benefits did India gain during British imperialism?

Source 4: This excerpt is adapted from British historian, J.A.R. Marriott’s book, The English in India.

List 5 benefits of imperialism cited by this author.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Source 5: This excerpt, from India: A Restatement by British writer Sir Reginald Coupland, points out the social and economic impact of imperialism on India.

- What are the benefits of imperialism identified by this author?

Source 6: This excerpt, from The Discovery of India, by Jawaharlal Nehru, explains how India became a “typical” colonial economy.

- What negative effects of imperialism does Nehru point out?

Source 7: Mohandas Gandhi offers a complaint about imperialism.

- What is Gandhi’s criticism of imperialism?
PART 2: After going over the material that you have collected, analyze point of view/bias for each document. Also list two additional documents that would help to answer the question, “Was 19th century imperialism helpful or harmful to India?”

- Document 1:
- Document 2:
- Document 3:
- Document 4:
- Document 5:
- Document 6:
- Document 7:

“Was 19th century imperialism helpful or harmful to India?”
Take the above prompt and write an introductory paragraph. Use the BAR method (Background, argument(thesis), roadmap)