**The effects of the British Empire on Britain**

**The effects of the British Empire on the colonies**

A) The empire helped Britain get richer. They got cheap materials from the colonies (such as gold from South Africa and rubber from Malaya). They could use these to make manufactured goods.

B) The empire gave British businesses a market to sell things easily. This was good at first, but eventually Britain fell behind other countries in technology because they didn’t have to compete and got lazy.

I) The people in the colonies suffered great losses in land stolen from them by the British. Thousands of people were killed when they rebelled against the British taking their lands.

J) British engineering brought the colonies with much better transport such as railways and canals, which allowed people to travel more easily and irrigate their farmland so more crops would grow.

D) Britain was able to sell large amounts of goods to people in the empire. Cotton in particular was sold all around the world and made lots of money.

E) During WWI and WWII people from the colonies helped Britain by sending thousands of soldiers to fight, from countries such as India, the Caribbean and many African countries. They also sent materials to help make weapons.

F) Between 1870 and 1945 Britain was one of the strongest countries in the world due to the size of the empire. They also had the strongest navy in the world

C) Britain spent a lot of money improving transport systems in the colonies. If they had spent this money on new technology they would not have fallen behind other countries like America and Germany.

G) Britain was dependent on the empire and when colonies began to win independence from the empire Britain lost much of its power and became unsure of its role in the world.

H) Many people felt that Britain had been unfair in the way it ruled the empire. Many people in the colonies felt that Britain had cheated them. This gave Britain a bad name abroad.

L) The British made laws to keep pay low and taxes high for people in the colonies. This made them very poor and dependent on Britain. In Kenya, the native people did all the manual labour while the British managed them.

M) The industries set up in the colonies were owned by British businessmen, meaning that businesses aimed to help Britain rather than the colonies, and the profits were all taken by the British.

N) Britain made social improvements in the colonies, such as building schools, hospitals, banks and post offices across the empire. Elizabeth Bielby set up a women’s hospital in Lahore, India and worked there, 1888-1903.

K) Britain tried to rule fairly in many areas of the empire, and to improve human rights. They ended practices such as the Suttee in India, where wives threw themselves on their husband’s funeral pyre to die with them.

O) People in the colonies learned new ideas from the British, such as how British government and law worked. They used these to make positive changes to their countries. However, it also meant some native culture was lost.

P) Many people in the colonies didn’t like the prejudices of the British, who saw themselves as better than the native people. They often repressed protests and imprisoned or killed people who fought British rule.