

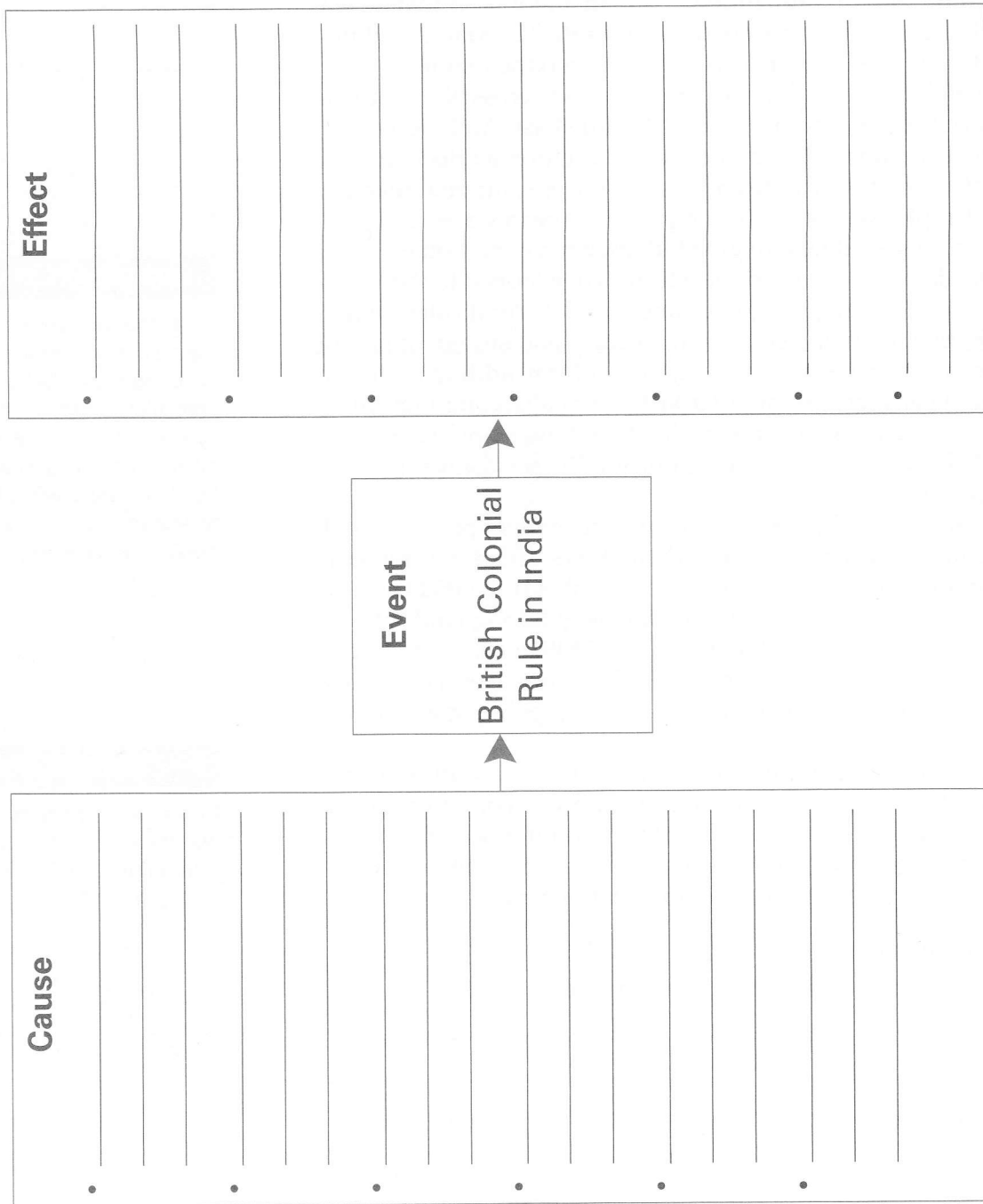
CHAPTER
24
SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide

THE BRITISH TAKE OVER INDIA

Focus Question: How did Britain gradually extend its control over most of India despite opposition?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the flowchart below to identify the causes and effects of British colonial rule in India.



CHAPTER 24 SECTION 4

Section Summary

THE BRITISH TAKE OVER INDIA

Mughal rulers governed a powerful Muslim empire in India. The British East India Company had trading rights on the fringes of the Mughal empire. The main goal of the East India Company was to make money. As Mughal power declined, the East India Company extended its power. By the mid-1800s, it controlled three-fifths of India. The British were able to conquer India by exploiting its diversity, and by encouraging competition and disunity among rival princes. When necessary, the British also used force. However, British officials worked to end slavery and the caste system. They banned **sati**, a custom that called for a widow to throw herself on her husband's funeral fire. In the 1850s, the East India Company made several unpopular moves. The most serious brought about the Sepoy Rebellion. Indian soldiers, or **sepoys**, were told to bite off the tips of their rifle cartridges. This order caused a rebellion because the cartridges were greased with animal fat, violating local religious beliefs. The British crushed the revolt, killing thousands of unarmed Indians. The rebellion left a legacy of mistrust on both sides.

After the rebellion, Parliament ended the rule of the East India Company. Instead, a British **viceroy** governed India in the name of the monarch. In this way, all of Britain could benefit from trade with India as Britain incorporated India into the overall British economy. However, it remained an unequal partnership, favoring the British. Although the British built railroads and telegraph lines, they destroyed India's hand-weaving industry. Encouraging Indian farmers to grow cash crops led to massive **deforestation** and famines.

Some educated Indians urged India to follow a Western model of progress. Others felt they should keep to their own Hindu or Muslim cultures. In the early 1800s, **Ram Mohun Roy** combined both views. Roy condemned rigid caste distinctions, child marriage, **sati**, and **pardah**, or the isolation of women in separate quarters. He also set up educational societies to help revive pride in Indian culture. Most British disdained Indian culture and felt that Western-educated Indians would support British rule. Instead, Indians dreamed of ending British control. In 1885, Indian nationalists formed the Indian National Congress and began pressing for self-rule.

Review Questions

1. How were the British able to conquer India?

2. How did India benefit from Western technology?

What does the word *overall* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice that it is a compound word. A compound word is made from two separate words. Use the two words that make up *overall* to help you figure out what it means.

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

READING CHECK

What was *sati*?

Identify Causes and Effects

What caused the sepoys to rebel? What were two effects of the rebellion?

READING SKILL