

DADABHAI NAOROJI

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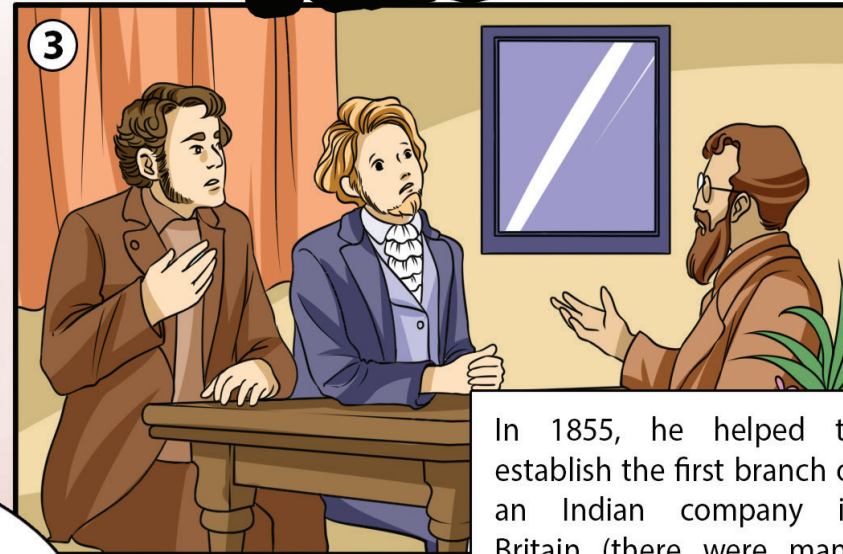
Dadabhai Naoroji was born in 1825 to a family of the Zoroastrian faith in Mumbai, then part of British India.



By the age of 30, he became the first Indian professor at the English-language Elphinstone College.

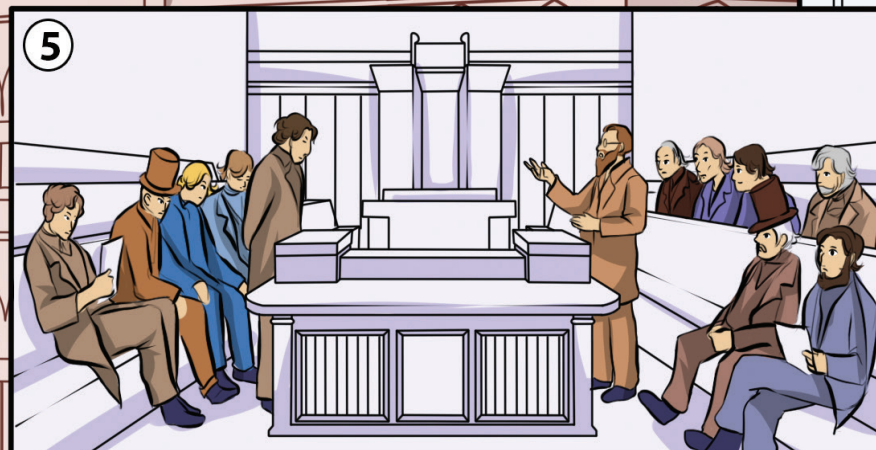
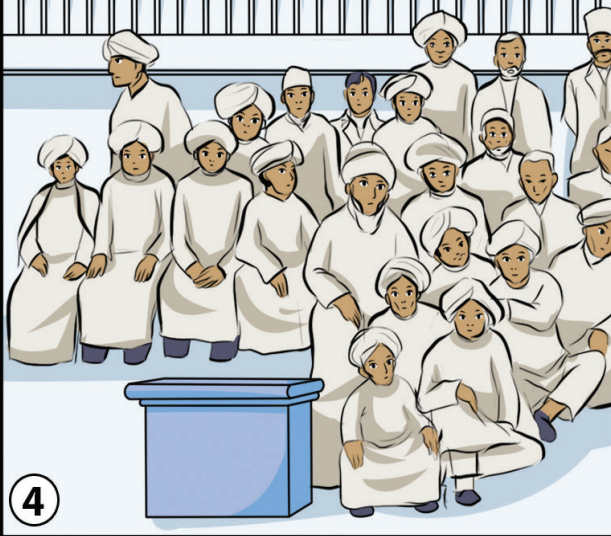


"The political drain, up to this time, from India to England, of above 500,000,000 [British pounds]. The further continuation of this drain at the rate of above 12,000,000 [pounds] per annum. The consequent continuous impoverishment and exhaustion of the country. The material condition of India is such that the great mass of the poor have hardly tuppence a day and a few rags, or a scanty subsistence."



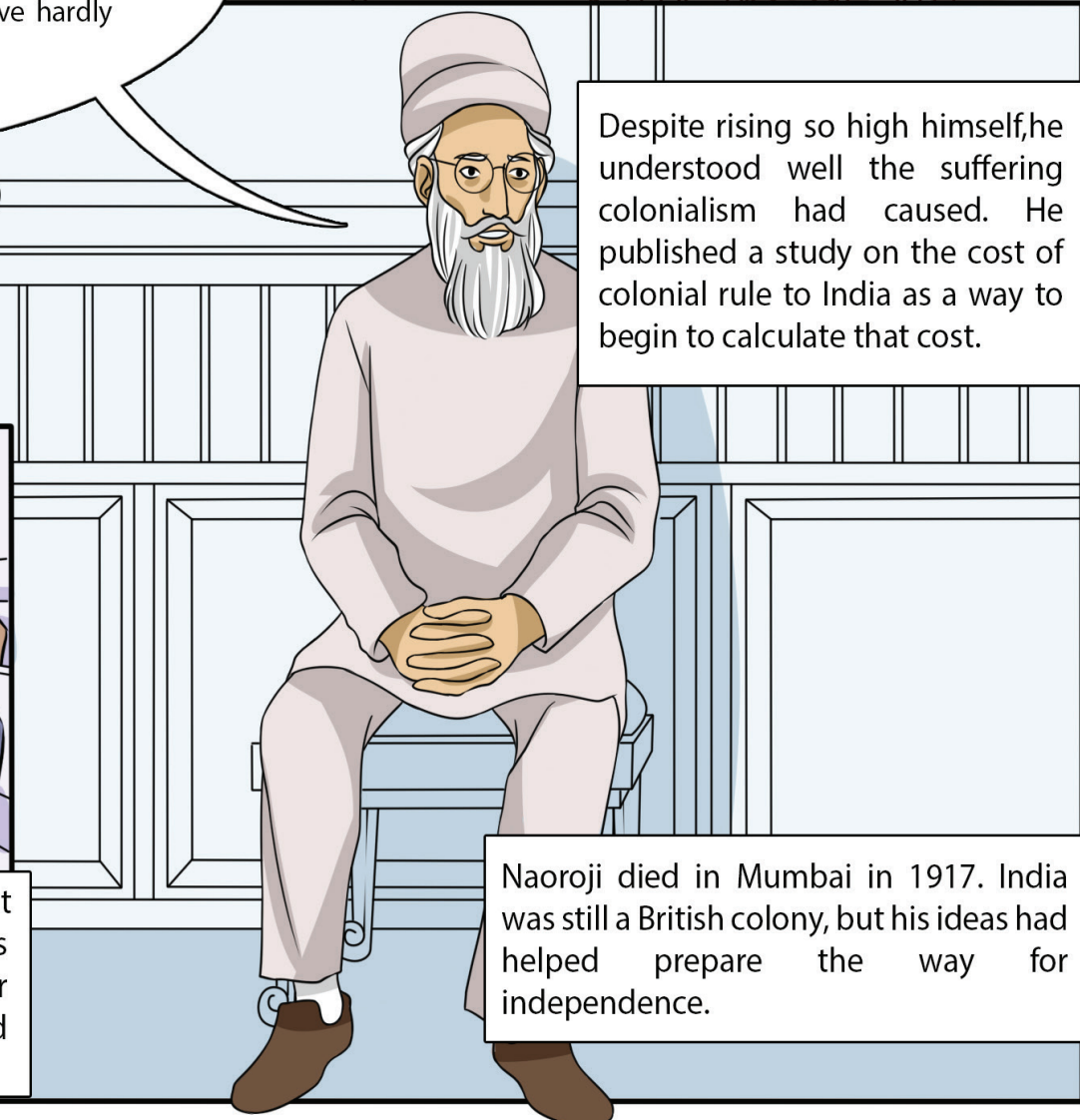
In 1855, he helped to establish the first branch of an Indian company in Britain (there were many British companies in India).

Back in India in the 1870s, he helped to establish organizations like the Indian National Congress to fight for the rights of Indians.



Returning to Britain, he faced extraordinary racism but in 1892 became the first Asian elected to Parliament. As a Member of Parliament, he supported rights for colonial subjects as well as Irish self-government and women's suffrage.

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Despite rising so high himself, he understood well the suffering colonialism had caused. He published a study on the cost of colonial rule to India as a way to begin to calculate that cost.

Naoroji died in Mumbai in 1917. India was still a British colony, but his ideas had helped prepare the way for independence.