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SOURCE NINE

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Papers from the trial of Warren Hastings, British Governor of Bengal, 1785  
(PRO ref: PRO 30/8/357 f117)

Yet nevertheless the said Hastings without regard to his Duty or the trust reposed in him, the dishep of the Company or the Orders of the Court of Directors did in pursuance of a System of profusion and prodigality and with a view to enrich his favourites and dependants enter into many and various contracts without the least attention to <sup>the</sup> wholesome Orders above mentioned which said improvident Contracts did greatly tend to the impoverishment and ruin of the East India Company and he the said Hastings did further authorize and approve of many enormous Salaries and extravagant allowances to his favourites and did lavish away much of the resources of the Company and of the Princes in Alliance

## How to use this source

Study this source carefully. Different parts of the source will contain clues about why the British became empire builders in India. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What is Warren Hastings accused of?
- Do these accusations seem reasonable (use the useful notes to help you)?
- What are the strengths of this source in terms of working out the motives of British empire builders in India?
- What are the weaknesses of this source in terms of working out the motives of British empire builders in India?

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