

## Source Analysis: Was Daendels a great man?



**Source A:** Posthumous portrait of Herman Willem Daendels 1838, Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies from 1808 to 1810, based on a miniature dated 1816 by French artist S.J. Rochard. Part of the Governors-general series  
*Painted by Javanese artist Raden Saleh*

**Source B:** “Daendels was indeed a hard man, and a mean one.”  
*Victoria Glendinning (Biographer of Raffles.*

*Her book “Raffles and the Golden Opportunity was published in 2012. One of her sources was Peter Carey work on the Java War)*

**Source C:** “It needed the firm character and absolute will of Marshall Daendels to undertake a work of this nature (building the post road/postweg). No governor-general before him had thought of it and I believe none after him would dare to contemplate it. Javanese with a little education who know the history of Napoleon compare him to Marshall Daendels, calling him ‘The Daendels of Europe’, although I think the latter (Daendels) will always win out over the former (Napoleon).

*Comte Errembault de Dudzele et d’Orroir (1789-1830)*

**Source D:** “One of the monsters which the worst times of the French Revolution created.....greedy, corrupt, and rascally in amassing money for himself.”

*Earl of Minto British Governor General of India 1807-1813 talking about Daendels*

**Source E:** “A man of few scruples, great energy and a penchant for using force to achieve his political ends, he was destined to make a lasting mark on the history of Java.”

*Peter Carey, a British historian and author who studies East Timor, Java and Burma. He was the Laithwaite fellow Modern History at Trinity College, Oxford.*

Q1. What VALUE does Source A have for the historian studying the impact of Daendels?

Q2. What are possible LIMITATIONS for the historian in using Source B?

Q3. Complete the OPVL grid below for each source

Q4. Use the grid and your background knowledge to answer this question **“Was Daendels a great man?”**

Source	Origin	Purpose	Value	Limitations
A				
B				
C				
D				
E				