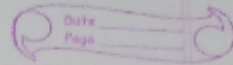


01-07-19

ch-1

Monday

The French Revolution



Q-1 Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

Ans.) Following were the circumstances leading to the outbreak of Revolutionary protest in France :-

- 1) In 1774, Louis XVI of Bourbon family of Kings ascended the throne of France. Upon his accession the new king found an empty treasury. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
- 2) French society in the 18th century was divided into 3 estates, and only members of the 3rd estates paid taxes. The society of estates was part of the feudal privileges system that dated back to the middle ages.
- 3) The members of the first 2 estates, i.e. the clergy and the nobility enjoyed certain privileges by birth. The most important of these was the exemption

from paying taxes to the state. The nobles further enjoyed feudal privileges.

4) The Church too, extracted its share of taxes called tithes from the peasants, and finally, all members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the state. These included a direct tax called taille, and a number of indirect taxes which were levied on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco.

5) The 18th century witnessed the emergence of social groups, termed the middle class, who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods such as woollen and silk textiles that were either exported or ~~but~~ bought by the richer members of society. The writers & philosophers like ~~Ross~~ Rousseau, Montesquieu, Locke & Voltaire created environment for Revolution.

Q.2 Which groups were benefitted from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which groups were forced to of society would have been disappointed with outcome of the revolution?

Ans.) i) The middle class were benefitted from the revolution.

ii) The clergy & nobility were forced to relinquish power.

iii) The lower part of the 3rd Estate were disappointed from the outcome of the revolution.

Q.3 Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world during the 19th & 20th centuries.

Ans.) The legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world during the 19th & 20th centuries were:-

- Date _____
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- 1) The concept of nation, & nation states emerged and got popularised in the rest of the world.
 - 2) The slogan of equality, liberty and fraternity became very popular.
 - 3) The feudal system were abolished and the idea of freedom from bondage spread fast.
 - 4) The movements to create sovereign Nation states became very important and popular.
 - 5) The censorship on press was abolished & the declaration of the rights of man & citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.

Q.4) Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

Ans.) Following is the list of democratic rights from the French Revolution:-

- 1) Right to Equality
- 2) Right to Freedom
- 3) Cultural & Educational rights.
- 4) Right to freedom of religion.
- 5) Right against exploitation.
- 6) Right to constitutional remedies.

Q.5) Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Ans.) Yes, we agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions.

- 1) Not all citizens were given the right to vote on the principle of 1 person, 1 vote, 1 value.
- 2) Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a

labourer's wage were given to the status of active citizens, i.e. they were entitled to vote.

- 3) The remaining men & all women were classed as passive citizens. 1)
- 4) To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers. 2)

Q.6) How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Ans.) Napoleon Bonaparte was called the architect of modern France. He was born in a common family in the village Ajaccio of Corsica Island of France in 1769. With his abilities, courage & determination, he became a high officer in French Army. He was one of the directors in the directory that ruled France after the reign of Terror. Napoleon Bonaparte declared

himself the Emperor of France in 1804.

Following were his political reforms.

- 1) He introduced many laws such as protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.
- 2) Initially, many saw him as a liberator who would bring freedom for the people.
- 3) He introduced Napoleonic Code in 1804.
- 4) He modernised the French Army.
- 5) He started many financial reforms.
Eg. Bank of France.

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