

Chapter-1

The French Revolution

Questions :-

(1.) Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France?

Ans. Following are some of the causes which had a cumulative effect to result in revolution in France -

- (i) The War with Britain for an Independent America $\Rightarrow$ This war led to mountain debt on France Society Monarchy.
- (ii) Privileges base and birth $\Rightarrow$ People got privileges and position based on their lineage and not merit.
- (iii) Concentration of power $\Rightarrow$ Among the privileged people belonging to the first and second estate had all the power and money. ^{Money} were at the mercy of this privileged class.
- (iv) Subsistence Causes $\Rightarrow$ Rising population and less grain production. Resulted in demands. Supply of bread, which was the staple diet. ^{Wedges} did not keep price with rising price.

(2.)

Which groups of French Society benefitted from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which sections of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?

Ans.

Peasants and artisans of French society benefitted from the revolution. Clergy, noble and church had to relinquish power. It is obvious that those who had to forego power and privileges would have been disappointed. Peoples from the first and second state must have been a disappointed lot.

(3.)

Describe the legacy of the French revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ans.

The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French revolution. These spread from France to the rest of Europe during the nineteenth century, where feudal systems were abolished. Colonised people reworked the idea of freedom from bondage into their movements to create a sovereign nation state. Tipu Sultan and Rammohan Roy are two examples of individuals who responded to the ideas coming from revolutionary France.

(4.)

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

Ans-

The following fundamental rights, given in the Indian constitution can be traced to the French revolution:

- (i) The right to equality.
- (ii) The right to freedom of speech and expression.
- (iii) The right to freedom from exploitation.
- (iv) The right to constitutional remedies.

(5.)

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

Ans-

The major contradiction in the message of universal rights. As per the French constitution of 1791 was the total neglect of women all rights were given to men. Apart from that the presence of huge number of people as passive citizens without voting rights was like not putting into practice what you preach. In other words it can be said that although the declaration of universal rights was a good starting point. But it left much to be desired.

(6.)

How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Ans-

In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms where he had placed members of his family. Napoleon saw his role as a moderniser of Europe. He introduced many laws such as the

protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.

Initially, many saw Napoleon as a liberator who would bring freedom for the people. But soon the Napoleonic armies came to be viewed everywhere as an invading force. He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815.

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