

SOCIAL SCIENCE (CLASS 9TH)

HISTORY

(CHAPTER -1)

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

ENGLISH MEDIUM

FAQ INSTITUTION

INTRODUCTION

On 14th July 1789, rumours that the king would order the army to open fire upon citizens caused alarm in the city of Paris.

Around 7000 men and women gathered together in the front of the town hall. They formed a people 'militia' and broke into government buildings looking for arms.

They finally stormed the fortress prison, Bastille searching for arms and ammunition.

They killed the commander of Bastille and released seven prisoners from jail.

The Bastille, which represented the despotic rule of king, was destroyed and its strong fragments were sold as souvenirs of its destruction.

On the other side many riots took place in Paris and the countryside largely to protest against the high price of bread. These riots considered the beginning of the revolution and the chain of events that followed, paved the way of the execution of the king in France, Louis XVI.

INTRODUCTION

French society during the late 18th century

In 1774, 20 years old Louis XVI of Bourbon became the king of France. He was married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette. Louis XVI inherited an empty treasury because:-

- 1) The war had drained financial resources of France**
- 2) The cost of maintenance of extravagant court at Versailles.**
- 3) Louis XVI had helped the 13 colonies in America to gain their freedom from Britain. The debt increased by 1 billion livres to 2 billion livres, which was the unit of currency in France.**
- 4) The French government had to spend large amount of its budget as interest payment to lenders who charged 10% on loans.**
- 5) The state increased taxes to pay for the maintenance of the army, court, govt. offices, universities etc.**

THE OLD REGIME

- ▶ The term 'OLD REGIME' is usually used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789.
- ▶ Society was divided in three estates are:-
 - 1) First estate: -CLERGY
 - 2) Second estate: -NOBILITY
 - 3) Third estate: -peasants ,artisans, merchants ,businessmen etc.

THE THREE ESTATES OF FRANCE

In 18th century French society divided into three estates are:-

FIRST ESTATE(CLERGY):-

1. *clergies were the group of persons invested with special functions in the church and owned large area of land.*
2. *They enjoyed special privileges by birth and didn't paying taxes to the state.*
3. *They collected a tax from the peasants called "tithes" which comprised of one-tenth of the total agriculture production.*

SECOND ESTATE (NOBILITY):-

- ***It consisted of rich, aristocrats people of the estate.***
- ***They also enjoyed special privileges by birth. they didn't pay taxes to the state like clergies.***
- ***They also enjoyed feudal privileges for example feudal dues ,which are collected from the peasants. peasants had to:-***
 - 1) ***Provide services to the lord.***
 - 2) ***Work in his house and fields.***
 - 3) ***Serve in the army***
 - 4) ***Participate in building roads etc.***

THIRD ESTATE:-

- 1) The peasantry made up 90% of the population though only a small number owned the land they cultivated**
- 2) It consists of the rest of the population for ex- businessman, merchants, court officials, lawyers, peasants, artisans and landless labour etc.**
- 3) They were the only members of the society who paid taxes to the estate.**
- 4) They had no privilege, they had to pay direct taxes called *taille* to the state as well as a number of indirect taxes imposed on articles of daily consumption like salt, tobacco etc.**

SUBSISTENCE CRISIS

A situation where the basic means of livelihood was in danger is known as 'subsistence crisis'

- 1) During 1715-1789 the population increased rapidly which led to rapid increase demand for food grains.***
- 2) Insufficient production increased the price of bread but wages of the workers were not adequate enough to keep pace with the rise in prices.***
- 3) Situation become worse if there was bad weather conditions like flood ,tsunami and drought, which reduced the harvest.***
- 4) These condition created subsistence crises in the France.***

(EMERGENCE OF MIDDLE CLASS)

The absence of educated middle class in the past made it difficult to change the existing social and economic order. peasants and workers had participated in revolts against increasing taxes and food scarcity . but they had insufficient means and Programmes to carry out full-scale measures that would bring about a change in the order.

But emergence of a middle class in the 18th century who had wealth acquired through:-

- 1) expanding overseas trade and manufacturing goods.**
- 2) Third estate comprised of merchants and manufacturers there were lawyers and administrative officials who were educated .They believed that no group of society should be privileged by birth.**
- 3) Philosophers like John Locke , Jean Jacques Rousseau and Montesquieu considered the middle class was sole responsible for revolution.**
- 4) They spread the ideas of Freedom , Equal laws and opportunities for all.**

(IDEAS OF PHILOSOPHERS)

- ▶ **John Locke in his 'two treaties of government' criticized the doctrine of divine and absolute right of the monarch(king).**
- ▶ **Rousseau in his book 'the social contract' proposed the form of the government based on a social contract between people and their representatives.**
- ▶ **Montesquieu In his 'spirit of the laws' stressed the concept of separation of powers between the Legislature , The Executive and the Judiciary .his concept of separation of powers was a great instrument against the despotic autocratic rule of French emperor.**
- ▶ **American constitution and its guarantee of individual rights was an important example of political thinkers of France.**

The ideas of philosophers were popularized in coffee houses ,salons , Books and newspapers. Books and newspapers were read aloud to people who could not read and write .The news of further taxation to meet state expenses caused anger and brought about protests.

THE OUTBREAK OF REVOLUTION **(Liberty , Equality , Fraternity)**

- ▶ ***On 5th may 1789 louis XVI called for an assembly of the estates general to pass the proposal for new taxes.***
- ▶ ***The first and second estates sent their 300 representatives each , who were seated in rows facing each other on two sides.***
- ▶ ***600 representatives of the third estate ,who were primarily prosperous and educated people stood at the back.***
- ▶ ***Women , artisans and peasants were not allowed any representation through their grievances were put down in some 40,000 letters brought by the representatives.***
- ▶ ***The members of the third estate demanded that voting should be conducted by taking assembly as a whole . but the king rejected the proposal and members of the third estate walked out of assembly in the protest.***

THE TENNIS COURT OATH

- 1) After weeks of Argument, the third estate joined by some members from the other two classes or estates declared that they were a national assembly representing the people, inviting the collaboration of the nobles and clergy.
- 2) They swore to frame a new constitution before they would turn to the king's financial troubles . The action is known as 'The tennis court oath' because it took place within a hall for indoor tennis.
- 3) King louis XVI threaten the members of the third estate and refused to recognize the authority of the assembly.
- 4) The members of the third estate demanded one member one vote based on the democratic principles suggested by Rousseau in his book 'The social contract'. when louis XVI refuse, the third estate walked out of the assembly.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD ESTATE

- ▶ *On 20th June 1789 the representatives of the third estates assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in Versailles.*
- ▶ *They declared themselves a national assembly and promise to draft a new constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch(king).*
- ▶ *The representatives of the third estate were led by Mirabeau and Abbe Sieyes.*
- ▶ *Mirabeau was born in noble family, didn't believe in feudal privileges and condemned them strongly during the public speeches that he delivered.*
- ▶ *Abbe sieyes was originally a priest.he wrote an influential pamphlet called 'what is the third Estate?' which had a huge impact.*

REVOLT STARTS AT BASTILLE

- ▶ *Due to severe winter harvest was affected in France, which led to increase in price of essential commodities.*
- ▶ *after spending hours in a long queues at the bakery , crowds of angry women attacked on the shops.*
- ▶ *On 14th July 1789 angry crowd destroyed the bastille.the bastille was hated by all French people as it symbolized the dominating power of the king.*
- ▶ *In the countryside rumours spread over village to village that the lords of the manor had hired bands of brigands to destroy the ripe crops.*
- ▶ *After that ,peasants attacked chateau in many areas of France.*
- ▶ *The peasants looted grainries and burnt documents containing records of manorial dues.*
- ▶ *Due to all these a large number of nobles moved from their homes to neighbouring countries.*

END OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

In this volatile situation , louis XVI was forced to:-

- 1) Recognize the national assembly.***
- 2) Accept that his power would be checked by a constitution.***

On 4th august, 1789, the national assembly abolished;

- a) Feudal system of obligations and taxes.***
- b) The special privileges of the clergy including tithes were abolished.***
- c) Land owned by the church was confiscated.***

The government acquired almost 2 billion livres through these measures.

FRANCE BECAME A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

The national assembly completed the draft of the constitution in 1791. its main objective(aim) was to limit the power of monarch.

- 1) The powers of the monarch was limited and the powers were divided between three organs of the government are:-legislature, executive and judiciary**
- 2) The division of powers made France a constitutional monarchy.**
- 3) The national assembly was directly elected by citizens who voted for a numbers of electors , who in turn to chose members to the national Assembly. Not all citizens had right to vote only active citizens have right to vote.**
- 4) Only Men above 25 years of age and who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of the labourer wages were given the status of active citizens , they had right to vote. The remaining men and all the women were called passive citizens . Only man who belonged to the highest bracket of taxpayers could qualify to be 'elector' members of the assembly.**
- 5) The national assembly was given the power to make laws.**
- 6) Rights were considered as 'NATURAL AND INALIENABLE'(they belonged by each human being by birth and couldn't be taken away)**
- 7) Declaration of rights of men and citizens are:-Right to life, Freedom of speech ,freedom of opinion and equality before law. these rights are considered as natural rights and it was protected by the state.**

FRANCE ABOLISHED MONARCHY AND BECAME A REPUBLIC

- ❖ *Louis XVI entered into secret negotiations with the king of Prussia.*
- ❖ *France's neighbouring countries worried about the developments in France since 1789. they were ready to send troops to put down the events.*
- ❖ *The national assembly voted in favour of war against Prussia and Austria in 1792.*
- ❖ *Volunteers from all over France came forward to join the army.*
- ❖ *They saw the war as one of people against kings and aristocracies all over the Europe.*
- ❖ *The volunteers marched into Paris and sang a patriotic song composed by 'Roget de L 'Isle' called 'Marseilles' (This song is now the national anthem of France).*
- ❖ *Economic difficulties and other losses plagued the people during the revolutionary wars.*

- ❖ **Men were busy at the front fighting wars and women had to manage the home affairs.**
- ❖ **The constitution of 1791 had given political rights only to the wealthier sections of the society.**
- ❖ **Political clubs sprouted and became an important area for people to discuss government policies and action plan.**
- ❖ **The most popular and successful club was that of Jacobins named after the former convent st. Jacob in Paris and women also formed their clubs.**
- ❖ **Members of the Jacobin club primarily from the lower section of the society like shopkeepers , pastry cooks , watchmakers , shoemakers , printers , daily wage earners etc.**
- ❖ **The leader of Jacobins was Maximillian Robespierre. They took to wearing long stripped trousers like those worn by the dock workers to set themselves apart from a fashionable sections of the society who wore knee breeches.**
- ❖ **Their aim was ending the power of the aristocracy.**
- ❖ **They came to be as sans-culottes meaning 'those without knee 'breeches' . they also wore a red cap which symbolized 'liberty' and it was only wore by men**

The declaration of the rights of man and citizen

Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.

The aim of every political association in the preservation of the natural and inalienable rights of man are:-liberty , property, security and resistance to operation.

- d) The source of all sovereignty resides in the nation; no group or individual may exercise authority that does not come from the people.**
- d) Liberty consists of the power to do whatever is not injurious to others.**
- e) The law has the right to forbid only actions that are injurious to society.**
- f) law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to participate in its information, personally or through their representatives . All citizens are before it.**
- g) No man may be accused , arrested or detained. Only exception in cases of determined by the law.**

h) Every citizen may speak , write and print freely ,he must take responsibility for the abuse of such liberty in cases determined by the law.

i) For the maintenance of the public force and for the expenses of administration a common tax is indispensable; it must be imposed equally on all citizens in proportion to their means.

j) Property is a sacred and inviolable right.no one couldn't be taken away, unless a legally established public necessity requires it . In that case a just compensation must be given in advance.

POLITICAL SYMBOLS



SCEPTRE

(Symbol of royal power)



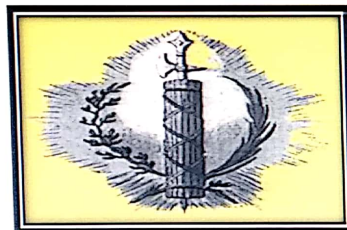
THE BROKEN CHAIN

(Freedom)



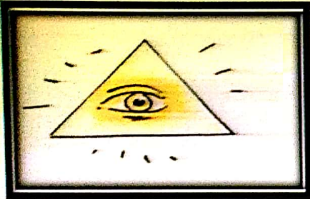
THE WINGED WOMAN

(personification of the law)



THE BUNDLE OF RODS AND FASCES

(Unity and power)



THE EYE WITHIN A TRIANGLE RADIATING LIGHT

The all seeing eye stands for knowledge rays of the sun will drive away the clouds of ignorance.



BLUE-WHITE-RED

National Colour of France showing that France abolished monarchy and became republic.



SNAKE BITING ITS TAIL TO FORM A RING

A ring has neither a beginning nor an end(eternity).



RED PHRYGIAN CAP

It was known as 'liberty cap' was the symbol of liberty worn during the revolution originated from the caps freed slaves worn in ancient Rome.

THE REIGN OF TERROR

- ▶ *The period from 1793-94 is known as the reign of terror . Robespierre was autocratic and authoritarian.*
- ▶ *Any person who didn't agree with the policy was branded as an enemy of the Republic, arrested, imprisoned and tried by a revolutionary tribunal.*
- ▶ *If the court found the person guilty, the person was sent to the guillotine. for example- nobles , clergy members of the political parties and his own party fell victim to the guillotine.*

Prices and wages had a maximum ceiling under Robespierre's government.

- a) Meat and bread were rationed.*
 - b) Peasants had to sell grain at prices fixed by the government.-*
 - c) More expensive white flour was not allowed to be used.*
 - d) All citizens had to eat bread made of whole wheat(equality bread).*
 - e) Equality was also introduced in speech and address . example-everyone was called citoyenne(citizen) instead of monsieur and madame.*
- Churches were closed down and their building was converted into barracks and offices.*

- a) *The extreme measures adopted by Robespierre alienated (separated) from his own people and caused his conviction (judgement) in July 1794. he was sent to the guillotine a day after his trial and arrest.*
- b) *A system of education was planned, and laws were modified and codified.*
- c) *The metric system of weight and measures was introduced.*
- d) *The convention also paid attention to the relief of the poor and the condition of the agriculture.*
- e) *In 1795, the convention drew up a new constitution. it was accepted by the people of France by a referendum, according to it's the country was to be ruled by a directory made up of two legislative chambers and a governing body of five directors.*

A DIRECTORY RULES FRANCE

- ▶ *The rule of the directory lasted for four years , the rule of director was unpopular .The people wanted a strong leader who would give them an efficient government , prosperity and victory against their enemies.*
- ▶ *The wealthier middle classes seized power after the fall of Jacobin government.*
- ▶ *The new constitution characteristics are:-*
 - a) *Denied vote to non-propertied sections of society.*
 - b) *Provided for two-elected legislative councils who appointed a directory who has made up of 5 members .The aim of the directory was to prevent power from being concentrated in the hands of one person.*

But there were periodic clashes between the between the directors and the legislative councils .The political instability that followed paved the way for rise of Napoleon Bonaparte , a military dictator.

From 1804 to 1814,France was an empire and Napoleon was the emperor of France and his conquests was really praiseworthy.at one time , he was the Practically the master of whole of Europe . During the 19th century- the changing forms of governments , idea of fraternity, equality before the laws and freedom inspiring people for the political movements in France and rest of Europe too.

WOMEN AND REVOLUTION

- ▶ **The women of the third estate had raise their voice against the old regime . they hoped that their involvement in the revolution would pressurize the revolutionary government to improve their lives**
- ▶ **During the old regime conditions of women are:-**
 - a) they worked as laundresses , sold flower and vegetables in their markets.
 - b) Most women couldn't receive education or job training.
 - c) Working women also had to do household work . they had to cook, fetch water , queue up for bread and look after their children.
 - d) They received less wages than men for equal work.
- ▶ **Women participation in revolution are:-**
 - a) They were the active participants in the events which brought so many changes in the French society.
 - b) Women started their own political clubs and newspapers. one of the famous among them was 'the society of revolutionary and republican women'.
 - c) They demanded political rights such as right to vote to the elected assembly and to hold political offices as enjoyed by man. but the constitution of 1791, reduced the women to passive citizens.

❖ **some laws to improve the conditions of women by revolutionary government are:-**

- a) Established schools for women and made education compulsory for all girls.
- b) Marriage was made into a contract entered into freely and marriages were to be duly registered.
- c) Divorce was made legal, both for men and women.
- d) Women could receive training for jobs, could become artists and run small businesses.

❖ **the women continued their struggle for political rights during the reign of terror . but the new government banned women's clubs and their political activities.**

❖ **many prominent women leaders were arrested and a number of them were executed.**

❖ **The women continued their struggle for voting rights and equal wages.**

❖ **They also fought for their rights through an international suffrage movement up to early 20th century.**

❖ **The political activities of the French women during the French revolutionary years, kept alive the women's freedom movement in other countries.**

❖ **it was only in 1946 that the French women won the right to vote.**

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

- a) *The abolition of slavery was the important measure taken by the Jacobin regime.*
- b) *The slave trade which began in the 17th century was a triangular trade between Europe, Africa and the Americas.*
- c) *These slaves were bought from the African coast by French merchants who sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes.*
- d) *These slaves, shackled and branded, were taken by ships across the Atlantic to the colonies in the Caribbean, Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo where they were sold to plantation owners.*
- e) *These colonies were suppliers of tobacco, sugar, indigo and coffee etc.*
- f) *The national assembly discussed the issue of rights of man and whether it ought to be extended to all the French colonies. but fear of antagonizing businessmen, whose income depend on the slave trade prevented the national assembly from passing any laws.*
- g) *In 1794, the convention legislated to free all slaves within the French colonies. This was reversed by Napoleon who reintroduced slavery African negroes or the indigenous people of Africa south of the Sahara, continued to be enslaved by plantation owners.*
- h) *Slavery was finally abolished in 1848 in the French colonies.*

THE REVOLUTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE

- ▶ *The French revolution saw many changes in the everyday lives of the men, women and children.*
- ▶ *The governments which came to the power after the revolution passed many laws that aimed to inject the ideas of liberty and equality into the everyday life of the people.*
- ▶ *The declaration of rights of man and citizen provided for freedom of speech and expression.*
- ▶ *Printed matter flooded the markets.*
- ▶ *The news papers and pamphlets which discussed the events that were taking place in France and reached the countryside.*
- ▶ *Abolition of censorship also encouraged the discussions and debate of issues from opposing views.*
- ▶ *Every group of men sought to convince the others of its position through the medium of print.*
- ▶ *Plays, songs and festive processions provided a platform for people who could not read or write to watch and hear the ideas of liberty and justice expounded by political philosophers.*
- ▶ *The people read keenly about the events and the changes which were taking place in France.*

CONCLUSION

- **Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France in 1804. he saw himself as a modernizer of Europe and set about the conquering European countries.**
- **He introduced several laws such as:-**
 - a) **Protection of private property.**
 - b) **Uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal unit system.**
- **Initially people were happy with napoleon and saw him as a liberator but gradually they saw the Napoleonic armies as invaders.**
- **He was finally defeated in the battle of waterloo in 1815 and his ides of liberty and modern laws had a great impact on people.**
- **The most important legacy of the French revolution were the ideas of liberty and democratic rights.**
- **The ideas spread from France to other countries including the colonized countries.**
- **In India Tipu sultan and Rajaram Mohan Roy was inspired by the ideas of revolutionary France.**