

FRENCH REVOLUTION

Question 1 – Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

Or

Discuss the causes of French Revolution in 1789

Answer:-

1) Unjust Taxation:- The members of the First and Second Estates were exempted from paying taxes to the state. All the taxes were paid by the members of the Third Estate.

2) Social Disparity:- In the 17th Century, the French Society was divided into three groups called the Estates :

- (i) The First Estate – Clergy
- (ii) The Second Estate – Nobility
- (iii) The Third Estate – Common People

Although the upper two classes made up only of a small fraction of the total population, yet they were the people, who controlled the political and economic system of the nation. They enjoyed all the rights and privileges. The people belonging to Third Estate did not enjoy any political right.

3) The Rise of the Middle Class:- The spread of Industrial Revolution led to the emergence of the Middle Class. It was the class of Businessmen, Traders, Bankers, manufacturers, Scholars, etc. The Middle Class people became the leaders of Revolution.

4) Influence of the philosophers and Writers:- There were many French philosophers and thinkers like Montesquieu, Rousseau, Voltaire, and Mirabeau, who exposed the evils prevailing in the system. They infused people with the idea of liberty, equality and fraternity.

5) Wide gap between the rich and poor:- The population in France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to a rapid increase in demand of food grains. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread, which was the staple diet of the majority, rose rapidly.

Question 2 –

(a) Which group of the French society was beneficial from the revolution?

(b) Which group relinquished power?

(c) Which section of Society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?

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Next Q-5 ⁽¹³⁾ Would you agree with the view that the message.....
 es, the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions.

- (1) The revolution came about with the support of the common man- the 1 and the peasant. The task of representing the people was given to the 1
- (2) Not all citizens ha the right to vote. Only men above the 25 years of a who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days laborers ^{words} were given the status c active citizens i.e., they were entitled to vote. Women were not given t right to vote.
- (3) Slave trade, one of the most inhuman practices was another blatant contradiction. #

Next Q-6 how would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

- (1) The fall of the Jacobins government permitted the wealthier middle las ^l to seize power. ^A
- (2) A new constitution was introduced which denied the right to vote to no propertied sections of society. It provided for 2 elected legislative coun
- (3) Both legislative councils appointed a Directory, an executive made up ^{of 5} members.
- (4) However, the directors often clashed with the legislative councils, who ^{then} sought to dismiss them.
- (5) The political instability of the Directory paved the way for the rise of a military dictator- Napoleon Bonaparte.
- (6) In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France. He ^{Set} out to conquer neighboring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms.
- (7) ~~During the reign of 1804~~

④ During the Reign of Terror govt issued laws ordering closure of women club and banning their political rights.

⑤ women's movt for voting continued for 200 years in many countries. Finally the women in France won the right to vote in 1946.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France?

OR

Causes of French revolution.

The outbreak of the revolutionary protest in France was a culmination of social, political, intellectual and economic factors. *How was the system of estates organized in the French society?*

1) SOCIAL CAUSE: The social order of France was marked by gross inequalities.

The French society in the 18th century was divided into 3 estates (or classes).

There were two privileged classes-

The clergy and the nobility: The clergy was known as the First Estate and the nobility was known as the Second Estate. People in these two classes were exempted from almost all types of taxes. They controlled most of the administrative posts and all the high ranking posts in the French army.

The rest of the people of France were called the Third Estate. It included merchants, manufactures and educated class. Peasants made up about 90% of the population.

However, only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated. They were obliged to render services to the lord - to work in his house and fields, to serve in the army etc.

The church too extracted its share of taxes from the peasants.

2) ECONOMIC CAUSE: OR *Why was King Louis 16th compelled to increase the taxes?*
The king Louis XVI ascended the throne in 1774. He found an empty treasury. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.

Added to this was the cost of maintaining an extravagant court.

France helped 13 American colonies to gain their independence from Britain. The war added more than a billion livres to a debt. To meet the regular expenses of state, the government was compelled to increase taxes. *What led to subsistence crisis?*

Like situation existed throughout France, as the population of France rose from 23 million to 28 millions. This led to a rapid increase in demand for food grains.

Production could not keep pace with the demand, so the price of bread rose rapidly. Along with this the wages of the workers could not keep pace with the rise in price and the gap between the poor and the rich widened.)

3) VOICE OF THE GROWING MIDDLE CLASS: OR *What was the role of the middle class?*

The 18th century witnesses the emergence of social groups, termed the middle class, who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade. In addition to merchants and manufacturers, the third estate included educated people. They believe that no group in the society should be privileged by birth. Rather, a person's social position must depend on his merit. The news that Louis XVI planned to impose further taxes, generated anger and protest against the system of privileges.)