



Social Studies

Class 9th (History)

Chapter 1: The French Revolution



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Exercises

Que 1: Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

Ans: Revolution started in France under the following circumstances:

1. In 1774, Louis 16th became the Emperor of France. At that time he found the treasury empty.
2. The prolonged wars added to the debt of more than ten billion livres on France, while it was already burdened with two billion livres.
3. The French government was forced to raise taxes to meet its regular expenses, such as the maintenance of the army, the court, government offices or universities.
4. In the 18th century, French society was divided into three estates, and only the people of the third estate (the common people) paid taxes. The people of the first two estates, the nobility and the clergy, were exempt from taxes.
5. In this way, the entire burden of the financial functioning of the state was borne by the public through taxes. The public was troubled by inflation. Food items had started touching the sky.
6. The emerging middle class of the Third Estate opposed the policies of the emperor.
7. The agitated public started the revolution by storming the Bastille.

Que 2: Which groups of French society benefited 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: At the time of the Revolution, the French society was divided into three estates. The Third Estate got the benefit of the revolution. The elites were forced to relinquish power. The nobles and clergy would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution. They were forced to give up the privilege.

Que 3: Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ans: The French Revolution left the following legacies for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

1. The French Revolution was the first expression of nationalism. This led to the rise of the feeling of nationalism all over the world.
2. With the revolution of France, movements against monarchy, dictatorship and autocratic rulers started in the world.
3. Social and political changes took place in the countries of the world.
4. The feelings of freedom and equality awakened in the people.

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

Ans: List of democratic rights that have their origins in the French Revolution:

1. Right to equality
2. Right to choose the government.
3. right to freedom of expression
4. right against exploitation
5. right to movement
6. right to property and security

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

Ans: I agree with the argument that there were various contradictions in the message of universal rights.

- The Declaration of Civil Rights stated 'All citizens are born free, live free and have equal rights'. While the reality was that women and non-tax payers did not have the right to vote.
- In the Declaration of Civil Rights, it was said that 'freedom means the power to do such work which is not harmful to others.' While France participated in many wars.

Hence, it is clear that the idealism in the message of universal rights was limited to words and the sense of contradiction was inherent in the constitution.

Que 6: How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Ans: The Directory rule in France created political instability. French commander Napoleon Bonaparte took advantage of this and declared himself emperor. Napoleon Bonaparte was born in 1769 AD. He was very talented. He joined the army after getting education in the military school of Paris. He became the commander of France on the strength of his bravery and military ability. He won many wars. After that he became the first of the Directory and in a short time he became the Emperor of France. He established peace system in France with his ability and skill. He implemented the Civil Code in 1804.



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