



Social Studies

Class 9th (History)

Chapter 2: Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution



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Exercise

Que 1: What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905?

Ans: The social, economic and political conditions of Russia before 1905 were as follows:-

(a) Social conditions:

1. 85% of Russia's population depended on agriculture.
2. Many workers had settled in the cities.
3. The laborers used to work for 10 to 12 hours.
4. Women were paid less than men.

(b) Economic conditions:

1. There were very few industries.
2. St. Petersburg and Moscow were major industrial areas.
3. Rail network was being expanded.
4. Within a few years, coal production doubled and steel production quadrupled.

(c) Political situation:

1. Czar Nicholas on Russia was ruled by
2. In addition to Moscow, the Russian Empire included present-day Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and parts of Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus.
3. The empire extended to the Pacific Ocean and included present-day Central Asian states as well as Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
4. In Russia, there was a majority of those who believed in Orthodox Christianity.

Que 2: In what ways the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe before 1917?

Ans:

1. In Russia, 85% of the population depended on agriculture, whereas in the rest of Europe, 50% of the population depended on agriculture.
2. Russian farmers used to hand over their land to the commune from time to time. And later the commune used to distribute the land to the farmers according to their need. This was not the case in the rest of Europe.
3. The condition of workers in Russia was worse than in the rest of Europe. They got less salary. Had to work for 10 to 15 hours.
4. Unlike the rest of Europe, workers in Russia could not form unions.
5. They had neither political rights nor any hope of reform until the beginning of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Que 3: Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917?

Ans: The Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917 due to the following ways:

1. In the winter of 1917, the condition of the capital Petrograd was very bad.
2. The workers of more than 50 factories declared a strike.
3. When the laborers surrounded the residential areas and government buildings, the government imposed curfew.
4. On Sunday, 25 February, the government dissolved the Duma.
5. The military commanders advised the Czar to abdicate and on 2 March the Czar abdicated.

Que 4: Make two lists: one with the main events and the effects of the February Revolution and the other with the main events and effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what was the impact of each on Soviet history.

Ans: **(a) Main events of the February revolution: -**

1. In the winter of 1917, a workers' strike was declared in Petrograd.
2. Women actively participated in this movement.
3. Deployment of mounted soldiers and police to control the agitators on 24-25 February.
4. On 25 February the government dismissed the Duma.
5. On 27 February, protesters gathered and vandalized police headquarters.
6. In the evening of the same day, the soldiers and workers held a Soviet meeting.
7. The Tsar abdicated on 2 March.

Effect :-

1. Czar's rule came to an end.
2. The ban on holding public meetings and forming organizations was removed.
3. Soviets were made everywhere for elections.
4. All the land was given to the farmers.
5. Banks were nationalised.

(b) Main events of October:-

1. The conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks began to escalate.
2. Lenin mobilized Bolsheviks from the army and factories.
3. The rebellion started on 24 October.
4. By evening, the entire city came under the control of the revolutionaries.
5. All the ministers surrendered.
6. By December the Bolsheviks were in control of the Moscow Petrograd area.

Effect:-

1. Industries and banks were nationalised.
2. Land was declared social property.
3. Banned the old titles of elite class.
4. The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party.
5. The Bolshevik Party remained the only party to participate in the elections to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. Now Russia has become a country with one party political system.

Que 5: What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?

Ans: The following major changes were made by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution:

1. Nationalized industries and banks.
2. Land was declared social property.
3. Peasants were allowed to occupy the lands of feudal lords.
4. Banned the old titles of elite class.
5. Army uniforms were changed and Soviet caps were given.
6. The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party.
7. Now Russia had become a country with a one-party political system.

Que 6: Write a few lines to show what you know about:

- **(i) Kulaks**
- **(ii) The Duma**
- **(iii) Women workers between 1900 and 1930.**
- **(iv) The Liberals.**
- **(v) Stalin's collectivization programme.**

Ans: **(i) Kulaks:-** The prosperous farmers of Russia were called Kulaks.

(ii) The Duma: - The Duma was the elected parliament of Russia, which was elected at the time of 1905 revolution.

(iii) Women workers between 1900 and 1930:- In 1914, Women workers in the factory were 31 percent. They were paid much less than the men. It was one-half to three-fourths that of men. In February 1917, women led strikes in many factories. Her contribution is celebrated as International Women's Day.

(iv) Liberals :- Liberals want a nation in which all religions get equal respect and place. The liberal groups were also opposed to the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers. They were in favor of protecting the rights of the individual before the government. They said that the government should not be given the right to violate or take away someone's rights. This group was in favor of an elected government based on representation, free from the influence of rulers and officials, and governed according to laws established by a well-trained judiciary.

(v) Stalin's collectivisation programme: By 1927-28 the cities of Russia were facing acute problems of food supply. Stalin began a collectivization program to take control of the situation and to make up for the shortage. From 1929 the party ordered all farmers to work on collective farms (kolkhoz). Most of the land and equipment were transferred to the ownership of collective farms. All farmers worked on collective farms and the profits of the kolkhoz were divided among all the farmers.



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