

Chapter 1

Revolutions that Influenced the World

Revolutions

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The people who were deprived of freedom had to fight for it. Some adopted peaceful means, whereas others preferred armed rebellion. All these struggles tried to change the system that denied freedom and rights and to establish a new one. Therefore they are known as revolutions.

The major factor that stimulated earlier revolution

Renaissance

Renaissance made significant changes in human thought, views, and life.

Renaissance gave birth to 'Enlightenment'

Renaissance

Humanism □ Scientific temper □ Spirit of enquiry □ Spirit of criticism □ Growth of vernacular languages

Enlightenment

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Thinkers of this movement propagated the ideas like freedom, democracy, equality, and nationalism. It encouraged the people in different parts of the world to protest against the autocratic system prevailing then.

THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

No taxation without representation

What did people demand through this slogan, framed by James Otis?

Representation in Govt.

Membership in British parliament

Denial of taxes

Allow free trade

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From the sixteenth century onwards the Europeans began to migrate to North America. The major aim of the migration was to exploit the resources. By the eighteenth century, England had established **thirteen colonies** in the **eastern coast of North America**.



Explain the factors that led to the American War of Independence. Hints – Mercantilist laws .

Continental congress – 2020 SSLC March Score 6

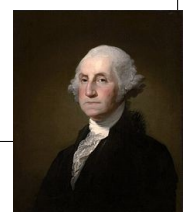
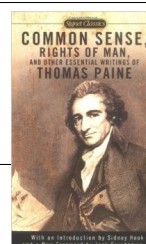
<p>The British treated the American colonies as centres for collecting raw materials for their industry and as market for selling their products. This policy implemented by the British merchants with the help of their motherland in the American colonies, is known as Mercantilism. As part of Mercantilism, several laws were implemented in the British colonies.</p> <p>Mercantilist Laws -</p>	
<p>The goods to and from the colonies must be carried only in British ships or ships built in the British colonies.</p>	
<p>British stamp must be affixed on all the legal documents, newspapers, pamphlets, license, etc</p>	
<p>Import tax must be paid for the import of tea, glass, paper, etc.</p>	
<p>Products of the colonies like sugar, wool, cotton, tobacco, etc. could only be exported to England.</p>	
<p>Colonies must provide food and quarters for the British troops which were maintained in the colonies.</p>	
<p>The ideologies of some thinkers also stimulated the people of the colonies to fight against the exploitative laws of the British.-John Locke, Thomas Paine</p>	
<p>Continental Congress. UC Vahid</p>	
<p>The delegates of all the colonies except Georgia met at Philadelphia in 1774 to protest against the policies and rules imposed by England. It is known as the First Continental Congress. Subsequently, people of the colonies submitted a petition to the King of England. They demanded the revocation of the regulations enforced on industry and commerce and not to impose tax without the approval of the people. But the king sent a military force to suppress the people. This led to the war between England and the colonies.</p>	
<p>The Second Continental Congress held at Philadelphia in 1775 elected George Washington as the commander-in- chief of the Continental Army. During this time, through the pamphlet titled 'Common Sense', Thomas Paine declared that it was wise for the Americans to break the ties with Britain.</p>	
<p>Third- American Continental Congress issued the famous Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776. The declaration was prepared by Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. The war between England and the colonies ended in 1781. According to the Treaty of Paris in 1783, England ratified the freedom of thirteen colonies.</p>	
<p>Constitution Convention-James Madison</p>	<p>George Washington - the first president of the United States of America</p>

How the American War of Independence greatly **influenced the later history of the world**

- Gave direction and motivation to the later freedom struggles and revolutions all over the world
- Put forward the concept of republican form of government
- Prepared the first written constitution.
- Contributed to the concept of federal system that ensured freedom and authority of states in the union.

Regarding human rights and freedom, what **all can you find in the Declaration of Independence?**

All are equal
 Everyone has certain rights
 People have unalienable rights
 Right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness
 Destructive government must be changed



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The slogan

'liberty, equality, and fraternity'

Causes

The French autocratic rulers were squanders. Injustice, inequality and exploitation prevailed. It is clear from this that while the majority in France lived in misery a minority, including the rulers, led a life of luxury and extravagance. This situation was the result of the social and economic inequality that existed in France.

The French society was divided into three strata and they were known as the Estates. **The clergy belonged to the first estate, the nobles to the second estate and ordinary people to the third estate.** The ordinary people were denied rights and were heavily taxed. The higher clergy and the nobles held vast land and exempted from taxes. They collected different types of taxes.

The Third Estate.

The middle class . Farmers and crafts man

No role in administration

Paid many types of taxes

Low social status

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Similar to the French society, the States General also had three estates.

Traditionally, each Estate would vote as group and had one vote. As a result, the nobility and the clergy could always overrule the Third Estate.

The first two Estates argued for **Estate-wise single voting system**, while the Third Estate (the Commons) demanded **individual vote** for each member of all the three estates.

While the arguments went on, the members of the Third Estate declared themselves as the National Assembly of France. They assembled in the tennis court nearby, and swore not to leave until they had framed a constitution of France. This event is known as the '**Tennis Court Oath**'.

Various thinkers and streams of thought in France played an important role in making the people aware of the inequalities and exploitation.

Voltaire

- **Ridiculed** the exploitation of clergy.
- Promoted **rational thinking**, ideals of equality and humanism.

Rousseau

- Spelled out the importance of freedom with the statement, '**Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains**'.
- Declared that the people are the sovereign.

Montesquieu

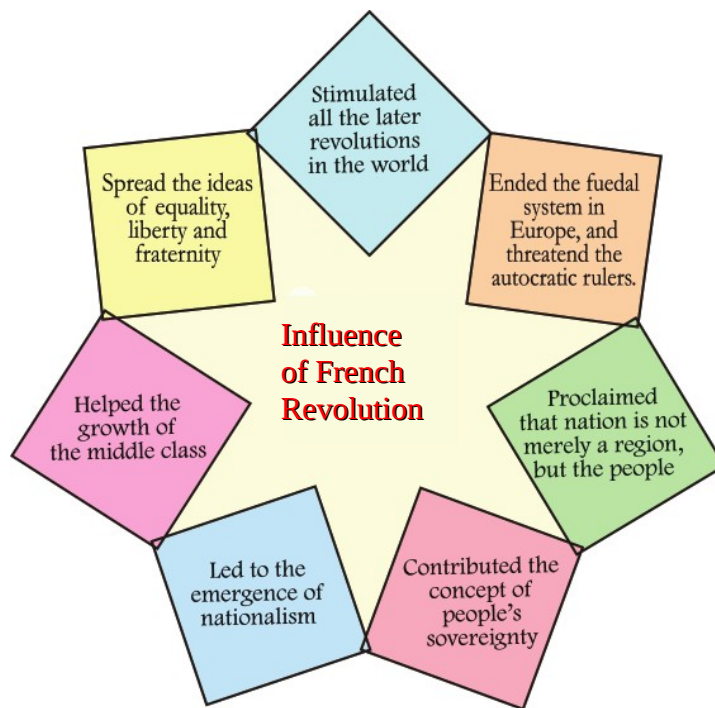
- Encouraged **democracy and the Republic**.
- Suggested division of powers of the government into **legislature, executive, and judiciary**

The luxurious life and squander of the Bourbon kings, clergy and lords and the frequent wars they waged, along with the frequent spells of drought and crop failure, brought France to the brink of bankruptcy. The financial and military assistance given to American colonies in the American War of Independence also aggravated the financial crisis in France. To levy new taxes upon commoners, **Louis XVI** summoned the States General, the legislative assembly of the representatives from all the three estates, in **1789**.

14 July 1789 Revolutionaries stormed with the slogan 'liberty, equality, and fraternity', demolished the Bastille prison, the symbol of Bourbon monarchy. This event is considered as the commencement of the French Revolution.

September, **1792** The National Convention, formed as per the new constitution, proclaimed France as a republic.

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Policies and reforms of Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon played a crucial role in defeating the European alliance which was formed under the leadership of Britain against France in the post-revolution period. He seized the power in France in 1799. Though an autocrat, he instituted several reforms in France. U C Vahid

REFORMS	
Farmers were made the owners of land	Exercised state's control over the clergy
Formed 'sinking fund' with the aim to avoid public debt	Established Bank of France to centralize finance
Constructed several roads for transportation	Prepared a new code of law by codifying the existing laws

THE LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

How the colonial rule affected the life of natives of Latin America.

The Spanish and Portuguese propagated their language, religions and customs. They build houses and Churches in Spanish style, several schools were established for imparting Spanish system of education. The Spanish farming methods and crops were introduced.

New diseases spread from Europeans to the Latin Americans. Racial discrimination was enforced towards the natives in all walks of life. They looted the resources and wealth of the Latin American people. Enslaved the natives to work.

Leaders

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Jose De Sannartin, Fransico Miranda and Simon Boliver etc.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The **circumstances** that led the Russian Revolution

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- Oppressive rule and backwardness of the country and misery of the people
- Farmers and factory workers in Russia led a tragic life under the autocracy of the Tzarist emperors, who ruled Russia.
- The low agricultural production affected the farmer's income. Moreover, the landless farmers had to pay huge tax.
- Though Russia was rich in natural resources, their industrial production was meagre. It was the foreigners who controlled majority of the industries that existed there.
- Defeat and disgrace in the Russo-Japanese war
- Hope given by the Revolution of 1905

The workers organized a huge march at **Petrograd** on 9 January 1905 demanding political rights and economic reforms. The march was fired at by the soldiers and hundreds of demonstrators were massacred. This event is known as the Bloody Sunday.

- Great setback in the first world war 1914

Influence of writers and thinkers- Maxim Gorky, Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Turgenev, Anton Chekov, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Based on the Marxist ideologies, the **Social Democratic Workers Party** was formed.

Later, this party was split into the **Mensheviks (minority)** and the **Bolsheviks (majority)**. The main leaders of the Bolsheviks were **Lenin and Trotsky**. **Alexander Kerensky** led the Mensheviks.

Duma.

Workers' organizations called "**the Soviets**" were formed all over Russia to conduct strikes. When the strikes gained massive strength, the emperor was compelled to form a legislative assembly called Duma.

Ignoring the protest from Duma, **Nicholas II**, the then **Tsar** decided to participate in the First World War. A lot of Russian soldiers were killed in this war.

February Revolution. - Menshevik
Alexander Kerensky

October Revolution - Bolsheviks
Lenin

February Revolution.

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Food shortage became severe by 1917. Thousands of **women marched** along the streets of Petrograd on 8 March 1917 clamouring for bread. The workers organized protest march in Petrograd. Though the **soldiers** clashed with the demonstrators in the beginning, later they joined the workers. It was the tragic experience during the First World War that induced them to do so. The workers captured Petrograd and Nicholas II was thrown out of power. A **provisional government** was formed under **Alexander Kerensky**, the Menshevik leader. Since the Russian calendar was **a few days behind** the international calendar, this revolution that took place in March came to be known as the February Revolution.

October Revolution

A group of soviets did not approve of the provisional government. **Vladimir Lenin**, who had been in Switzerland, came to Russia and strongly opposed the provisional government. He argued that the entire power should be transferred to the **Soviets** if they were to realize the aims of the revolution. The **Bolsheviks and the Soviets** supported him. They propagated that only **proletarians' (workers) government** could eradicate centuries old economic backwardness and inequality. They put forward **several demands** like:

- Withdraw Russia from the First World War
- Seize the lands owned by the lords and distribute them among the farmers
- Make factories public property

In October 1917, the Bolsheviks organized an **armed rebellion** against the provisional government. Kerensky fled from the country and Russia came under the control of the Bolsheviks.

You see

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This event, through which the Bolsheviks attained power, is known as the October Revolution (as per Russian Calendar).

The results of Russian Revolution.

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- Russia withdrew from the first World War
- Seized out the land and distributed among the peasants
- Gave importance to public sector
- Introduced centralized planning
- Achieved develops in the field of Science, Technology and Economy.
- New constitution came to force in 1924.
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republic was formed by consolidating different Soviet Republics.
- Spread the Socialist ideas all over the world.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

OPIUM TRADE

Chinese silk, tea, and earthenware were in great demand all over Europe. China gained huge profit through the export of these items. There was **nothing to import to China** from Europe. As a result the European traders suffered a great loss. As a remedy for this loss, the British traders imported opium, an **intoxicant** to China. This affected the Chinese trade and its consumption made the Chinese people mentally imbalanced. It resulted in economic and mental subjugation of the Chinese.

Open Door Policy

By the end of the nineteenth century several European countries acquired trade privileges in China. America could not acquire the privilege as it was not concerned about China at that time. To acquire the privilege, **John Hey**, the then State Secretary of the USA proclaimed 'the open door policy'. As per this policy, America argued for equal rights and opportunities for all countries in Chinese market. China was divided into different regions to be controlled by various countries. The aim of this policy was to create an opportunity for the USA to interfere in China

Boxer Rebellion.

The Manchu dynasty in China favoured the foreign interference and domination. Some secret organizations in China revolted against it in **1900**. The emblem of these organizations was the **Boxer's fist**. So this is known as the Boxer Rebellion. Though this rebellion was a failure, it stimulated the revolutions that came up later.

1911 Revolution & Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.

In 1911, another revolution took place under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. against the Manchu Dynasty This ended monarchy in China. After the revolution, Kuomintang party established a republican government in Southern China under the leadership of Sun Yat-Sen. He gave importance to ideologies like nationalism, democracy, and socialism. He decided to nullify the unjust treaties signed with the foreign countries and wanted to maintain equality with western countries. The Kuomintang republic adopted measures for the progress of agriculture and industry.

Chiang Kai- Shek & Chinese Communist Party

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China received assistance from Russia in various fields and the Chinese Communist Party was formed. In the beginning, the Kuomintang and the communists co-operated with each other. But this co-operation was disturbed when **Chiang Kai- Shek** became the head of the republic following the death of Sun Yat- Sen.

Chiang Kai-Shek ascertained military autocracy in China. He gave opportunity for foreign powers including America to freely interfere in China and **did not co-operate with the Communists**. Coal and iron industries, banking, and foreign trade were all controlled by **foreign countries**. The Communists protested against the policy of Ching Kai-Shek. They were brutally suppressed. At that time **Mao Zedong** rose to the leadership of the Communist party.

Long March' & Republic of China

At that time Mao Zedong rose to the leadership of the Communist party. In 1934, under the leadership of Mao Zedong, a journey started from Kiangsi in South China. The adventurous trip ended at Yanan in North Western China. Throughout the journey they seized out agricultural land and villages from lords and distributed them among the farmers.

The journey covered around 12000 kms. So it is known as the 'Long March'. Hence Mao Zedong and the Communist Party became the symbol of struggle of the Chinese against foreign power. Chiang Kai-Shek had to seek political asylum in Taiwan, when the Red Army of Mao Zedong captured the centre of Kuomintang rule.

China became the People's Republic of China on 1 st October 1949 under the leadership of Mao Zedong.

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Revolutions	The American War of Independence	The French Revolution	The Latin American Revolution	The Russian Revolution	The Chinese Revolution
Period					
Leaders					
Major aims					
Ideologies/ Thinkers					
Major impact					

Previous Questions **Score 6**

March 2019 SSLC Exam

Explain the background of the French revolution based on the following hints.

* French society * Thinkers & their ideologies

2019 Modal Exam

Explain the factors that led to the February Revolution in Russia

2019 Modal Exam

Explain the circumstances that led to Bolsheviks came into power and results

March 2018 SSLC Exam

Explain the different phases of the formation of people's republic of China on the basis of following hints. (\$ Autocracy of Chiang Kai-Shek –\$ Mao Zedong – People's Republic)

March 2017 SSLC Exam

Explain the causes of Latin American Revolution and the consequent liberation from European domination

2017 Modal Exam -

Analyse how the February Revolution and October revolution led to the formation of Soviet Union

2020 Model Exam

Analyse the French revocation based on the following hints

* Third Estate and their role in the revocation * Influence of French revocation

2020 March SSLC Exam

Explain the factors that led to the American War of Independence .

Mercantilist laws # Continental congress

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