

PARTH GUPTA

Sectional test - I; World History

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1.a) The forces of Enlightenment yielded some enlightened rulers like Friedrich the Great of Prussia, Catherine of Russia, Joseph II of Austria, Napoleon of France etc.

They were much liberal than their counterparts contemporaries and brought various reforms:

- i) Friedrich the Great called himself the first servant of state.
- ii) They put restrictions on church. Joseph II curbed Church's taxation powers, took over Church lands etc.
- iii) Catherine promoted education by setting up schools on lands acquired from Church.
- iv) They encouraged freedom of press.
- v) They gave right to freedom of religion to minorities eg., Joseph II gave to Jews.
- vi) Napoleon promoted good governance by

framing new codes - civil law, criminal code, commercial code.

However, their liberalism had certain limitations

- i) Most of their reforms were ephemeral.
Joseph II discontinued his reforms after opposition from Church.
- ii) Reforms to put curbs on Church were actually to strengthen king, rather than ensure liberty to people.
- iii) Most reforms were not implemented properly due to corrupt, feudalistic bureaucracy.
- iv) Moral and practical issues like Napoleon curbed dissent, prohibited public gatherings, curtailed press freedom.

Hence, while they tried to ensure liberalism, their approach to it was much different from that espoused by enlightenment thinkers.

b) The process of industrialisation in Japan that started after Meiji restoration 1867, had multiple divergences from European industrialisation.

European industrialisation	Japanese industrialisation
i) The process of industrial production followed the <u>history of merchant capitalism</u> .	i) No such merchant capitalism.
ii) The machines were made indigenously.	ii) Machines were imported from Europe.
iii) <u>Huge mineral reserves</u> at home and in colonies helped industry.	iii) lack of mineral resources, which had to be imported, added to cost.
iv) Due recognition to workers' rights, and growth of trade unions.	iv) Workers were heavily suppressed and lacked any voice.
v) Huge colonial markets at their disposal.	v) No colonies. Faced excessive competition. Hence workers were highly unpaid. State supported industrialists by taxing peasants heavily.

However despite these challenges, Japanese industries competed and emerged stronger and more efficient, especially in textile sector. Besides, excessive emphasis on technology and state support led to growth of heavy, automobile industry.

Because of these factors, Japan was able to defeat Russia in war in 1904-5, and claim the status of imperial power.

c) The Reform act 1832 was an important event in the politico-social history of Britain.

Provisions of act :

i) It readjusted constituencies by based on population

- less than 2000 → no seat
2000 - 4000 electors - 1 seat

ii) It eased the property and tax criteria for suffrage rights leading to expansion of electorate.

Impact

Because of this, problems like rotten boroughs, pocket boroughs were resolved.

By giving more seats to urban areas like Birmingham, it accommodated for changed population distribution after industrial revolution.

The emergence of classes - Capitalist, working class too were accommodated in the new voting criteria.

Also by providing smaller ~~voters~~ election duration and residence based voting, one person restricted to one vote. Efficient dispute redressal mechanism was in place.

Criticism

- i) The gains of working class were very limited.
- ii) In Ireland, Scotland, very few seats.
- iii) Elites still controlled legislative business through house of elders. eg, Municipal reform bill.
- iv) Women didn't get voting rights
- v) The size of constituencies was still unequal, and no a secret vote.

Because of these issues and other demands as in tab the Charter of demands 1838, Chartist movement started. Through various Charter acts, they were fulfilled.

3. a) The rise of Fascism, after first world war in Europe was a significant phenomenon which drastically changed the course of world history.

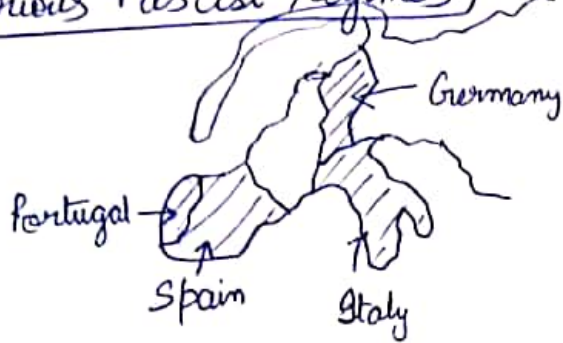
Factors behind the rise:

- i) Dissatisfaction from Paris peace treaties hurt the German and Italian nationalism.
- ii) The weak governments created by the proportional representation and multi-party system. Due to this these governments were highly unpopular among masses suffering from post-war recession.
- iii) Cuts in social sector spending due to crisis led to increasing popularity of fascists.
- iv) Fear of communists led to many powerful sections like Rulers, Church etc supporting fascists.
- v) Personalities of Hitler and Mussolini helped gain popular support.
- vi) Economic crisis of Great depression 1929 greatly enhanced popularity of ~~the~~ Nozi party in Germany, which emerged 2nd largest in 1933 elections.

vii) Highly racist propaganda of Nazi party against Jews, like 'stab in the back' theory created hatred in German society and fascism strengthened.

viii) Fascist regimes helped fascist forces in other countries eg., Spanish Civil war

Various Fascist regimes



Process of Rise

The ground for rise of Fascist forces was prepared by Paris peace treaties. By denying Italy Dalmatia, Fiume and other promised territories, it hurt Italian nationalism. This compounded with economic distress led to rise of Mussolini in 1923.

In Germany, Hitler failed in his initial attempts (Beer Putsch). But he was a ruthless organiser who organised an efficient Nazi party, gained support of various sections of Germany to gain popularity. Finally made Chancellor in 1933.

Both used laws to expand their powers. Acerbo law (Italy), Enabling law (Germany) gave ~~them~~ them dictatorial powers. This led to one-party system, curbs on press, use of secret police to curb dissent, militarist foreign policy, emphasis on extreme nationalism, import substitution etc.

As they performed better on economic fronts, they like reducing unemployment, controlled inflation, they increased controls over society. This was done through Corporate state system in Italy and policy of forcible coordination in Germany.

As long as they remained successful people didn't question them. But when they faced reverses during 2nd world war, they were opposed. Mussolini was removed in 1943 by Italian king, while Hitler committed suicide as he had eliminated almost all opponents.

b) The October revolution¹⁹¹⁷ marked the transfer of power from Kerensky government to Bolsheviks led by Lenin, through a largely bloodless and well planned coup.

Kerensky's government's failure on various fronts like war with Germany, land reforms, economic distress, workers' rights, rights of non-Russian nationalities etc paved the ground for October revolution.

However Lenin was faced with multiple challenges after acquiring power.

Firstly, he had to deal with war ~~war~~ with Germany. This was ended with harsh Brest Litovsk treaty by which Russia lost huge population, industry, farm land etc. But he was now free to deal with internal issues.

Secondly, the opposition from other groups like Social Revolutionaries led to White's mutiny supported by Western powers in 1918. However with a well organised Red army organised by Trotsky, it was policy of war communism

and unleashing of red terror over opponents led to ending of mutiny.

Thirdly on economic front, land reforms happened. But under the new economic policy, ~~private~~ farmers were allowed to keep surplus which was a deviation from marxist principles. But Lenin saw this as strategic retreat to strengthen Russian economy before implementing Communism.

Similarly, workers were not given full control over industries. Private industries were allowed under NEP 2021. Managers could be hired by public industries as well. This was to ensure competition and efficiency despite going against Marxism.

He gave liberty to non-Russian entities, by not imposing Russian language and culture. Also, Russia gave up her colonies thereby setting example for other colonial powers.

In order to ensure political control, despite having lesser seats in the constituent assembly, he disbanded it, and framed a constitution for Russia without consulting it. Hence for political opponents, of Bolsheviks, this phase was full of terrors, resentment.

Despite the immense violence that followed the Russian revolution 1917, due to civil war, terror of red army etc, there ~~was a~~ came a phase of peace and prosperity with the New Economic policy 1921. However, it was discontinued by Stalin in 1927 and replaced with centralised planning and public control over industry.

Stalin also forced the policy of collective farms or Kolkhoz which was implemented with force. Hence, while the shift of power from ~~to~~ Kerensky to Lenin did resolve some problems, but very few sections lived in peace and that too for a limited time.

c) Continental System was a set of 'decrees' issued by Napoleon to impose a trade embargo on Britain in Continental Europe. This was to weaken her economically and thus ultimately subdue them to France.

Impact

It drastically impacted Britain's economy. Many companies went bankrupt. Strikes increased. It also led to outbreak of war between Britain and USA. However, Britain somehow survived it due to her vast colonial network and inconsistency in Napoleon's policy. He himself procured machines, other goods from Britain.

The impact was much more deep on France. Napoleon's hope of replacing British industrial goods by France didn't fulfil leading to shortage of goods across Europe. This led to Russia coming out of the Continental System in 1810 which was followed by disastrous Russian campaign. This saw huge loss of lives by French army leading to weak morale, and shattered notion of invincibility.

Also, in order to strengthen Continental System, he appointed his brother as Spanish monarch. This hurted Spanish nationalism and led to Spanish Civil War. French forces suffered reverses due to Guerrilla warfare of Spanish rebels.

These two events encouraged other powers to come together to form another coalition and defeat Napoleon in Battle of Nations 1813.

4. a) American revolution has been variously interpreted by various historians. One group sees it as a contest between American capitalism and British Mercantilism.

The Economic Revolt

After the annexation of Canada, after post 7 years war 1856-63, Britain was eager to enforce tax laws more strongly in American colonies. Thus the laws like navigation act began to be enforced strictly putting American traders at peril.

New tax laws were imposed like Sugar act, Stamp act, Quartering act. However, after strong protest against stamp act, Quartering act was allowed to expire. It was here that the slogan 'No taxation without Representation' was given by James Otis.

Lord North Brooke's Tea policy created widespread resentment as it gave virtual monopoly to the East India company in trade in tea. This was resented by Samuel Adam led Sons of liberty through Boston tea party.

This ~~was~~ triggered strong reaction from British crown. New Townshend duties 'Intolerable acts' were imposed on colonies and more army sent to colonies to enforce them.

This crossed the threshold of colonial tolerance. Colonies had, over centuries, developed a distinct sense of nationalism based on common struggles faced by them and attachment to their property. But Mercantile policies were seen as direct attack on their property by settlers.

Hence they organised 1st continental congress in Philadelphia 1774. But its demands were rejected. 2nd Continental Congress 1775 presented Olive Branch petition. But it was also rejected by crown. Having no other way to protect their property, capitalistic enterprise, they announced 'Declaration of Independence' 1776 and thus began American revolution.

~~More than Economic revolt~~

Even the American constitution was framed by men belonging to capitalist section. The provisions of constitution like right to property, property qualification for voters etc can be seen as attempt to ensure middle class hegemony.

More than Economic revolt

American revolution had many other strands beyond economic revolt. It was first ever war for decolonisation, i.e., by a colony against metropolis. In this, it drew heavily from enlightenment thinkers like John Locke and Thomas Paine.

It sought to establish a democratic, republic system, which was ~~unthought~~ unheard of at the time. To prevent despotism, it ensured separation of powers. Individuals were given rights under the Bill of rights — right to freedom of expression, religion etc. Thus, minorities

were safeguarded.

Hence while it is true that economic factors played a major role in precipitating the American Revolution, the revolution stood for much more than mere economic gains. It can be seen as an economic revolt with multi-faceted gains.

b) Germany has been generally accused for creating conditions leading to the two world wars. However there were complex combination of factors at play.

Blame for World War I

~~World War I~~ Major reason for World War I was the imperialistic rivalries leading to formation of armed camps and arms race in Europe.

Various historians put blame on Germany for the war. Firstly, Germany's Weltpolitik under the Kaiser William II made it highly aggressive. System of peacetime military alliances devised by Bismarck as a defensive mechanism took an offensive shape. Thus there emerged various conflicts like Morocco crisis, Bosnia crisis etc. These increased enmity between powers.

Moreover, the excessive emphasis on arms race by Germany created fears in other powers. Germany's plans - Schliffen plan led to spread of war beyond the Balkan region. Moreover, the German chancellor

wanted to divert attention from no-conf
Confidence motion by participating in war.
By giving Austria unconditional support, it ~~was~~ ^{closed}
other options to resolve conflict.

However, many historians believe that other powers were also responsible for the war. Russian support for pan-slav movement and British isolationism contributed to crisis. Moreover Germany didn't want full spectrum war as her industry was doing well and had emerged among the largest producers of steel, dyes etc.

Post revisionist view holds that Germany could have acted more responsibly and ensured a limited conflict. Its greed and overestimation of own strength was the major factor behind the war.

Blame for World War 2

The rise of fascist regimes in Germany and Italy made the occurrence of world war 2 almost imminent.

Hitler is blamed for his aggressive foreign policy, seen in the annexation of

Czechoslovakia, and for his pan-Germ^{an}ism outlook - third reich, lebensraum etc. For him, nations were organic entities and strong nations had to conquer weak ones. His foreign policy based on aggression and conciliation was to gain strength. Emphasis on military strength, fertility, Aryan race contributed to Jingoism.

However, the blame is also shared by allied powers. The Versailles treaty had seeds of future struggle. It led to humiliation of Weimar Republic, weakened prospects of politically stable Germany, fast economic recovery. The treaty contributed to the great depression 1929. Following the rise of Hitler, Britain began to follow the policy of appeasement, seen in Anglo German Naval pact (1934), Munich pact (1938) etc. This emboldened Hitler to take risk of declaring war on Poland as he never expected British interference. Even the 'phony war' for initial 6 months indicated his intent to avoid a larger conflict.

That is why, the blame for 2nd world war goes directly to Hitler, but he was ~~encouraged~~ strengthened, encouraged in this through ill conceived policies of Britain and France.

Hence overall we can say that while Germany must share the blame to a large extent, other powers too acted irresponsibly and were not completely free from blame.

c) Chartism was a political reform movement in Britain in the 1830s and 40s mainly led by working class. It was named after the 'Charter of demands' framed in 1838, which had 6 main demands:

- i) Salaries to representatives
- ii) Equal constituencies' size
- iii) Annual elections
- iv) Secret ballot
- v) Adult male suffrage
- vi) No property qualification for representatives

Origin

It was due to political and Economic factors.

Political factors

- i) Working class got minimal gains from the Reforms act 1832, despite playing huge role in the movement earlier.
- ii) The trade unions in Britain were not empowered enough and couldn't ~~ensure~~ negotiate effectively with the capitalists.
- iii) New laws like the poor law, didn't give enough benefits to working class.

Economic factors

- i) Huge inflation due to poor harvests, Comb Corn laws 1815. This also caused workers' wages to be low for firms to remain profitable.
- ii) Industrialisation led to immense exploitation of working class, - poor working conditions.
- iii) Emergence of socialistic trend due to works of Robert Owen.
- iv) Rising inequalities.
- v) Whig's mismanagement of fiscal resources

Because of these factors, the movement got huge support of masses. But due to a resilient British administration, factionalism in leadership, it ~~was~~ died in ^{late} 1840s. The demands were fulfilled in successive charter acts.