

Chapter 01

The French Revolution

Years	Important Events
• 1774	Louis XVI throne of France
• 5 <sup>th</sup> May 1789	the King called an Assembly of the estates general to pass proposals for New estate
• 20 June 1789	3 <sup>rd</sup> estates represent assemble and took the Tennis court oath. they formed a National Assembly.
• 14 <sup>th</sup> July 1789	The French Revolution started
• 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1789	National Assembly passed law to abolished all taxes
• 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1789	Women marched to versalizes and brought back King Louis XVI with them to Paris
• 1791	National Assembly completed draft of new Constitution.
• April 1792	National Assembly voted to declare war against Prussia and Austria.
• 21 Sep 1792	Monarchy abolished and France declared a republic
• 21 Jan 1793	Louis XVI executed
• Sep 1793	Region of Terror:

July 1794	Reberpiere arrested
1804	Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France
1815	Napoleon Defeated at water loop.
1848	Slavery finally abolished french colony
1946	Women in France won the right to vote

Very Short Question Answer:-

Q1. When did the french revolution begin?

Ans: On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1789 the french revolution begin.

Q2. What was estates general?

Ans: The estates general was a political body, which the three estates sent their representation. In France of the old Regime, the monarchy did not have the Power to impose of taxes rather he had to call a meeting of the Estates general to pass to proposals for new taxes.

What was the name of direct taxes?

(a) Tithe      (b) Capitation      (c) Taille      (d) Yobebie

In which book surin mentioned the idea of one person one vote?

Ans: The social contract book.

Q5. What was the main object of national Assembly of France?

Ans: The main objective of national Assembly of France while drafting the constitution was to limit the powers of the Monarch.

Q6. Who was the leader of Jacobin club?

Ans: The leader of Jacobin club was the Maximilian Robespierre.

Q7. Who abolished monarchy in France?

Ans: On 21 Sept 1792 the convention, the newly elected assembly abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.

Q8. Who wrote the declaration of rights of women and citizens?

Ans: Olympe de Gouges

Q9. When and where was Napoleon Bonaparte finally defeated?

Ans: Napoleon Bonaparte finally defeated in the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium. It was in 1815.

Q10. What were the legacies of the French revolution?

Ans: The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the legacies of the French revolution.

Long answer question:-

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

Ans: The following circumstances led to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France:

- i) Louis XVI was an autocratic ruler who could not compromise with his luxurious life. He also lacked foresightedness.
- ii) When he ascended the throne the royal treasury was empty. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France. Added to this was the cost of maintaining an extraordinary court at the immense Palace of Versailles.
- iii) Under Louis XVI France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from Britain. The war added more than a billion livres to the national debt. New laws began to charge 10% interest on loans. So the French government was obliged to spend an increasing percentage of its budget on interest payments alone.
- iv) The State finally increased taxes to meet its regular expenses as the cost of maintaining an army and running government of fields and universities.

Which group of French society benefited from the revolution? Which group were forced to relinquish power? Which section of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?

Q. 1. Wealthy class of the ~~ancient~~ third State which came to be known as the new middle class or bourgeoisie benefited the most from the revolution. This group comprised of big businessmen, petty, officers, lawyers, teachers, doctors, and traders, previously these people had to pay state taxes and they did not enjoy equal status. But after the revolution they began to be treated equally with the upper sections of the society.

(ii) With the abolition of the feudal system of obligation and taxes, the clergy and the nobility came on the same level with the middle classes. They were forced to give up their privileges. Their executive powers were also taken away from them.

(iii) The poorer sections of the society, i.e. small peasants, landless labourers, servants, daily wage earners would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution. Women also would have been highly discontented.

Q. 3. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world during the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries?

Ans. (a) The French Revolution proved to be the most important event in the history of the world.

(b) The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. These ideas became an inspiring force for the political movement in the world in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

(c) The idea of liberty, equality and fraternity spread from France to the rest of Europe where the feudal system was

finally abolished

(d) Colonised people reworked on the ideas of freedom from bondage into other movements to create sovereign nation state

(e) The idea of Nationalism that emerged after the french revolution started becoming movements all over the world. Now people began to question the absolute power.

4. Draw a list of Democratic Right which enjoy today whose origin could be traced to be french revolution?

Ans: Some of the democratic Right which we enjoy can be traced to the french Revolution

- i) Right to equality including equality before the law. the prohibition in matters employment
- ii) Right to Freedom of speech and expression including the right to practice any profession or occupation.
- iii) Right against exploitation
- iv) Right to life.
- v) Right to Vote.

Would you agree with the view that the message of universal right was beset with contradiction? Explain?

i) The message of universal right was definitely beset with contradiction. Many ideas of the "Declaration of

Rights of Man and Citizens" were not at all clear. They had dubious meaning.

ii) The French revolution could not bring economic equality and is the fact that unless there is economic equality, real equality can not be achieved at any sphere. The Declaration of Rights of man and women laid stress on equality but to target large section of society was denied to it. The right to vote and elect their representatives did not solve the poor man's problem.

iii) Women were still regarded as passive citizens. They did not have any political rights such as right to vote and hold political offices like men. Hence, their struggle for equal political right continued.

iv) France continued to hold and expand colonies. Thus its image as a liberator could not last for a long time.

v) Slavery existed in France until the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Ans i) The political instability of the Directory paved the way for rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon had achieved glorious victories in wars. This made France realize that only a military director like Napoleon would restore a stable government.

ii) In 1804, he crowned himself the emperor.

of France. He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries, dispossessing dynasty and creating kingdoms where he placed member of his family. Napoleon viewed himself as a moderniser of Europe.

He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weight and measure provided by the decimal system but his rise to power did not last for a long time. He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815.

The End

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