

THE WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL, PATULI.

HISTORY AND CIVICS

CLASS VIII

Age of Revolution: SYNOPSIS

INTRODUCTION

18th Century saw the occurrence of two events that would usher in the age of democracy and nationalism throughout the world. These were the revolutions in America and France.

THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

1. It was the first organised movement in history in which people asserted the right to rule themselves.
2. It led to the birth of United States of America.
3. By the middle of the 18th century, there were 13 British colonies in the east coast of America.
4. People who settled there originally came from England. They had gone there in search of money, freedom and better life.
5. Internal administration was in the hands of the people. Each colony had a governor and local council which was elected by the people.

CAUSES

1. The economic matter of the colony was controlled by the British government. They were forbidden to use non-British ships for trading purposes. Tobacco, sugar and cotton could be exported only to Britain at prices fixed by the British government.
2. The colonies were not allowed to set up industries.
3. They had no representation in the British Parliament.
4. They criticised the British government's constant demand for money. In 1765 the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act which made a fixation of stamps on all documents compulsory.

5. The colonies refused to pay tax on the ground that they had no representation in the parliament.
6. The british government believed it was their right to tax the colonies as the colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country.
7. The government's decision to tax tea led to the Boston Tea Party in which group of people disguised as native Americans raided british ships and dumped crates of tea into the sea.
8. The colonists were als inspired by the writings or philosophers such as John Lock, John Harrington, John Milton, Thomas Payne. They wrote that all men are equal and have some basic human rights.
9. Beginning 1774 representative of the colonial assembled at Philadelphia. They appealed King George III, the British Ruler to end the restriction on trade and not impose any further taxes without the consent of the colonies. The King disregarded this and called it mutiny and sent its troops to curb it.
10. On 4th of July 1776 the representatives met again at Philadelphia and adopted the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson.
11. The Declaration asserted that the colonies had suffered under the British rule and had every right to form their own government now. This led to the beginning of the war of independence.
12. The colonies were led by George Washington. The war finally ended in 1781 with the colonies emerging as victorious.
13. 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed and all the States came together to form the United States of America.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

French Revolution occurred in 1789.

CAUSES

Political

1. France was rules by King Louise XVI. He believed he was God's representative on Earth and not answerable to the people.

2. He and his wife Marie Antoinette ruled like autocrats and ignored the sufferings of the people.
3. Administrative machinery had become corrupt. Nobles and officials tortured people for taxes, arrested and confined them without a trials. Those who were arrested were sent to Bastille.
4. Society was dived into three parts. First Estate, comprised of the clergy. Second Estate, consisted of the nobility. Third estate, which constituted about 95% of the total population consisted of peasants, workers and bourgeoisie.
5. First and second estates enjoyed all political rights while the third was taxed and left impoverished.

Economic Causes

1. Luxurious lifestyle of the first two estates had emptied the State Treasury
2. People belonging to the first two estates were rich but not taxed.
3. The entire burden of taxes fell on the impoverished third estate.

Intellectuals

1. Philosophers like Voltaire, Diderot and Rousseau inspired people to rise against all forms or inequality, corruption and injustice.
2. They preached tha the real power was vested in the hands of the people.

Influence of the American War of Independence

1. Summoning of the Estates General.
2. The storming of the Bastille.
3. Spread of the idea outside france.

Post revolution period

1. From 1792-1815 France was involved in a series of war. This put a strain on the financial condition of france. It was against this background that Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power.
2. He became a general in the French army. Then in 1804 he crowned himself the emperor of France.

3. 1812 he made France the power centre of Europe.
4. 1814 he was exiled to the island of Elba.
5. Napoleon's defeat in the Battle of Waterloo brought an end to his reign.

AGE OF REVOLUTION: WORKSHEET

Give the meaning of the following:

1. nationalism.
2. clergy.
3. bourgeoisie.
4. autocracy.

Mention the Events:

1. 1765
2. 1774
3. 1789, 20th June
4. 1614

Short questions

1. After the discovery of America which countries landed there to form colonies.
2. Give two causes for the American war of independence.
3. Explain the sentence, no taxation without representation.
4. Why was the Boston Tea Party held?
5. Who were the philosophers who inspired the colonists in their struggle for freedom?
6. What does the declaration of independence state?
7. When was it signed?
8. Who drafted it?
9. Who led the colonies to the battles?
10. What is the bill of rights? What did it guarantee?

11. Who was the ruler of France during the revolution
12. Name the three estates. Why was the third estate unhappy?
13. Give two economic causes for the French revolution.
14. What was the Tennis Court Oath?
15. Why is the storming of the Bastille a significant event?
16. What is the Declaration of Rights of Man and the Citizen?
17. Mention two impacts of the French revolution.
18. How did Napoleon attempt to unify Europe?
19. What was the motive behind Napoleon's military campaign?
20. What led to the decline of Napoleon?

Complete exercise A, B, C, E and F from the end of the chapter in your exercise book