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CLASS-10TH

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

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HISTORY

The age of industrialisation

Question 1.

What was proto-industrialisation ? Explain the importance of proto-industrialisation.

Answer:

(a) Proto-industrialisation – This was the early phase of industrialisation in Europe and England when there was large-scale industrial production for an international market. This was not based on factories. Many historians refer to this phase of industrialisation as proto-industrialisation.

(b) The features of proto-industrialisation were as mentioned below :

1. It was a decentralised system of production. It was part of a network of commercial exchanges.
2. Control of production was in the hand of merchants.
3. Goods were produced by a vast number of producers working in their family farms, not in factories.
4. Whole of the family was involved. It allowed peasants a fuller use of their family labour resources.
5. At each stage of production – spinning, dying etc., 20 to 25 workers were employed by each merchant. This meant that each clothier was controlling hundreds of workers.
6. By working for the merchants, workers could remain in the countryside and continue to cultivate their small plots. Income from proto-industrial production supplemented their income from cultivation.

Question 2.

In the seventeenth century Europe, the peasants and artisans in the countryside readily agreed to work for merchants. Explain.

Answer:

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, merchants from the towns in Europe began moving to the countryside, supplying money to peasants and artisans, persuading them to produce for an international market. With the expansion of world trade and the acquisition of colonies in different parts of the world, the demand for goods began growing. In the countryside poor peasants and artisans readily agreed to work for the merchants due to the reasons as mentioned below :

1. This was a time when open fields were disappearing and commons were being enclosed.
2. Poor peasants and cottagers who had earlier depended on common lands for their survival, gathering their firewood, berries, vegetables, hay and straw, had to now look for alternative sources of income.
3. Many had tiny plots of land which could not provide work for all members of the household.

In view of the above factors when merchants came around and offered advances to produce goods for them, peasants and artisans readily agreed to work for them.

Question 3.

How did the cotton factories become an intimate part of English landscape in the early 19th century ?

Or

What were the causes for increase in the import of raw cotton in the late eighteenth century in Britain ? What were its results ?

Answer:

The causes for increase in the import of raw cotton were as given below :

1. In the late eighteenth century in England a number of cotton factories had been set up.

It was the first symbol of new era of cotton. Its production boomed in the late nineteenth century. In 1760 Britain was importing 2.5 million pounds of raw cotton to feed its cotton industry. By 1787 this import soared to 22 million pounds.

2. There were number of inventions in production process i.e., carding, twisting and spinning. These changes or inventions enabled each worker to produce more. It also made possible to produce more stronger threads and yarn.
3. Creation of cotton mill : Till then the cloth production was being done within households. Later Richard Arkwright created the cotton mill. Earlier cloth production was carried in the countryside within village households. But now all the processes i.e., spinning, weaving and dyeing etc., could be done in a mill under one roof and management.
4. This allowed a more careful supervision over the production process, a watch over quality, and the regulation of labour.
As a result of above, in the early nineteenth century, factories increasingly became an integral part of the English landscape. New mills were visible everywhere. These were result of the new technology. The contemporaries were dazzled. They concentrated their attention on the mills, almost forgetting the by lanes and the workshops where production still continued.

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