

**CLASS:-12TH, HISTORY QUESTIONS &ANSWERS, CHAPTER:- 01, LONG ANSWERS**

**DATE:- 1.06.21**

**Through the Eyes of Travelers**

**Question 1.**

**“Bernier wanted to express India inferior to the western world.” Elucidate the statement.**

**Answer:**

- 1. Bernier’s work ‘Travels in the Mughal Empire’ is marked by detailed observations, critical insights and reflects.**
- 2. His account contains discussions trying to keep the Mughal history within the universal framework.**
- 3. He continually compared the Mughal age India with contemporary Europe and generally stressed on the superiority of Europe.**
- 4. His representation of Indian work was on the model of binary opposition in which India is expressed as the inverse of Europe.**
- 5. He also described the differences which he saw so that India could be expressed inferior to the western world.**

**Question 2.**

**Why did Bernier consider crown ownership of land as disastrous?**

**Or**

**According to Bernier, “Crown ownership of land had disastrous consequences for the state and the society.” Justify the statement.**

**Or**

**Mention Bernier’s views about private property and crown ownership of land.**

**Or**

**Examine why Bernier was against the idea of crown ownership of land in ‘Mughal India.**

**Answer:**

- 1. According to Bernier, the Mughal India did not have private ownership of land.**
- 2. He believed that private property had many virtues.**
- 3. But he regarded the crown ownership of land as harmful to both the state and its people.**
- 4. In the Mughal Empire, the emperor owned all the land.**
- 5. He distributed this land among his nobles.**
- 6. Bernier felt that this principle had disastrous consequences for the economy as well as society.**
- 7. Because of the crown ownership of land, the landholders could not pass their land to their children. Besides they could not make any long-term investment to sustain and increase production.**
- 8. The crown ownership of land also prevented the emergence of an improved class of landlords as in Western Europe.**

9. It had ruined the agriculture and increased oppression of the peasantry.
10. It brought a continuous decline in the living standard of all sections of society.
11. That is why Bernier considered crown ownership of land as disastrous.
12. Question 3.

**How was the Mughal Empire viewed by Francois Bernier? Do Mughal governmental documents justify it?**

Answer:

1. Francois Bernier wrote a book entitled 'Travels In the Mughal Empire.'
2. He considered the Mughal rule as inferior to that of Europe. During the Mughal rule, Indian society had masses of impoverished people.  
The rich and powerful people were in a minority.
3. There were poorest of the poor and the richest of the rich.
4. There was no middle class in India. This is how Bernier described India during the Mughal rule.
5. The Mughal king was the king of beggars and barbarians. All the cities and towns were in shambles.
6. They were contaminated with polluted air. All the fields were full of bushes and marshes because of the crown ownership of land.
7. However, there was no Mughal official document to show that the state was the sole owner of the land. For example, Abul Fazl, the official chronicler of Akbar in the 16th century, describes the land revenue as "remunerations of sovereignty".
8. Many European travellers believed that the king claimed revenue as he provided protection to his subjects.
9. He did not take any rent on land as many scholars believe. In reality,
10. it was neither rent nor a land tax. It was in fact a tax on the crop.

Question 4.

**Explain giving examples of how the accounts of foreign travellers help in reconstructing the history of India from the 10th to 17th century.**

Answer:

1. Most of the foreign travellers came from a diverse social environment.
2. The local writers remained indifferent towards them.
3. They compared the Indian environment and social scenario with the outside world.
4. They laid more stress on those things or statements in their descriptions which looked queer and strange to them. This fact made their description interesting and lively.
5. Their descriptions threw light on the contemporary proceedings of the royal court, religious beliefs and the features of architecture and sculpture. It helps in the writing of history.

### **Important Foreign Travellers**

The three most important foreign travellers who visited India during the Middle Ages were Al-Biruni, Ibn-Battuta and Bernier.

#### **(a) Al-Biruni.**

1. The detailed description by Al-Biruni is found in his '**Kitab-ul-Hind**' which provides information

about the contemporary religion, philosophy and science. His description is very simple and straight-forward.

2. Al-Biruni explained that the caste system was not only the characteristic of the Indian society but also of many other societies of the world. In other words, the caste system was prevalent in many countries of the world.

**(b) Ibn-Battuta.**

1. Ibn-Battuta wrote a book entitled '**Rihla**'.

2. In this book, he depicted a beautiful picture of his experiences that he had gathered during his various visits and travels.

3. From his book, we come to know a lot about various aspects of social values and new culture.

4. Ibn-Battuta found **paan and coconut** very strange. So he made a special mention of them.

5.. He also wrote about the cities of India and an efficient postal system.

**(c) Francois Bernier.**

1. Bernier wrote a book entitled, '**Travels in Mughal Empire**'.

2. Like the books of Al-Biruni and Ibn-Battuta, the book of Bernier is a gist of his experiences.

3. He especially compared the condition of India with that of Europe.

4. He found the life of the people of India is worst in comparison to the life found in Europe.

5. In all his descriptions, he criticises the control of the state over all the land.

6. He considers it responsible for the miserable condition of Indian agriculture and the farmers.