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History

Socialism in Europe

Question 1.

Describe the circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution.

Answer:

The circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution as given below :

- The Russian peasantry was in a miserable condition. The farmers could not get even two square meals a day. Their land holdings were very small and they had to pay heavy taxes.
- The Russian as well as the foreign capitalist industrialists exploited the workers by taking 12-14 hours of work and paying very low wages to them. The workers had no right to form trade unions or seek reforms. They led a miserable life.
- The Tsar Nicholas II was a despotic and autocratic ruler. He enjoyed unlimited powers and rights. The people of the higher strata enjoyed great privileges. The bureaucracy was corrupt and inefficient. The common people who suffered most, were fed up with the absolute rule of the Tsar and wanted to get rid of him.
- Karl Marx propagated 'Scientific Socialism'. He strongly opposed capitalism which meant untold exploitation of the common men.

Question 2.

Explain in brief Lenin's contribution to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Answer:

- Lenin had played an important part in the Russian Revolution of 1917. It is true that after the fall of Tsar, Lenin led the revolutionaries. Really, it was the beginning of the revolution.
- The Provisional Government, under the leadership of Kerenskii, could not implement the demand of the people and failed.
- Under Lenin's leadership, the Bolshevik Party put forward clear policies to end the war, transfer the land to the peasants and advance the slogan 'All power to the Soviets'.
- He had described the Russian empire as a Prison of Nations and had declared that . no genuine democracy could be established unless all the non-Russian people were given equal rights.

Question 3.

What were the main objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries ?

Answer:

The main objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries were :

- The Tsar had thrown Russia into the First World War to fulfil his imperialistic desires. It was the demand of the revolutionaries that Russia should withdraw from the war. So, it withdrew from the First World War in 1917 after the Revolution.
- After the Revolution, the land was given to the tillers. The landlords had to give the land to the government. Kolkhoz and Sovkhoz farms were established. In Kolkhoz farms, the peasants worked collectively.

- The revolutionaries had demanded an improvement in the conditions of the industrial workers. They demanded better wages, good working conditions and removal of exploitation. After 1917, the industries were nationalised and the dream of workers was fulfilled.
- The next aim of the revolutionaries was that the non-Russians should be given equal status. Lenin believed that without this status these people could never become real Russians.

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