



Vidya Bhawan balika Vidyapeeth shakti utthan aashram Lakhisarai

Revision Class-9th

(Based on N C E R T pattern)

Date:- 29.08.XX.

History

Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution

Question 1.

How far the economic and social conditions of Russia were responsible for the Russian Revolution? Explain by giving examples.

Or

Describe the circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution.

Answer:

(i) Agrarian Economy and Poor Condition of the Peasants: At the beginning of the 20th century, more than 85% of Russian population earned their living from agriculture. Most of the land was owned by rich people. Most of the peasants worked from dawn to dusk with very low wages or share. Most of the peasants were against the rich and the nobles.

(ii) Poor Condition of Workers: Most of the industries were controlled by the private individuals. In craft units, and small workshops, the working day was sometimes 15 hours. Most of the workers were working and living in poor conditions. Most of the workers were ill-paid.

(iii) Unemployment: Unemployment rate was very high. The rich industrialists were exploiting the workers.

(iv) High Prices : Prices of essential goods rose so quickly that real wages declined by 20%.

(v) Condition of Women: Most of the women were working in small factories. Women made up about 31% of the factory labour force. They were paid less wages, and were forced to work for long hours. When they launched an agitation, they were fired at by the police.

Question 2.

Explain the views of the Socialists on private property with special emphasis on Karl Marx.

Answer:

- Marx argued that industrial society was capitalist. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories, and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers.
- The conditions of workers could not improve as long as this profit was accumulated by private capitalists.
- Workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property.
- Marx believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, workers had to construct a radically socialist controlled society. This would be a communist society. He was convinced that workers would triumph in their conflict with capitalists. A communist society was the natural society of the future.

Question 3.

What social changes were seen in the society after industrialisation?

Or

How did industrialization change the lives of people in Europe?

Explain.

Answer:

- **Working Class:** Industrialisation brought men, women and children to factories. Work hours were often long and wages were poor.
- **Problem of Unemployment and Poverty:** Problem of unemployment and poverty was rare in the countryside but this became a common phenomenon with industrialisation. Unemployment was common, particularly during times of low demand for industrial goods.
- **Problem of Housing and Sanitation:** Large-scale migration to cities lead to housing and sanitation problem.
- **Trade Unions:** Workers in England and Germany began forming associations to fight for better living and working conditions. They set up funds to help members in times of distress and demanded a reduction of working hours and the right to vote. In Germany, these associations worked closely with the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and helped it win parliamentary seats. By 1905, socialists and trade unionists formed a Labour Party in Britain and a Socialist Party in France.
- **Socialism:** Trade unions and worker's union lead to idea of socialism. The development of the idea of socialism changed the political scenario. These trade unions started demanding share in political power.

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