

3**MODERN WORLD – I****Notes**

From the 14th century onwards, Europe witnessed many profound changes in its cultural and intellectual life that helped to usher in the modern period. This was the *Renaissance*, the awakening, that encouraged thinking and reasoning in social and political fields and affected every aspect of life. A period of rationality and scientific enquiry had already begun in the Arab world, but the changes that took place during renaissance in Europe affected the whole world. These changes began with the disintegration of the feudal system, about which you have read, in detail, in the previous lesson. In this lesson, we will discuss some of these changes and developments which transformed medieval society into the modern world. We will also trace the events that took place in the modern world till the 20th century.

**OBJECTIVES**

After reading this lesson, you will be able to:

- Discuss the impact of decline of the feudalism;
- explain the meaning and features of Renaissance;
- explain the causes of Reformation and its impact;
- describe the development of science;
- mention the main scientific discoveries of the age and some of the main voyages of discoveries;
- explain significance of the Industrial Revolution for Europe and the rest of the world;
- explain the causes and effects of the American Revolution and the French Revolution;
- discuss the struggle for National Unification in Germany and Italy; and
- examine the growth of socialist ideas and Russian Revolution.

**Notes****3.1 IMPACT OF DECLINE OF FEUDALISM**

During the Medieval Age, one of the most important institutions was Feudalism. You have read about it in detail in the previous lesson. Feudalism as an institution flourished in Europe for many centuries. But with the rise of the middle class, it started to decline. Rise of powerful kingdoms as well as warfare between the feudal lords further led to its decline. Emergence of new towns and cities and a revival of trade also led to the disintegration of the feudal system. These towns were centers of production and were governed by elected representatives. The atmosphere of the towns was free from feudal restriction and control as people were free to go anywhere and to take up any profession. Towns attracted artisans and peasants from rural areas because they provided better prospects of living and acting as a refuge from feudal exploitation. These towns and cities encouraged the production of many crops such as cotton and sugarcane. Peasants were paid in cash for their product. The manufactured goods were sold in the markets where money was the medium of exchange. The lords began to accept money from their vassals instead of services as they also needed money to buy various luxurious commodities. This led to the rise of a powerful merchant class. They now began to aspire for a higher status in the social hierarchy. They began to support the powerful monarchs to undermine the position of the feudal lords which weakened the feudal structure and led to the decline of the feudal order.

The infusion of new ideas created a new awakening. This gave birth to a new movement called the Renaissance about which we are going to read now.

3.2 RENAISSANCE

The modern period ushered the end of the Age of Faith and the beginning of the Age of Reason. It witnessed movements like the Renaissance and the Reformation. These movements brought many changes in cultural, intellectual, religious, social and political life of the people all over the world. This period is also characterised by urbanisation, faster means of transport and communication, democratic systems and uniform laws based on equality.

The literal meaning of Renaissance is ‘rebirth’. It started in Italy around 14th Century AD. Italy was divided into small city states at that time. Many of them were built on the ruins of ancient Roman buildings. The geographical position of Italian cities made them great trading and intellectual centers. Moreover, the position of Italian cities such as Venice made them centers of trade and intellectual crossroads. Many great ideas, along with wealth, were brought by merchants from far corners of the globe. The new form of political and social organization gave political freedom and a suitable atmosphere for academic, artistic and cultural advancement. People had more leisure time for study and other activities.

This was also a period of great economic expansion. Many commercial and financial techniques were developed for trade practices like book keeping, bills of exchange and public debt. This enabled Italy to become the centre of Renaissance. The major developments of this time were the revival of urban life, commerce based on private capital, banking, formation of nation states, explorations to find new routes and territories and the development of vernacular literature which was popularized by the printing press. This new mercantile society was less hierarchical and more concerned with secular objectives. It was in sharp contrast to the earlier rural, tradition bound society. The adventures and explorers played a significant role in opening a world economic system. Many new commodities were brought from America, Asia and Africa after the discovery of trade routes. These goods enriched the life of Europeans and inspired them to develop new ways of producing them in large numbers to make profit. The result was that merchants, entrepreneurs and bankers joined hands and 'Capital' came to enjoy an important position in the political life as well as in relations with other countries.

The new ideas that were generated in this period like humanism, rationalism and the spirit of inquiry brought a profound change in the thinking pattern of the people. There was a renewed interest in the cultural achievements of the Classical Greek and Roman Civilisations. Human beings became the central concern of the new scholars. They believed in the creative potential of the human beings and their right to seek joy and pleasures in this world itself. This was contrary to the belief of the Medieval Church which opposed worldly pleasures. This respect for human beings encouraged interest in art, history, language, literature, ethics, etc. Do you know that it was at this time that the disciplines grouped under 'humanities' were born?

The spirit of Humanism also found expression in the field of art and literature. The greatest achievements of Renaissance artists were in the field of paintings. Painters studied the anatomy and proportions of the human body. They wanted the human beings to be painted in realistic form and proportion. Some of the outstanding artists were Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Titian. Even in the field of sculpture, artists began to make free standing statues. These sculptures now stood apart from the building or background and were separate works of art. The first great Renaissance sculptor was Donatello who made the statue 'David'.

The Renaissance spirit also marks the rise of Nationalism in Europe. People now began to free themselves of medieval religious restrictions and



Notes

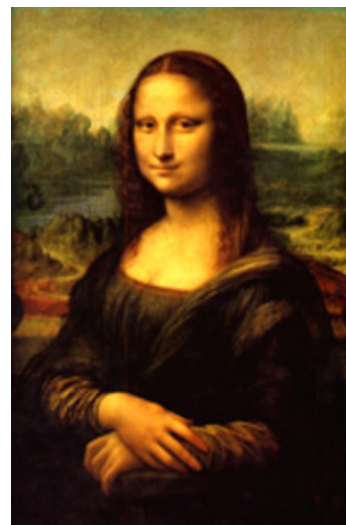


Figure 3.1 Leonardo da Vinci's
Monalisa

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

bonds. National identities grew stronger and this was reflected in the development of modern European languages such as Italian, Spanish, French, German, English etc. as the languages of literature. Now the writers used local languages in poetry, drama, prose, etc., instead of Latin. The works of Renaissance authors became accessible to a large number of people due to the use of vernacular languages and the introduction of printing press. The Bible was printed and read by a large number of people. Several works that were produced in Modern European languages were Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*; Machiavelli's *The Prince* and Cervantes' *Don Quixote*.

Two major developments took place in the history of Europe towards the later part of the Renaissance. The first was the Protestant Reformation which resulted in the split in Christianity. The second development concerned reforms within the Roman Catholic Church, generally referred to as Catholic Reformation or Counter Reformation. Reformation was a part of the socio-religious and political movement which led to the emergence of the modern world.



ACTIVITY 3.1

Rationalism, Humanism, Inquiry, Observation, Experimentation and Reasoning were some of ideas that come up during the Renaissance period. Find their meanings and relate their relevance in our lives today.

3.3 REFORMATION

The Medieval Catholic Church came to be associated with superstitions, corruption and greed for money. Superstitious peasants were convinced by the Church that it possessed the true Cross. People were used to paying fees for seeing a piece of wood as the true Cross because it was believed that sacred relics had healing power. The Church laid more emphasis on blind faith than reason as it was the means to extract money from the devotees. All this changed with the coming of the Renaissance. In the new spirit of the Renaissance nothing could be accepted. Do you know that it was in 1517 AD that a German priest called Martin Luther first challenged the authority of the Roman Catholic Church? According to him, the Bible was the only source of religious authority. He believed that salvation could be attained through faith in Jesus Christ instead of having blind faith on the Church. He protested against some practices of the Church such as the selling of positions in the church, the issuing of the letters of indulgence for works of charity or going on crusades, to the highest bidder. Luther had the protection of the German Princes, primarily because of his desire to seize church property. But on 3 January 1521, he was excommunicated by Pope Leo X after he refused to stop writing against the Church.

Luther's views started the Protestant Reformation in the West and it divided the Christian world into two, the Protestants and the Roman Catholics. According to him, Christians must win salvation by following Christ and not by buying letter of indulgence. Though the Reform Movement in England was influenced by Lutheran ideas, the English Reformation occurred as a direct result of King Henry VIII's efforts to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Thomas Cromwell, the King's Chief Minister, helped the Parliament to pass the Act in Restraint of Appeals and the Act of Supremacy. It gave a royal headship to the King over the church. The king was allowed to marry Anne Boleyn, a commoner.



Figure 3.2 *Martin Luther*



Notes

The Reformation proved to be a great upheaval for religious revival. A Reform Movement also took place within the Catholic Church. This is known as the 'Counter Reformation'. It aimed to reduce corruption as well as to improve and strengthen Catholic Church. It began in Spain where Ignatius Loyal founded the 'Society of Jesus' which stressed upon service of God, charity, chastity and missionary work. The movement started by Martin Luther spread to other countries of Europe through the efforts of King Henry VIII of England, Huldreich Zwingli and John Calvin.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.1

1. Fill in the blanks:
 - (a) expressed its belief in the creative potential of human beings.
 - (b) Ignatius Loyal founded the
2. Define feudalism. Give at least two features of feudalism.
3. What were the main ideas of Renaissance?
4. Enlist at least two teachings of Martin Luther which influenced reforms in the Church.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE

During the Renaissance, extraordinary accomplishments were made in the field of science. We have already read that the Renaissance thinkers emphasized more on

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

reason than on blind faith and stressed that knowledge could be gained by observation and experimentation. They rejected blind faith in tradition and established beliefs. This resulted in a scientific inquiry that had almost disappeared. Renaissance also brought about a scientific revolution. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci made observational drawings of anatomy and nature which were a unique blend of science and art. The period also saw remarkable achievements in medicine and human anatomy. Michael Servetus, a Spanish doctor, discovered the circulation of blood. William Harvey, an Englishman explained the function of the heart in purifying blood and its circulation through veins. The beginnings that were made by the Renaissance scientists paved the way for observation and experimentation in other fields of knowledge.

One of the most remarkable achievements of the Renaissance in science was in the field of astronomy. Have you heard of Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo? They were great astronomers who formulated and tried to prove that the Earth revolves around the Sun. Before the Renaissance, it was believed that the Sun revolved around the Earth and whoever questioned this was denounced as a heretic. Copernicus in his book *On the Revolution of the Heavenly Sphere* argued that the earth and the planets move around the sun in concentric circles. Even though the theory was imperfect, it aroused thinking and reasoning. Kepler further developed this theory and said that the other planets move in elliptical paths around the sun. He also argued that magnetic attractions between the Sun and the planets kept the heavenly bodies in an orbital motion. Further on this assumption, Isaac Newton developed his Law of Universal Gravitation. With his self manufactured telescope, Galileo discovered the moons of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and spots in the Sun. He also confirmed the findings of Copernicus. Renaissance also developed a curiosity in the minds of Europeans about other lands and other peoples. Let us find out how this happened.

3.5 DISCOVERY OF NEW LANDS

The spirit of inquiry encouraged many adventurers to discover new lands. The new trade routes that were discovered changed the history of the world. It is said that ‘God, Glory and Gold’ was the main motive behind these discoveries. But the motive of gold or economic need was the most important. Before the geographical discoveries, Europeans obtained articles like spices, cotton, precious gems, silk, etc. from the Eastern part of the world. They travelled through the Arabic and Islamic territories for the supply of these articles. This was not very convenient and also posed uncertainties. So a direct sea route to South East Asia was discovered as it had a potential of a lucrative trade. The explorers also had another motive, which was to convert the people of the newly found areas to Christianity. It also became a means for them to serve God. In addition, the adventurers also hoped to acquire fame by discovering new lands. Some did indeed become very famous. Have you heard about

Vasco da Gama discovering India and Columbus who set out for India but discovered America? Do you know Ferdinand Magellan was the first explorer to lead an expedition around the world? Bartholomew Diaz was another famous explorer.

Why do you think that these great adventures and voyages were sponsored by kings and wealthy people? The tremendous increase in trade and colonization had a great impact on the enhancement of European wealth. One of the most famous kings who sponsored the voyages was the Portuguese King Henry, who is also known as Henry the Navigator. The technological base for these discoveries came from the invention of the compass, astrolabe, astronomical tables and the art of map making. These voyages led to the establishment of trading outpost and colonial empires in different parts Africa, America and Asia. Now commercial focus shifted from Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Many new commodities were added to trade such as tobacco, molasses, ostrich feathers, potato, etc. It also started the inhuman slave trade in America. Slaves were captured from Africa, transported across the Atlantic Ocean and sold to work in plantations in North America.



Figure 3.3 *Vasco da Gama*

These trade practices and new sea routes helped the European merchants to accumulate huge wealth which they invested in the development of new machines. This led to the coming of the Industrial Revolution which made them more powerful and wealthy.



ACTIVITY 3.2

On a world map trace the sea routes taken by Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan and Christopher Columbus to reach new destinations.

3.6 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution began in England from about 1750 AD. This was possible because English merchants had accumulated huge wealth through overseas trade and her colonies secured the supply of raw materials. The colonies also acted as potential markets for finished goods. Moreover, England had huge amount of essential resources such as coal and iron which were necessary for running the industries. Thus, the capitalists invested in the development of new machines to speed up the



Notes

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

Modern World – I

production with the aim of earning more profits. Now machines began to take over some of the work of humans and animals for production. Though there was new development and the coming in of new machineries to improve production, the society became unequal. It created a division in society with the coming of two groups of people – the capitalist or the bourgeoisie and the worker or the proletariat – as they were later called. You will read more about the Industrial Revolution in the next lesson.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.2

1. Choose the correct answer:
 - (a) Who discovered the sea route to India?
 - (i) Bartholomew Diaz
 - (ii) Vasco da Gama
 - (iii) Columbus
 - (iv) None of these
 - (b) Which of the following was not a result of the voyages of discovery?
 - (i) Setting up of colonies in Asia and Africa
 - (ii) Expansion of European commerce
 - (iii) Rise in the prosperity of the colonies
 - (iv) Beginning of slave trade
2. Name at least two contributions of the Renaissance in the field of Science.
3. Enlist at least three discoveries which helped the Europeans to find new sea routes.
4. Identify the significant change in the society due to the Industrial Revolution.

3.7 AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

The European Revolution of 1848 brought a series of political upheavals with their opposition to the traditional authority. There was a very strong dissatisfaction with political leadership and people started demanding more participation in the affairs of the states. Political awareness, ideas like liberty, equality and fraternity were popularised by the printing press. The revolutions which were most important occurred in America, France, Germany, Italy and Russia. Britain had already faced a major change with the Glorious Revolution. The United States of America was born after the American War of Independence and Russia experienced a workers' movement which led to the establishment of a socialist government. These upheavals were accompanied by a feeling of nationalism amongst the population of many states which had been encouraged by enlightened ideas. Now we are going to read about these revolutions.

3.7.1 The Glorious Revolution

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 occurred in England much before the Age of Revolutions and proved a source of inspiration for the world. It was called the Glorious Revolution because no blood was shed to achieve its success. The Stuart king James II lost the popular support of his countrymen. This was due to his harsh attitude towards the people. The creation of an expensive standing army and increasing employment of Roman Catholics in the government, army and universities had angered the people. The Parliament removed King James II from the throne in favor of his daughter Mary II and her husband William III, Prince of Orange. The autocratic rule of James II was replaced with a constitutional form of government. It showed that the Parliament had the power to change the monarch.

3.7.2 American War of Independence

It will be interesting for you to know that some of the political rights that we enjoy today are the direct outcome of two very important revolutions that occurred in the later part of the 18th century. They played a crucial role in the shaping of the modern world. These were the American Revolution and the French Revolution. Through these revolutions, people asserted their rights and ended exploitation.

Around the 16th century, many Europeans had settled in America because of religious persecution in England. Some of them were also attracted by economic opportunities. They had formed 13 colonies which had local assemblies to settle their problems. These colonies were suffering due to the British economic policy of mercantilism through which they tried to regulate colonial commerce in the British interest. The colonies were not permitted to set up industries as it would result in competition with the British industries like iron and textile. They had to export sugar, tobacco and cotton only to England, at prices determined by the mother country England. This provoked opposition from the British American colonies.

By the 18th century, the wars with France and in India were proving very expensive for Britain. She needed money to fight these wars, and this was done by collecting taxes from the American colonies. In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act on all business transactions like official documents, deeds, mortgages, newspapers and pamphlets. The revenue was used to pay the cost of maintaining 10,000 British troops in America. The Act was opposed by the colonists. Riots broke out in colonial port cities. The colonial assemblies passed resolutions against the Stamp Act. The British Parliament had to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766. However, the Parliament continued the tax on tea. On 16th December, 1773 some Americans disguised as Native Indians descended upon the three ships of the East India Company and dumped the tea into the sea. This incident is known as the Boston Tea Party. The Parliament closed the Port of Boston but the trigger was set for the American War of Independence.



Notes

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

The representatives of the 13 colonies called the meeting of the first Continental Congress at Philadelphia in 1774 and appealed to the King of England not to impose taxes without their consent. The King regarded this as an act of rebellion and declared war. This led to fights and finally to the 'Declaration of Independence' on 4 July, 1776 at a Congress at Philadelphia which proclaimed their independence from Great Britain and the formation of a cooperative union. It inspired the whole world with its emphasis on equality, right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. The Bill of Rights granted many freedoms such as freedom of speech, press, religion and justice under law. The American Revolution was a struggle by which the thirteen American colonies won independence from Britain and gave birth to the nation that is now called the United States of America (USA).



ACTIVITY 3.3

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter who was a witness to the Boston Tea Party. You interviewed the English East India Company officials, the Americans who participated and passersby who had seen the act. Write a newspaper article on it bringing out their versions of the story. Also, give your opinion of what must have taken place.

3.7.3 French Revolution

In the 18th century, French society was still feudal in character with the monarch exercising complete authority. It was divided into three classes or estates. The First Estate of Clergy or Church and the Second Estate of Nobility enjoyed all the luxuries and many privileges over religion and the governance of the country. The Third Estate of the Commoners such as peasantry, city workers and the middle class were heavily burdened with taxes.

The internal condition of France made it an ideal stage for a revolution to take place. Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette's luxurious lifestyles had emptied the treasury and made the country bankrupt. Louis XVI was forced to call a meeting of representatives of the three estates- the clergy, the nobility and the commoners in 1789. He wanted to gain approval for new tax law. The third estate demanded equality in taxation and abolition of special privileges enjoyed by the first two estates. It declared itself a National Assembly and took over the sovereign power from the Emperor. The historic French document, 'Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen' was adopted. It was later embodied as the preamble in the French Constitution of 1791. This was influenced by the U.S. Declaration of Independence, asserting the equality of all men, the sovereignty of the people and the rights to liberty, property, security, right to education, to free speech, to be informed, right of the poor to public assistance, a ban on torture and slavery, recognition of the right of the people

to choose their government and the eligibility of all citizens for employment in public offices.

The French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars starting from 1789 and lasting for about 15 years resulted in the formation of the French Republic. The French Revolution tore down the medieval structures of Europe and brought in new ideas of liberalism and nationalism. France witnessed a complete change in the government, administration, military, society and culture. France became a republic under Napoleon Bonaparte. The guiding principles of the French Revolution were Liberty, Fraternity and Equality. The revolutionaries were inspired by the ideas of many Enlightenment thinkers and philosophers such as Voltaire, Montesquieu and Rousseau.

The American War of Independence and the French Revolution popularized the feeling of nationalism all over the world. The idea of nationalism from America, France and Britain influenced the Italians. The result was a revolution for a unified kingdom of Italy in 1861.



Notes



ACTIVITY 3.4

Given below are the flags of France and America. What role do you think these flags played in the French Revolution and the American War of Independence? Find out what the different colors signify. Do you think the Indian flag played a similar role in the Freedom Struggle?

Count the number of stars in the American map. What do you think it represents? Count the number of stars in the present day flag of America.



Figure 3.4 *Flag of France during the French Revolution*



Figure 3.5 *Flag of the American War of Independence*



Notes

3.7.4 Unification of Italy

In the 18th century, Italy was a collection of states, each having its own monarch and traditions. Some of them were Venetia, two Sicilies, Papal States, Sardinia, Tuscany, etc. During the Middle Ages, the Pope increased their influence in both religious and political matters. The Pope established their own political rule in what were called the Papal States. Soon Italy began to grow in importance. They became centers of political life, banking and foreign trade. During the Renaissance, Italy became even more important than the other states, about which you have read earlier. For many years, France and the Holy Roman Empire fought for the control of Italy. The French Revolution of 1789 played an important role in the history of Italy. The Italian rulers sensing danger in their own country drew closer to the European kings who opposed France. After France became a republic, secret clubs favoring an Italian Republic was formed throughout Italy. From 1796 till 1814, when Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated by the European powers many Italians had started seeing the possibility of a united Italy free from foreign control.

Many revolutionaries like Mazzini and Garibaldi along with some secret societies kept spreading the idea of an independent unified republic among the Italians. From 1849 onwards, the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia which was a monarchy under Victor Emmanuel took an active role in this unification. It was significant that the Italian unification was headed by a monarch. Under his leadership, Cavour the Prime Minister ousted the Austrians from Lombardy, Tuscany, Modena, etc. Garibaldi led the revolt and liberated Sicily and Naples. He handed over the charge of the two states to Emmanuel and declared him the King of Italy. Later, Rome and Venetia joined the federation of Italian states. The process of unification of Italy began with the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and ended with the Franco-Prussian War in 1871.

3.7.5 Unification of Germany

After Napoleon’s defeat in 1815, many Germans wanted an independent Germany. Germany was a confederation of 39 small states, led by Austria and Prussia. These states were always at war with one another, deterring the economic progress of Germany. The King of Prussia, Kaiser William I, chose a Prime Minister Bismarck to unify Germany under the rule of Prussia, and excluding Austria and France completely. Bismarck was fearless and believed in the urgent need for unification in Germany. He started with the modernisation of the army, defying the parliament in collecting taxes. His policy came to be known as ‘Blood and Iron’ policy and earned him the nickname of the ‘Iron Chancellor’.



Figure 3.6 *Otto Von Bismarck*

With this improved army, Bismarck encouraged the German population of Schleswig and Holstein to revolt against their ruler Denmark. In 1864, Bismarck joined hands with Austria against Denmark. Bismarck's next target was Austria. Prussia defeated Austria and formed the North German Confederation. Bismarck promised the province of Venice to Italy and kept her out of the war. Austria was forced to give Venice to Italy, ending the Austrian control in Italy. He also promised territorial compensation to Napoleon III of France and kept it out of the war. He had already secured Russia's support by helping them in suppressing a revolt in Russian controlled Poland.

The only obstacles to Prussian dominance of Germany were four small German states in Southern Germany and the disapproval of Napoleon III of France. But a disagreement between the two countries led France to declare a war on Prussia. The Franco-Prussian War was quite short. Prussia invaded France in 1871 and defeated the French. Napoleon III abdicated the throne and France was forced to give up Alsace and Lorraine. The remainder of the German states, except Austria, were annexed and joined with Germany. The unification of Germany was complete under Kaiser William I. Soon Germany emerged as the leading power in Europe, building a colonial empire to further German economic interest and increase German influence in the world.

3.7.6 Socialist Movement and the Russian Revolution

The Industrial Revolution had led to an unequal society. On the one hand were the workers who were poor, exploited and without any rights; and on the other were the capitalists who enjoyed all the privileges. At that time, some people began to think about the society that should be based on equality in social and economic terms. Ideas like equality, freedom of speech and democracy gave encouragement in this regard. The idea of socialism, which tries to establish equal society, began to take root. The most powerful and influential ideas of socialism was given by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. In the book *Das Capital*, Marx pointed out that history of all societies is the history of class struggle. According to him the capitalists always try to increase their profits by reducing the wages of the workers which leads to class conflict. He predicted that the struggle will be successful with the end of capitalism and the coming of socialism. This will result in the control of the ownership of the means of production in the hands of the state and the birth of an equal society.

The first practical example of this was the Russian revolution which resulted in the establishment of the first socialist government of the world. Russia was industrially backward and was based on an agrarian economy. Tsar was an autocratic and oppressive ruler; hence the workers and the peasants suffered a lot. The Revolution of 1905 led to the formation of a constitutional monarchy with the formation of the Duma; the members of whom were representatives of peasants, townsmen and



Notes

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

gentry. Even after the 1905 Revolution, the civil rights and democratic representation was limited and hence the unrest continued.

In 1917, occurred another revolution in Russia. It happened because the condition of the Russian workers and peasants, and non Russians living in Russia had become quite miserable under the autocratic rule of Tsar Nicholas II. Exploitation along with inhuman working conditions and huge amount of taxes had made the people rise against him. People were also denied any political rights. Russia had also entered World War I for imperialist gains. But she was unequipped to do so. Thousands of Russian soldiers were killed in World War I as they were ill equipped with no proper warm uniforms and arms to fight in the cold desert of Siberia. Many skilled workers were forced to enlist in the army and fight in the battlefields resulting in their deaths. The nobility were also dissatisfied with Tsar Nicholas II due to his autocratic ways. Famines further worsened the situation in the country. This resulted in labor riots and strikes. Striking crowds attacked courts, prisons and office premises. There was widespread unrest among all sections of society. The army lacked ammunition, the cities lacked food while the peasants failed to get proper return for their produce. The government in the meantime had printed millions of Rouble notes leading to inflation. The situation slipped out of Tsar's hands.



Figure 3.7 *Demonstrations by the People on 18 June 1917 at Petrograd. The banner says, “Down with the 10 Capitalist Ministers; All Power to the Soviets of Workers’, Soldiers’, and Peasants’ Deputies; and to the Socialist Ministers, we demand that Nicholas II be transferred to the Peter-Paul Fortress.”*

This situation was further worsened by the writings of Marx and Tolstoy which influenced the people, especially the workers, and led to their political awakening. This led to the formation of the Council of Workers called the Soviets. In February 1917, Tsar was deposed and a Provisional Government was established under the

control of the Menshevik Party. But the Government failed to fulfill the demands of the people. Another Party called the Bolshevik headed by Lenin organised the Soviets and replaced the Government in October 1917. This October Revolution was the final stage of the Russian Revolution. It brought to an end the rule of the Tsar and led to the formation of the USSR and a new world order.

In the next lesson you will read more about Industrialisation, Imperialism and the World Wars. You will be able to understand how the Industrial Revolution changed the face of the world and brought about tremendous changes in the life of the people. You will also read the impact it had on the non-industrialised countries of the world and how it led to conflicts which are till today considered to be some of the most horrible wars faced by the world.



Notes



INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.3

- Choose the correct answer:
 - In how many colonies was America divided?
 - 13
 - 14
 - 15
 - 16
 - The Third Estate in France comprised of the:
 - Nobility
 - Clergy
 - Commoners
 - Monarchy
 - German Unification was successfully carried out under the leadership of:
 - Cavour
 - Mazzini
 - Bismarck
 - Garibaldi
- 'The Glorious Revolution of 1688 was a source of inspiration for the world'. Justify this statement within 30 words.
- Enlist at least two similarities between the American War of Independence and the French Revolution.
- The Russian Revolution was inspired by the ideology of socialism. Explain briefly.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- The feudal order of Medieval Europe broke down as a result of several factors such as the emergence of towns and cities, the revival of trade, the growth of commercial agriculture and the aspirations of the rising merchant class.
- The Renaissance or Rebirth that took place in Europe around the middle of the 14th century began with a renewed interest in the cultural achievements of Classical Greece and Roman Civilisations. It resulted in a profound change in the thought pattern of the people.

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

Modern World – I

- The idea of humanism stressed on the creative potential of human beings and the human being became the subject of study of the humanists.
- The Reformation was an attempt to question the abuses that had crept into the practices of the Church. It was started in Germany by Martin Luther. It soon led to the division of the Christian World into the Catholics and the Protestants.
- One of the important achievements of the Renaissance was the development of rationality and scientific attitude and the growth of modern science. Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo and Newton are remembered for their contributions in this area.
- The Renaissance spirit of inquiry led to the voyages of exploration and the discovery of new lands. These voyages had far reaching consequences for a large part of the world.
- The Industrial Revolution began in England from around 1750 A.D. The coming of the Industrial Revolution increased the rate of industrial production several times over. It created a class of industrial workers/proletariat who were miserably exploited by the capitalists/bourgeoisie.
- The American Revolution that took place in 1776 inspired the whole world with its ideas of equality and freedom and the rights of people.
- The French Revolution was inspired by the ideas of philosophers such as Montesquieu, Voltaire and Rousseau. It had a deep influence on the modern world with its ideas of freedom, equality and fraternity.
- The rise of the feeling of nationalism led to the movements for unification of countries like Germany and Italy.
- The problems and concerns of the new industrial working class led to the rise of the ideas of socialism. The Russian Revolution was an outcome of the growth of such consciousness and it led to the establishment of the first socialist government in the world.



TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. How did the rise of towns and emergence of trade led to the decline of feudalism?
2. Why do you think Renaissance marks a break from earlier patterns of thought and existence? Write in about 100 words.
3. How did the Reformation impact Europe and the rest of the world?
4. How did the discovery of new lands change the economy and society in the modern world?
5. Enlist the main ideas given in the Declaration of American Independence.

6. Which ideas of the French Revolution had an impact on the world order?
7. Discuss the strategies used by the German and Italian leaders for their unification.
8. Describe the conditions of the industrial workers which influenced the Russian Revolution.



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS



Notes

3.1

1. (a) Renaissance scholars
(b) Society of Jesus
2. Feudalism is defined as a system in which people were given land and protection by lords in return for their labor. Its two features were:
 - (a) The workers worked and fought for their lords.
 - (b) The king was the most powerful feudal chief.
3. The spirit of humanism, rationalism and inquiry.
4. (a) Martin Luther advocated for salvation through faith on Jesus Christ and not through the blind faith on the church.
(b) The Bible was the only source of religious authority.

3.2

1. (a) (ii)
(b) (iii)
2. (a) The emphasis on reason than on blind faith.
(b) Scientific inquiry based on observation and experimentation.
3. Compass, astrolabe and the art of map making.
4. The society became unequal and was divided into two groups of people – the capitalist or the bourgeoisie and the worker or the proletariat.

3.3

1. (a) (i)
(b) (iii)
(c) (iii)

MODULE - 1

India and the World
through the Ages



Notes

2. The Glorious Revolution proved to be a source of inspiration for the world because the Parliament was able to replace the autocratic rule of James II with a constitutional form of government without shedding any blood.
3. (a) Both the Revolutions helped assert the rights of the people and spoke against exploitation.
(b) Both popularised the feeling of nationalism all over the world.
4. The French and Renaissance ideas like equality, freedom of speech and democracy, along with the writings of Marx helped in strengthening the idea of socialism. It advocated the control of the ownership of the means of production in the hands of the state which would give birth to an equal society. This influenced people and led to political awakening of the people, especially the workers resulting in the Russian Revolution.