

Class 9th: (S.St)

Questions

1. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

Answer

The circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France were:

→ Social Inequality: French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates namely The Clergy, The nobility and third estates. First two estates, that is, the clergy and the nobility enjoyed certain privileges by birth. They were exempt from paying taxes. The Third estate comprises of businessmen, merchants, Peasants and artisans, labours had to pay taxes to the state.

→ Political Causes: Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France. France had a debt of more than 2 billion livres. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes which angered the people.

→ Economic Problems: The population of France also increased from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. Food grains were now in great demand. The price of bread shot up. Wages did not keep pace with rising prices. This led to subsistence crisis.

→ Strong Middle Class: A new middle class emerged educated and wealthy during the eighteenth century. They believed that no group in society should be given privileges by birth. Ideas of equality and freedom were put forward by philosophers. The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee houses and spread among people.

→ Immediate Causes: On 5 may, 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes. Third estates protested against this proposal but as each estate have one vote, the king rejected this appeal. They walked out of the assembly.

2. Which groups of French society benefited from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which sections of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?

Answer

It was the richer members of the third estate who mostly benefited from the French Revolution. The clergy and the nobility were forced to relinquish (surrender) their power. The poor class of third estate and women would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution as the promise of equality, discussed during the revolution was not given. The poorer classes had no right to vote.

3. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Answer

The ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution. These spread from France to the rest of Europe during the nineteenth century, where feudal systems were abolished. It inspired the Germans, Italians, and Austrians to overthrow their oppressive regimes. The French Revolution inspired the struggling nations of Asia and Africa who

were groaning under the oppression of European colonialism. Tipu Sultan and Rajaram Mohan Roy are two examples of individuals who responded to ideas coming from French revolution.

4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

Answer

We can trace the origin of the following democratic rights we enjoy today to the French revolution:

→ Right to Equality before law

→ Freedom of Speech and expression

→ Right against exploitation

→ Right to justice

5. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Answer

Yes, the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions:

→ Law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to participate in its formation personally or through their representatives. - In this line, it is stated that every citizen has the right to participate in the law however only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of labourer's wage were given voting right. The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens and were deprived of voting rights.

Hence, the message of universal rights was not very clear. The Constitution is only available for the rich. Women were totally neglected in decision making.

6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Answer

After Robespierre's rule came to an end a directory was formed to avoid concentration of power in one individual. Members of the directory often fought among themselves leading to total chaos and political instability. This created a political vacuum in France. This was a conducive situation and Napoleon Bonaparte took the reign of power as a military dictator.

Napoleon saw his role as a moderniser of Europe. He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.

CLASS: 9TH

SUBJECT: CIVICS

Chapter 1 Democracy in the Contemporary World

1. Which of the following does not lead to the spread of democracy?

- (a) Struggle by the people
- (b) Invasion by foreign countries
- (c) End of colonialism
- (d) People's desire for freedom

Answer: (b) Invasion by foreign countries

2. Which of the following statement is true about today's world?

- (a) Monarchy as a form of government has vanished.
- (b) The relationship between different countries has become more democratic than ever before.
- (c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.
- (d) There are no more military dictators in the world.

Answer: (c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.

3. Use one of the following statements to complete the sentence:

Democracy in international organisations requires that ...

- (a) The rich countries should have a greater say.
- (b) Countries should have a say according to their military power.
- (c) Countries should be treated with respect in proportion to their population.
- (d) All countries in the world should be treated equally.

Answer: (c) All countries in the world should be treated equally.

4. Based on the information given in this chapter, match the following countries and the path democracy has taken in that country.

Country	Path to Democracy
(a) Chile	(i) Freedom from British colonial rule
(b) Nepal	(ii) End of military dictatorship
(c) Poland	(iii) End of one party rule
(d) Ghana	(iv) King agreed to give up his powers

Answer:

Country	Path to Democracy
(a) Chile	(ii) End of military dictatorship

(b) Nepal	(iv) King agreed to give up his powers
(c) Poland	(iii) End of one party rule
(d) Ghana	(i) Freedom from British colonial rule

5. What are the difficulties people face in a non-democratic country? Give answers drawing from the examples given in this chapter.

Answer:

Citizens of non-democratic countries face a lot of difficulties. These are listed below:

1. They are not allowed to choose their leader or raise a voice against changing their leader.
2. They aren't entitled to form political parties without the consent of the one in power. They do not have the rights to form independent trade unions or are allowed to strike.
3. They do not enjoy the right to freedom of speech and expression because there is a possibility that people can be arrested for any trivial matter.
4. For example, the military coup of 1973 in Chile and the Communist government in Poland, which ruled till 1990, are examples of oppressive undemocratic rule.

6. Which freedoms are usually taken away when a democracy is overthrown by the military?

Answer:

When a democracy is overthrown by the military, freedom is curbed and following incidents are usually witnessed:

1. The military does whatever it wishes to do and no one has the authority to question them.
2. The military government tortures, harasses, imprisons and also kills people who had gone against them during their takeover. Moreover, citizens are not allowed to show displeasure against any of their policies.
3. People are barred from expressing their opinions freely, from forming any trade unions or even having the right to vote.

Extra Questions

Question 1

Write a short note on Salvador Allende.

Answer:

Salvador Allende was the founder leader of the Socialist Party of Chile. He led the Popular Unity coalition party to victory in the presidential election in the year 1970. He was then elected President of Chile. After his election, Allende passed many reforms for the betterment of the poor people of his country.

Salvador Allende reformed the educational system and ensured that free milk was provided for all the children. He also redistributed land to the landless farmers.

As President he did not allow foreign companies to take away natural resources like copper, from the country.

There was a lot of opposition for Salvador Allende's policies from the rich landlords, the Church and other political parties.

Question 2.

What was the out come of the Military Coup of 1973 ,in Chile ?

Answer:

A coup is the sudden overthrow of a government illegally, it may or may not be violent in nature'.

There was a Military coup in Chile, in the year 1973. The military coup took place under General Augusto Pinochet. Salvador Allende's government, that was elected by people, was overthrown by the military, through conspiracy and violence. On the 11th of September, 1973, the military took over the seaport. The Defence Minister was arrested by the military.

Then the military surrounded the President's house and started bombing it. President Allende died in the military attack. General Pinochet became the President of the country and ruled it for the next 17 years. Supporters of Allende were tortured and put to death.

Question 3.

How was democracy restored after the coup, in Chile?

Answer:

General Augusto Pinochet, the military ruler of Chile, decided to hold a referendum in 1988. The General was very confident that he would win the referendum, and that the people would want him to continue in power.

But the people of Chile wanted a democratic rule. General Pinochet lost the referendum, thus losing his political and military powers. The brutal and cruel dictatorship came to an end.

Michelle Bachelet, a medical doctor and a moderate socialist, was elected the President of Chile, in the free Presidential elections, which was held in January 2006. Democracy was restored in Chile.

Question 4.

What was the situation in Poland in the 1980s?

Answer:

In the 1980s Poland was ruled by the Polish United Workers' Party. This was a Communist party. The government of the Soviet Union controlled the government in Poland. In a Communist Country people could not choose their leader or speak freely against their leader. People were put in prison for opposing the government. Independent Trade Unions were not allowed in Poland

On 14 August 1980, the workers of Lenin Shipyard, in Gdansk, went on a strike. This shipyard belonged to the Government and strikes were illegal. The strike started because a women crane operator was dismissed from service in an unjust manner. Soon Lech Walesa, joined the strike.

Lech Walesa was an electrician in the shipyard. He was dismissed from service, many years ago, because he had demanded higher wages.

The strike began to spread across the whole city. The workers started raising greater demands.

They wanted the right to form independent trade unions.

They wanted the release of political prisoners.

They wanted an end to censorship of the press.

Question 5.

Describe a Communist State.

Answer:

A Communist state is a state governed by a communist party without allowing other parties to compete for power. The state controls all the big property and industry

Question 6.

What was the outcome of the strike in Poland ?

Answer:

Under the guidance of Lech Walesa, the strike became a great movement. Soon the Communist government relented and signed a 21-point agreement with Lech Walesa.

The main features of the 21- point Agreement were as follows

- The Government recognized the workers' right to form independent trade unions
- The government also granted trade Unions the right to strike
- A new trade union called Solidarity was formed for the first time.
- Solidarity swept across Poland and had about one crore members.

Question 7.

What was the plight of the Solidarity Trade union in Poland?

Answer:

Solidarity Trade Union brought to light the widespread corruption and mismanagement in the government.

The Polish government was not happy with this. In the year 1981, the government imposed martial law in the country.

Thousands of Solidarity members were jailed. Freedom to organise, protest and express opinions was once again taken away from the people.

Question 8.

What were the similarities between the two Governments in Chile and Poland?

Answer:

The Government in Chile under General Augusto Pinochet and the Government in Poland under the Polish United Workers' Party, were both non- democratic governments. There were many similarities between these two governments.

The similarities were:-

- The people could not choose or change their rulers.
- There was freedom of expression.
- People could not form political associations.
- People were not permitted to organize protests or initiate political action.

Question 9.

What is 'universal adult franchise' **Answer:-** The right to vote, granted universally to all adults, whether they are men or women, rich or poor, white or black is called 'universal adult franchise'. It is also known as 'universal suffrage'. India gained 'universal adult franchise' in the year 1950.

Question 10.

Trace the expansion of Democracy across the globe.

Answer:- The journey of modern democracy started two centuries ago. During the 19th century, democracy was overthrown and restored several times, in France. The French Revolution that took place in 1789 inspired many struggles for democracy all over Europe. In Britain, though the progress towards democracy was very slow, it started much before the French Revolution. Series of political events reduced the power of the monarchy and the feudal lords in the nineteenth centuries. In the United States, the British colonies in North America declared themselves independent in 1776. In the next few years, these colonies came together to form the United States of America. They adopted a democratic constitution in 1787. By the beginning of the twentieth century, many countries had governments elected by the people and had political freedom in some measure.

Question 11.

Describe the end of Colonialism.

Answer:- Many countries in Asia and Africa were colonies under the control of European nations. People in these countries wanted independence. India was one of the few colonies where people led a nationalist struggle of non-violence, to liberate the country from the colonial rule. India achieved its independence in 1947. From a subject country India has emerged into a democratic country. India continues to be a democracy. By the end of the Second World war many of the countries became independent. Ghana was one of the first few countries which became independent. It gained independence in the year 1957. It inspired other African countries to struggle for freedom.

Question 12.

Trace the Political developments in Myanmar.

Answer: Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, gained freedom from Colonial rule in 1948 and became a democracy. The following are the political developments that took place in Myanmar since 1948:-

- A military coup overthrew the democratic government in the year 1962.
- In 1990, elections were held for the first time after almost 30 years.
- The National League for Democracy, which was led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won the election.
- The military leaders of Myanmar did not accept the results of the election.
- San Suu Kyi was put under house arrest.
- Political activists were jailed for minor offenses.
- People were oppressed and not given any freedom of expression.
- Lakhs of people in Myanmar were driven away from their homes by the military-ruled government.
- The people in Myanmar are still struggling for a democratic government in their country.

Question 13.

Write a short note on the United Nations and its General Assembly.

Answer:- The United Nations is a global association of nations of the world. It promotes cooperation in international law, security, economic development, and social equity. The UN Secretary-General is the head of the UN. The UN General Assembly has 192 member countries. Each country has one vote in the UN General Assembly. The General Assembly meets regularly. The President of the Assembly is elected from among the representatives of the member countries. General Assembly is like the parliament where discussions take place and decisions are made. The General Assembly does not have the power to interfere in a conflict between different countries.

Question 14.

How does the International Monetary Fund function? **Answer:-** International Monetary Fund can be considered as one of the biggest moneylenders for the world. It provides loan to countries for their developmental projects. The IMF has 173 member states. All these states do not have equal voting rights. The vote of each country is weighed by how much money it has contributed to the IMF. Solution Almost half of the voting power in the IMF is in the hands of the G7 nations. The G7 nations are, the US, Japan, France, UK, Saudi Arabia, China and Russia. The remaining 166 countries have very little say in the decisions the IMF takes.

Question 15.

What is a referendum?

Answer:-

A Referendum is 'a direct vote in which the people are asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal. This may be adoption of a new constitution, a law or a specific governmental policy.'

