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Class 9 History Notes

Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

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CHAPTER -2

SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- The French Revolution opened up the possibility of creating a dramatic change in the society.
- There were groups /ideas that looked to change society according to their thoughts and visions.
- Liberals, Radicals and Conservatives were three main groups.
- **Liberals**: main ideas-
  - (i) Tolerance of all religions
  - (ii) Opposed the uncontrolled powers of the king.
  - (iii) Supported the rights of the individuals
  - (iv) Supported a representative, elected parliamentary government and independent judiciary.
  - (v) Did not support universal adult franchise (right of every citizen including women)
  - (vi) Supported private property.
- **Radicals**: main ideas-
  - (a) Government based on majority.
  - (b) Opposed the privileges given to great landowners and wealthy factory owners.
  - (c) Many of them also supported women's suffragette movements.
  - (d) Supported private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.
- **Conservatives**: main ideas-
  - (1) Opposed liberals and radicals.
  - (2) Asserted that past must be respected.
  - (3) Change should be slow.

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- It should be kept in mind that it was the era of **Industrial Revolution**. With industrialization, many changes came in the society and economy. With the growing problems of unemployment, long working hours, poor wages, housing, sanitation etc., many people tried to search solutions to these issues.
- **SOCIALISM**: Socialists were against the **private property** but had differing ideas on how a society without property could operate. Some of visions of socialists are as follows:
  (1) **Robert Owen**- sought to build a cooperative community.
  (2) **Louis Blanc**- He wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises.
  (3) **Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels**- They argued that the industrial society was 'capitalist'. The capitalists owned the capital invested in the factories, and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers. Thus, capitalists exploit the workers.

  Marx believed that this capitalist system would be triumphed by the workers and a socialist society would be established where all **property would be socially controlled.**
- **Autocracy**- The rule by the king with absolute powers.
- **Bloody Sunday**- over 100 workers were killed and 300 wounded, when the procession of workers near Winter Palace was attacked by the police. This incident is known as Bloody Sunday. It started a series of events that became known as the **1905 Revolution**.
- **Duma**- Russian Parliament.
- **The First World War (1914-1918)-** The first World War was fought between the Central Powers (Germany, Austria and Turkey) and Allied Powers (France, Britain and Russia).
- **February Revolution**- In February, 1917, there was acute shortage of food in the workers' quarters. This led to many protests. Soldiers also joined the striking workers. Sensing trouble, the Tsar abdicated and a Provisional Government was formed. Thus, the monarch was brought down in the February Revolution of 1917.

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- **April Theses-** In April 1917, the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from his exile. He presented three demands which are known as Lenin's April Theses. These were:
  (i) The war (First World War) must be brought to a close.
  (ii) Land must be transferred to the peasants.
  (iii) Banks must be nationalized.
- **The Revolution of October, 1917:**

As the conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolshevik grew, Lenin emphasized on the uprising against the government. The uprising began on 24 October. By the nightfall, the city was under Bolshevik's control and the ministers had surrendered. Uprisings took place in other cities as well. This revolution is known as the October Revolution.

- **What changed after the Revolution of October, 1917:**
  (i) Private property eradicated. Most industries and banks were nationalized.
  (ii) Land was declared social property land of nobility seized.
  (iii) Ban on use of old titles of aristocracy.
  (iv) Russia signed peace pact with Germany.
  (v) Russia became a one-party state and the Russian Communist Party was the only party.
  (vi) Censorship in all aspects of life was imposed.
  (vii) Beginning of civil war in Russia.
- **Civil War**: After the Revolution, entire Russia was divided in three groups- viz. the Bolsheviks (the 'reds'), the 'greens' (Socialist Revolutionaries) and the 'whites'(the Tsarists) A Civil War among these groups started in Russia. The 'greens' and the 'whites' were supported by France, USA, Britain and Japan. Looting, banditry, and famine became common during the Civil War.

- **How was the Russian society socialised?**
  (i) Nationalization of banks and industries.
  (ii) Collective farming.

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(iii) Central planning, beginning of Five Years Plans.

(iv) An extended schooling system developed; arrangements were made for factory workers and peasants to enter universities.

(v) Crèches were established in the factories.

(vi) Availability of cheap public health care.

(vii) Model living quarters for the workers.

- **Collectivisation**: Stalin started the Collectivisation programme in Russia. Under this, the peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (*kolkhoz*). The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of collective farms. Peasants worked on the land, and the *Kolkhoz* profit was shared.

QUESTIONS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark each)

1. What were the views of liberals in 19th century Europe regarding universal adult franchise?
2. What was the root of all social evil, according to Socialists?
3. Who sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA)?
4. Who, in France, wanted the government encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises?
5. Who propounded the idea of a "communist society"?
6. How the property was to be controlled in a socialist society?
7. Who was the emperor of Russia at the start of First World War?
8. What was the profession of the majority of Russia's population at the beginning of the twentieth century?
9. What was the name of the elected consultative Parliament created after the 1905 Revolution?
10. Which Revolution of Russia is related with 'Bloody Sunday'?
11. Who led the Bolshevik group in Russia?
12. Which Revolution in Russia brought down monarchy?

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13. Which party was renamed the Russian Communist Party after October Revolution of 1917?
14. Name the countries that sent their troops in the Russian Civil War to stop the growth of socialism in Russia?
15. Who started the collectivization programme in Russia?
16. Where did the Bolsheviks sign a peace treaty Germany in March, 1918?
17. Who were known as 'the reds' and 'the greens' in the Russian Civil War?
18. Who were 'kulaks'?
19. What was 'kolkhoz' in Russia?
20. What was Comintern?

Short/Long Answer Type Questions (3/5 Marks)

1. What were the main ideas of liberals in the 19th century Europe?
2. Differentiate between the ideas of liberals and radicals.
3. Describe the visions of early socialists.
4. Who was Karl Marx? What were his ideas regarding socialism?
5. What was Lenin's April Theses?
6. What were the main changes that came after the Revolution of October, 1917?
7. How was the Russian society socialised?
8. Explain the main ideas of Karl Marx.
9. What were the political, social and economic conditions of Russia before 1905?
10. What were the impacts of First World War on Russia?
11. How was the Stalin's collectivization programme implemented in Russia?

ANSWERS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark each)

1. Liberals did not believe in universal adult franchise. They felt men of property mainly should have the right to vote.
2. Private property.

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3. Robert Owen.
4. Louis Blanc.
5. Karl Marx.
6. Social control on all property.
7. Tsar Nicholas II
8. Agriculture
9. Duma
10. 1905 Revolution
11. Vladimir Lenin
12. February Revolution of 1917
13. The Bolshevik Party.
14. France, USA, Britain and Japan
15. Stalin
16. Brest Litovsk
17. The Bolsheviks and the Socialist Revolutionaries respectively.
18. The well-to-do peasants of Russia
19. Collective farms
20. Communist International (an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties.

Short/ Long Answer Type Questions (3/5 Marks)

1. See the key points
2. See the key points
3. See the key points
4. See the key points
5. See the key points
6. See the key points
7. See the key points
8. (i) Karl Marx added other ideas in the socialist ideas.
   (ii) Socialists considered private property as the root of all social ills.
   (iii)Marx argued that industrial society was 'capitalist'. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories, and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers.

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(iv) The workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property.

(v) After overthrowing the capitalism, a radically socialist society would be constructed where all property was socially controlled.

(vi) Further, this would be a communist society and a communist society was the natural society of the future.

9. (i) Russia was an autocracy. The Tsar was not subject to parliament. Owing to heavy expenditure, the treasury was bankrupt.

(ii) Russian society was divided into three classes, the clergy, nobility and the working class including peasants.

(iii) Vast majority (about 85%) of Russia's people were agriculturists. They had to pay heavy taxes. Nobility, the crown and the Orthodox Church owned large properties. Peasants were deeply religious but they had no respect for the nobility. They wanted the land of the nobles to be given to them.

(iv)Most industry was privately owned. The wages were minimum and the working hours were sometimes 15 hours. Thus, the condition of workers was miserable.

10. The impacts of First World War on Russia:

(i) Defeats were shocking and demoralizing for Russia on 'eastern front'. There were over 7 million causalities by 1917. As they retreated, the Russian army destroyed crops and buildings to prevent the enemies form being able to live off the land. The destruction of crops and buildings led to over 3 million refugees in Russia.

(ii) The war had a severe impact on industry. Supplies were cut to the industries and therefore, industrial production was down.

(iii) By 1916, railway lines began to break down.

(iv) Able-bodied men were called up to the war. As a result, there were labour shortages.

(v) Large supplies of grain were sent to feed the army. For the people in cities, bread and flour became scarce.

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11. Implementation of Stalin's collectivization programme:
    (i) The peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (*kolkhoz*) from 1929.
    (ii) The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of collective farms.
    (iii) Peasants worked on the land, and the *kolkhoz* profit was shared.
    (iv) Enraged peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock. The number of cattle fell by one-third between 1929 and 1931.
    (v) Those who resisted were severely punished. Many of them were deported and exiled.

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