

1. How far did the ideas of enlightenment inspire the American Revolution? Illustrate.

Introduction

The American Enlightenment was a period of intellectual ferment in the thirteen American colonies in the 17th to 18th century, which led to the American Revolution, and the creation of the United States of America.

Body

The Renaissance had inaugurated an era of questioning the established beliefs. Gradually, this questioning covered every aspect of thought and belief. The period after the 16th century, witnessed an intellectual revolution when all the existing beliefs based on faith came under heavy attack.

- Around 1750, many Thinkers were challenging the status-quo and demanding freedom & liberty for the people. They placed before the people idea of a democratic form of governance. They helped in development of ideas of Republicanism and Liberalism that militated against colonialism
- Great progress was made in various sciences, which also undermined the existing beliefs. The new ideas were characterized by rationalism and were increasingly concerned with secular affairs. Because of the growing emphasis on reason, the period of the 18th century in European history is called the Age of reason or the Age of Enlightenment.
- Some of the leaders of the American Revolution were influenced by Enlightenment ideas which are, freedom of speech, equality, freedom of press, and religious tolerance. American colonists did not have these rights, in result, they rebelled against England for independence. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote about American's natural rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These ideas came from the Enlightenment, the ideals led towards the American Revolution soon after.
- John Locke was one of the most important and influential philosophers in the history of the world. He devoted a lot of his time into writing about philosophy and political thought. The founding fathers of the American Revolution drew heavily on his ideals. John Locke argued "The power of any king or government is derived from people who contract to obey their rules in exchange for law and security. Individuals have a natural right to hold property and this can never be taken from them without their own consent. If a ruler infringes the terms of the contract that empowers him or seizes property without consent, the people can resist and depose him" (John Locke).
- These arguments are things that American Colonists wanted to have but couldn't under the control of England. Therefore, American Colonists wanted independence from England.
- Thomas Hobbes is known for his political thought. His main concern in the world is how individuals can live together with peace and not think of conflict

(Williams). He rejects free will of determinism, in which freedom is treated as having the ability to do what an individual desires (Oregon State). The American Colonists ended up turning to Hobbes work to justify the passage of the U.S constitution.

Conclusion

Although distinctive features arose in the eighteenth-century American context, much of the American Enlightenment was continuous with parallel experiences in British and French society. Four themes recur in both European and American Enlightenment texts: modernization, skepticism, reason and liberty. American Revolution was a revolution in ideas and system of Polity and it impacted the future events, the most prominent of them being the French Revolution of 1789.

2. What is mercantilism? Discuss. How did mercantilism give rise to colonialism in 19th century Europe? Explain.

Introduction

The term 'mercantilism' was coined by Adam Smith in 1776. The concept of mercantilism has been called the ideology of the monopoly trading companies by the Marxists. Maurice Dobb describes it as system of state regulated exploitation through trade or the economic policy of an age of primitive accumulation. The term mercantilism usually applied to the policies and measures which the European states adopted between the 15th & 18th century to acquire wealth and power.

Body

Mercantilism

- First popularized in Europe during the 1500s, mercantilism was based on the idea that a nation's wealth and power were best served by increasing exports, in an effort to collect precious metals like gold and silver.
- The mercantilists adopted policies of economic nationalism in many European states. These policies were not new; they had their roots in the scattered acts and beliefs of feudal and municipal authorities of the medieval period. With the expansion of trade and the declining revenues of the feudal states, with the emergence of centralized monarchies and more luxurious courts, the emerging states realized the value of trade that brought wealth and greater revenue for the state. It was believed that the wealth of the subjects was the wealth of the kings. This led to active government intervention in economic and political matters and became the central feature of all mercantilist ideas. However the mercantilist policies and practices could only be adopted in states that had strong governments and a reasonably well developed trade and commerce. It was aimed at strengthening the centralized state structure by weakening and regulating

the semi-independent local authorities.

Mercantilism gives rise to colonialism in 19th century Europe

- Under mercantilism, nations frequently engaged their military might to ensure local markets and supply sources were protected, to support the idea that a nation's economic health heavily relied on its supply of capital. Mercantilists also believed that a nation's economic health could be assessed by its levels of ownership of precious metals, like gold or silver, which tended to rise with increased new home construction, increased agricultural output, and a strong merchant fleet to provide additional markets with goods and raw materials.
- Under mercantilism, the colonies were supposed to send to the mother country raw natural resources. Colonies were not supposed to manufacture any goods; the raw natural resources were supposed to be processed into manufactured goods only in the mother countries.
- **English methods of colonization:** England introduced fiscal policies that discouraged colonists from buying foreign products, while creating incentives to only buy British goods. For example, the Sugar Act of 1764 raised duties on foreign refined sugar and molasses imported by the colonies, in an effort to give British sugar growers in the West Indies a monopoly on the colonial market. The British wanted a monopoly of trade with India so that there would be no other English or European merchants or trade companies to compete with. The Company wanted to sell its goods at high prices and buy Indian products at low rate to make maximum profits. After 1800, India began to absorb textiles from English mills. In 1813, the Charter ended the Company's monopoly of Indian trade. It opened East Indian trade to private enterprise. With the termination of the Napoleonic Wars in 1814-15, enormous increase of import of British machine made cloths began to India. During 1800-1850, the colonial objective changed from seizing Indian commodities to seizing the Indian market. The changed objective not only made the East India Company's monopoly over Indian internal commerce and overseas trade obsolete, but positively required free trade.
- **Spain's methods of colonization:** From the late 15th century to the early 19th, Spain controlled a huge overseas territory in the New World, the Asian archipelago of the Philippines, and territories in Europe, Africa and Oceania. Spain attempted to expand the possibilities for trade within the empire, by allowing commerce between all ports in the empire, and took other measures to revive economic activity to the benefit of Spain. Spain had an economy shorn of manufactures, a crown deprived of revenue taxing colonists, tightening control, and fighting off foreigners. In the process, Spain

gained revenue. The Napoleonic invasion of the Iberian Peninsula precipitated the Spanish American wars of independence (1808–1826), resulting in the loss of its most valuable colonies. In its former colonies in the Americas, Spanish is the dominant language and Catholicism the main religion, enduring cultural legacies of the Spanish Empire.

- **France's methods of colonization:** 19th Century France controlled its colonies in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Porto-Novo, French Guinea Mauritania etc. French firms were authorised to ship to the colonies without further restrictions. The trade was thus "free" to all French subjects residing in a long list of ports, but protected from foreign competition. With the addition of a few naturalized foreigners, all French-born individuals were considered French subjects. This policy restricting colonial trade and shipping to French subjects is traditionally considered as laying the foundation of French 19th century colonial trade growth.

Conclusion

Mercantilism paves the way for fight between countries in 19th century Europe. Two world wars fought for capturing markets in colonies. After the end of World War II economic nationalism remained the prevalent tendency of most countries of the world, and most colonies got Independence after end of the war.

3. How far can industrial revolution be held responsible for the imperialistic ambitions of Europe? Critically examine.

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in Europe and the United States, in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. Imperialism is a policy or ideology of extending a country's rule over foreign nations, often by military force or by gaining political and economic control of other areas.

Body

Although imperialism began some centuries before Industrial Revolution(IR), IR lead to 'new Imperialism'. It was a period of colonial expansion by European powers, the United States, and the Empire of Japan during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

After Industrial Revolution more aggressive and extensive form of imperialism began. The industrial revolution created the need for Europe to take over more colonies around the world. Now apart from national greatness, measured by number of colonies, there was an additional push to conquer new territories –

- Raw materials - because the Industrial Revolution increased the production capacity of Western states astronomically, there was an enormous hunger for raw materials to satisfy demands.
 - European power eyed Africa, which was rich in oil, ivory, rubber, wood, cotton, cocoa beans, copper, gold, iron, cobalt, diamonds, etc.
 - The American Civil War created a shortage of cotton supply. This prompted the main purchasers of cotton, Britain and France, to turn to Egyptian cotton.
- Demand for labors - With hundreds of thousands of workers finding employment in textile mills, there was not enough labor to plow, seed, prune, and harvest the cotton. The cotton industry needed a new source of raw material supply and labor. The Western countries looked at western Africa, India, and China for that.
- Market - The colonies gave the Western powers a ready-made market for their goods, at the colonized people were left with little to no legal recourse to produce their own finished products. Asia's textile markets were vast, and winning them was the grand prize for European imperialism. India, in particular, became a huge market.
- Capability enhancement - Industrial Revolution, Europeans had an advantage in the quality of their weapons and military training. The Western powers used their superior weapons like The Maxim gun and powerful iron warships to conquer much of the world, especially lands in Africa and Asia. In 1800, Europe controlled 35 percent of the world's land surface; by 1914, they controlled 84 percent.
- Advancement in Medicine – allowed Europeans to better survive malaria and yellow fever. Africa, especially the western regions, was known as the 'White Man's Grave' and years earlier only one in ten men could survive. With the new medicine to combat malaria, European explorers could venture much deeper into Africa, and therefore make more accurate maps for future Europeans arriving on the continent.
- Infrastructure development – like steam-powered trains and ships, telegraph, opening of Suez Canal gave Europe the power to efficiently maintain and profit from so many colonies around the world.

However here were other reasons as well for –

- Decline of the great empires in Asia and Africa.
- Feeling of racial superiority - Because of growing racism, or the belief that one race was superior to another because they were more technologically advanced, many Europeans and Americans felt they had the right to dominate people of other races.
- Philosophical bias - Despotism is a legitimate mode of government in dealing with barbarians, provided the end be their improvement wrote John Stuart Mill, the great philosopher of human freedom in On Liberty

Conclusion

Without the innovations of the Industrial Revolution, the Imperialistic powers would not be able to penetrate deeply in the colonial countries. Their access would be limited to the ports.

4. Compare and contrast the history of unification of Germany and that of Italy.

Introduction

Nationalism emerged as a major force in Europe in the aftermath of Vienna system as a result of which there is rise of Germany and Italy as new powerful nations after their unification process during the mid-19th century period which changed the geo-political scenario in Europe.

Body

The unification of Germany and Italy as new nations had its genesis in the common cultural background and linguistic similarity which helped in the process of building a national identity. The process of unification of Germany and Italy can be seen from the following points:

German Unification	Italian Unification
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Efforts of Napoleon in the form of Rhine federation and propagation of ideals of french revolution laid the basis for future course in 1805. 2. Vienna Congress of 1815 tried to undone changes done by Napoleon but were not completely successful. Thus, Napoleon completed the first phase German unification. 3. Burschenschaft and Zollverein were organisations which helped in the formation of a national identity in german states. 4. The Zollverein was a Customs Union launched by Prussia in 1818 and it contributed to making Prussia the most economically progressive German state. 5. The 1848 revolution failed to bring liberty or unity to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Napoleonic measures of establishing Swiss alpine republic and reforms in accordance with the ideals of french revolution triggered growth of awakening. 2. Vienna Congress restored pre-napoleon conditions but unknowingly strengthened Piedmont-Sardinia state which in the long run lead the process of Italian unification. 3. Carbonary and Young Italy were associations in Italian states which helped in the growth of nationalism and the spirit of fraternity. 4. In Italy, no customs union comparable to the Zollverein aided the movement towards unification. Only Piedmont implemented some economic reforms that made the country

Germany, as it had failed in Italy. Only in Prussia did the king grant a constitution, but it was far from what the liberals had wanted.

6. Bismarck became Minister-President of Prussia in 1862. He was far more a strong leader of the autocratic type, masterful, anti-democratic and scornful of liberals. His "blood and iron" speech and his unscrupulous treatment of the Prussian liberals vividly revealed his nature as a Junker leader.
7. Unlike Cavour, Bismarck was able to achieve German unification without foreign assistance and more with the use of military force. With the helpful assistance of his military leaders, Bismarck had at his disposal a powerful military machinery.
8. In 1866, he defeated Austria by first isolating her diplomatically from possible allies, then overwhelming her with superior arms. It enabled the Bismarck to annex some German states to form a North German Confederation, and to drive Austrian influence out of Germany.
9. Bismarck completed German unification himself by another war against France from 1870-71. The Prussian victory over France aroused strong nationalist sentiments and induced German states to unite in the name of a German empire, under the leadership of Prussia. Thus, Prussian militarism had unified Germany unaided.

the most economically advanced Italian state.

5. In 1848, revolts broke out in every Italian state for the sake of liberty and unity. The Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia also declared war on Austria to fight for Italian unification. Despite some initial successes, the revolutionary movement failed as revolts were ultimately suppressed by despotic rulers
6. In 1852, Cavour became Prime Minister of Piedmont. He contributed greatly to the cause of Italian unification. He strove to modernize Piedmont's economy and government once he was in power.
7. Cavour used diplomacy to secure the help of France and Great Britain in the cause of Italian unification through measures like help in Crimean War.
8. With the help of French military assistance, Cavour gained Lombardy and then later took advantage to gain central Italy and Naples-Sicily with the help of Garibaldi.
9. Between 1861 and 1870, Italian unification was completed not so much by Italian efforts as by Prussia's defeats of Austria (1866) and France (1871). In the first instance, Italy allied with Prussia and seized Venetia - from Austria. In the second case, when French garrisons at Rome returned home to fight Prussia, Italian forces marched into the city despite the Pope's opposition. By then, the Italian unification had finally been completed.

Conclusion

Italian unification owed much to the leadership of Piedmont and Cavour, and to French and Prussian military role. Yet, forces from below were also important, especially the liberals and nationalists who rallied to Cavour and Garibaldi. On the other hand, "unification from above" was clearly the pattern in Germany. It was achieved mainly by Prussia, her army, her ruling class, and the leader Bismarck.

5. How did aggressive nationalism and militarisation in Europe create the platform for WWI? Analyse.

Introduction

World War I started on the 28th of July 1914 between two sides - triple alliance and the triple entente. Though the immediate cause was the assassination of Austria's Archduke Ferdinand, the war started mainly because of four aspects: Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism and Nationalism.

Body

Nationalism in Europe as a reason:

Nationalism was a great cause of World War one because of countries being greedy and not negotiating. The use of Nationalism gave nations false hope and made them aggressive to win the war.

- Nationalist groups in Austria-Hungary and Serbia wanted independence.
 - Serbian nationalism: The Serbs wanted to integrate the Balkan areas populated with Slavs into a single Yugoslavia. But that required secession of certain areas from the German empire which had Slav people.
 - Slavic peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina to no longer be part of Austria Hungary but instead be part of Serbia.
- Austria annexed the Ottoman provinces of Bosnia which had significant population of Slavs. As Serbia wanted Bosnia to be a part of Yugoslavia, the enmity between the two widened.
- Albania was made an independent state with the help of Austria which was claimed by Serbia. This further embittered its rivalry against Serbia.
- France wanted Alsace Lorraine back from Germany who was lost in 1871 Franco-Prussian war. This was a nationalist pride for France.
- Finally, the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Serbia by the nationalist terrorist group Black Hand.

Militarization in Europe as a reason:

Militarism rised mutual suspicion and led to to the naval and arms race. The main event of Militarism causing World War one was the naval rivalry which was made after 1900.

- Naval race: The new Keiser Wilhelm announced his intention to build a bigger German navy than Britain. Britain felt very threatened by this.
- Arms race: Threatened by the naval race between Britain and Germany, major powers on mainland Europe were also building up their armies.
- Russia mobilized its troops as a precautionary measure on German border due to the rising tensions. This was seen as a sign of military aggression by Germany which came up with Schlieffen Plan which was the main reason for Britain to declare war on Germany.
- Increased military control over civilian government: The German army was called 'state within a state' and controlled almost all the decisions related to security with civilian government having limited say.
- Rise in military expenditure: which increased drastically after 1910 with Germany – 73%, Russia - 39% and so on. This in turn increased the tensions across Europe.
- Army conscription: was adopted by almost all the European countries. This increased the standing forces, arms procurement etc., which fueled further militarism.

Conclusion

Thus, Nationalism was a prominent force in early 20th century Europe and a significant cause of World War I. Adding to it, militarism in Europe increased the rivalry between nations. It increased the confidence of every country to win war which led to a large-scale war.