

## 1. What were the main causes and events of the French Revolution, and how did it shape the course of modern European history?

### Approach

Candidates can start the answer by giving idea of French revolution and as per demand simply write causes political, social, religious and economic also highlight prominent events. In the write about how it led the modernism in Europe.

### Introduction

French Revolution was an important chapter in the history of Europe. It marked a turning point in the history of humankind. The French Revolution put an end to the age-old absolute monarchy, feudal laws and social inequality. For the first time ideas like “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity” were introduced.

### Body

Causes and events:

Political:

- Despotic rule: From 1553 there was the despotic rule of the Bourbon dynasty in France. The complete centralization of power alienated all sections of the society.
- The incompetence of Louis XVI: From his accession in 1774, Louis XVI had faced a worsening financial situation, compounded by the money and troops sent to assist the Americans in the war against Britain.

Religious:

- Luxurious Clergies: The clergies of France were included in the upper class. They hardly paid any taxes and had strict controls on people social life. However, Clergy and their institutions were rampant with immoral activities which angered the common people.
- Roman Catholics and their monopoly: Reformist Protestants were minorities. Since they advocated reforms, the clergy persecuted them and even charged them with blasphemy.

Economic:

- Feudal economy: The government did nothing to improve farming, feudal too neglected it and exploited farmers. The sustained neglect was the main cause of the Serfs revolt against the king.
- Unsatisfied merchants: There was ample mineral wealth in France. Many rivers like Sen, Rhoan, Luar and Atlantic, the Mediterranean seashore was useful for the development of trade. However, due to uncertain taxation and legal hurdles merchants were highly dissatisfied with the monarchy.

Events:

- After being locked out of the meeting of the Estates-General, they moved to an indoor tennis court where they pledged the so-called Tennis Court Oath, vowing to remain there until a new constitution had been written.

- France was proclaimed a constitutional monarchy, while the National Assembly was dissolved and replaced by a new political body named the Legislative Assembly.

Modern Europe due impact of French revolution:

- Nation State: Napoleon carried ideals of the Revolution to the rest of Europe: Liberty, Modern Laws, Democratic Rights, protection of private property. This, in turn, gave rise to Modern Nationalism paving way creation of the sovereign nation-state.
- Declaration of rights of man: The constitutional assembly came out with the document of human rights which granted political liberty, like freedom of speech, press, association, worship, and ownership of property.
- Revolutionary ideas: The revolution gave birth to the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity in Europe. These ideas started in France and spread to other areas like Italy, Germany, etc. promoting equality, freedom and democracy, and good governance.
- Political Parties: These parties kept the government under check and balance by criticizing bad policies.

### Conclusion

Thus, the importance of the French Revolution laid in laying the foundation of Modern States based on Liberal Democratic ideals. Also, indirectly it laid the groundwork for the growth of Socialism and Communism by providing an intellectual and social environment in which these ideologies could flourish.

### Q-2-What are the key factors that contributed to the decolonisation process and how did it affect the political ,economic and social structure's of newly independent countries ?

#### Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about factors that contributed to the decolonization process and how did it affect the political economic and social structure of newly independent countries .

#### Introduction -

Decolonization is the action or process of a state withdrawing from a former colony, leaving it independent. After 1945 many states in Europe and Asia were decolonized. Mainly decolonization started in Asia, Africa and Middle East.

#### Body-

Factors led to decolonization post world war II-

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- Lack of resources: After World War II many nations had financial crunch, ran out of financial resources, and bad administration which no longer could help them maintain colonies.
- Freedom movements: Many independence movements started in colonial states. Many countries took the advantage of that.
- Education and literature: Education and western literatures gave room for rational thinking and independence thoughts.
- Third world: Many exploited and ignored states came together to oppose Imperialism.
- Non-aligned movement: Nehru from India, Tito the communist leader from Yugoslavia, Nasser from Egypt successfully opposed French and British imperial powers.
- Establishment of United Nations: United nations put pressure on imperial countries like UK, France to provide independence to colonies. Nation-state has been accepted as ideal form of political organization.
- New international economic order: In 1961, non-aligned movement was followed by formation of United Nations conference on trade and development (UNCTD) which tried to promote new international economic order. It emphasized the importance of under developed countries.
- Cold war: United States and USSR pressurized European allies to give independence and free them.
- Atlantic charter (1941): it stated that people should have the right to choose their own government.
- Influence from newly decolonized countries: Many states were influenced from the neighbouring countries for decolonization and they had mutual support.
- Social causes: various films, books, museum displayed the impact of colonization which rose national feeling and patriotism among colonies.
- Neo-colonialism started: practice of using capitalism and globalization by their power and administration

### Impact On Economy

- Newly independent African states were found to need to upgrade their economic systems. Additionally, even though the former colonies were now legally independent, they remained largely reliant on the West for assistance in building their political and economic institutions. As a result, western corporations continued to exert considerable influence over the new states.
- In order to finance their own growth, newly independent republics borrowed money from Western nations, which led to the creation of a new debt system.
- The major point of contention is that, even in the absence of explicit governmental controls, the interaction between more and less developed economies tends to accentuate the gap between them.
- Dependence on foreign money has been argued to impede long-term economic growth and, more broadly, to influence the social, political, and economic makeup of the dependent country.
- Despite these concerns, it is clear that decolonization entails a fundamental shift in the systems that govern international trade, particularly in the post-World War II era.

- Modern states have widely recognized rights to regulate economic activity within their borders, including the ability to nationalise industries with foreign ownership and renegotiate agreements with multinational businesses.

Social Schism:

- Each country contained a number of different tribes which had united in the nationalist struggle for freedom. However, as soon as the Europeans withdrew, their allegiance shifted back to their respective tribes thus leading to fissiparous tendencies within the nations. For eg. in Nigeria, the Congo (Zaire), Burundi and Rwanda, tribal differences became so intense that it led to civil wars.

Political Problems:

- African politicians lacked experience of working with the system of parliamentary democracy left behind by the Europeans. Most African leaders who had taken part in Guerrilla campaigns before independence were influenced by Marxist ideas, which often led them to set up one-party States as the only way to achieve progress.
- Politically, many countries have been unable to pay off this debt for decades, therefore it still persists. Decolonization's effects on broader ideas of international dominance or injustice are hotly debated. Dependency and world systems theorists envisioned decolonization as causing the change in the mere form, but not the content, of core-periphery connections.

**Conclusion-**

One of the most important effects of decolonization is the instability of the post-colonial political systems, which entails another, far-reaching consequences. These include deep economic problems, inhibiting growth and widening disparities between the northern and southern part of the globe

**Q-3- How have different political philosophies such as communism, capitalism and socialism influenced the Socio-economic and political development of various countries around the world ?Analyse with the help of suitable examples .**

**Approach -**

In this question candidates need to write about how communism socialism and capitalism influenced Socio-economic and political developments in various countries around the world . Analyse these developments with examples .

**Introduction -**

Political philosophies are the ideals that help us to understand the reasons for the actions taken up by the people in a particular course of time, which impacted the global political setup.

**Body -**

Political philosophy is concerned with the concepts and arguments involved in political opinion. Many types of political ideologies have taken shape over hundreds out of which we will be discussing three philosophies that have played significant roles in the modern world- communism, socialism, and capitalism.

- These political philosophies have impacted society in major ways and resulted in pertinent historical changes in the world.

Capitalism-

- In a capitalist system, the factories fuel the economy, and a wealthy few own the factories. This created the need for a large number of people to work for the factory owners. In this environment, the wealthy few exploited the labourers, who had to labour to live.

Effect of capitalism on society-

- Capitalism ensures economic growth as it empowers both manufacturers and consumers and keeps money in rotation.
- It ensures the accessibility of goods and services at a competitive price and helps to improve the standard of living in the country.
- Capitalism paved the way for LPG reforms in the world and provided opportunities for the labor force to opt for global employment opportunities, which have further shrunk the global boundaries.
- America, England, Germany are capitalist countries and their system leads to unequal distribution of wealth- rich get richer and poor get poorer.
- In this system exploitation of resources leads to detrimental effect on environment.
- The market system fosters competition that generally produces the most efficient allocation of resources.
- In pure capitalism, also known as laissez-faire capitalism, the government's role is restricted to providing and enforcing the rules of law by which the economy operates, but it does not interfere with the market. (Laissez-faire means "let it be.")
- In laissez-faire capitalism, businesses become free to form monopolies or oligopolies, which reduces competition, and thereby reduces the advantages of capitalism. Instead, a plutocracy is created, where the wealthy rule the economy for their own benefit.
- With climate crisis posing a grave threat to our collective future, millions living below the poverty line, the economic and social shocks of the corona virus pandemic and unemployment wave still reverberating, Gen Z and Millennials say they have grown increasingly disillusioned with capitalism.

Socialism-

- Socialism is a political and economic ideology that believes in the public ownership of means of production and distribution based on a plan formulated by a central authority.

Effect of socialism on society-

- Cuba, Laos followed Socialistic kind of economy this economy and creates a welfare society where all the basic needs of people (food, clothes, and shelter) are fulfilled by the State at very affordable prices.
- Providing employment is the State's responsibility based on capabilities, education, and skills.

- This system leads to good development of health sectors for masses in Cuba and provides health professionals to south America.
- All the profits go to the State, which utilizes them for the well-being of the society by providing them with free education, improving public health amenities, ensuring social security, etc
- Socialists also seek to nationalize monopolies, which greatly enrich their owners at the expense of the people. However, unlike communism, most small or nonessential enterprises would remain privately owned. Also unlike the Communists, most socialists do not advocate violence or force to achieve their economic system.

### Communism-

- In layman's terms, communism is the political system in which the community owns and controls entities like factories, farms, services, etc. intending to treat everyone equally.
- China and north Korea followed this system but later china mould it develop their own kind of communism which suits them.
- Communism is based on the goal of eliminating socioeconomic class struggles by creating a classless and stateless society in which everyone shares the benefits of labour and the community controls all property and wealth.
- In communist nations, the difference between the official claims and societal realities is different. The dictator government controls the information and every sort of communication channel that cut-offs the society from the outer world.
- Although Marx and Engels believed that property should belong to society, they did not really give much thought to how economic decisions would be made. Eg)- Communist countries, particularly Russia and China, decided on a centrally planned economy ( command economy).
- Another major feature of communist economies was their emphasis on the country's self-reliance, discouraging international trade and investment.

### Conclusion-

Communism backs full control of the Government across all standards of production and other resources; Socialism exercises adaptable forms of controlling the State, and Capitalism supports a free market and overall economy without the involvement of the State. All three have an individual effect on society as well as various forms impact the welfare of the society.