

AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

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You have already studied the ideas and movements which led to the emergence of modern age. They undermined the prevailing order. Movements which bring about basic or total changes in society are called revolutions. A revolution which takes place in a particular society may affect other contemporary societies; and a revolution which takes place in one age may influence subsequent ages. The revolutions which occurred in Europe in the modern age were mainly against monarchies. The main reason for this was the emergence of the Middle Class who were denied their rights and opportunities. These revolutions influenced the world in general and Europe in particular and brought about tremendous changes in the socio-economic and political fields.

Civil War in England

We have already discussed the decline of feudalism and the emergence of the Middle Class in Europe. It was in England that this Middle Class first revolted against monarchy. The support-base of the Tudor monarchy which emerged towards the end of the 15th century and the Stuarts who succeeded it was the rising merchant class. But the Stuart kings were sympathetic to the feudal order. The Stuart kings James I and Charles I believed in the divine right of kings. They tried to impose their authority on Parliament. The London-based mercantile companies had established trade relations with distant lands. The English Parliament passed acts in favour of the merchants who controlled production, distribution and transport. The Parliament protected the interests of the Middle Class which was composed of the new landlords, traders, lawyers, doctors and bureaucrats.

Henry VII was the first Tudor king of England. The Tudors ruled the country from 1485 to 1603. They did so by allying with the Parliament and curbing the powers of the feudal lords. This period in English history led the country to progress and also witnessed the Renaissance and Reformation movements. The Stuarts ruled the country from 1603 to 1714. Thereafter the House of Hanover has been ruling England.



Henry VII

This led to a long drawn out constitutional struggle between the King and Parliament. The basic issue was as to who was supreme whether it was the King who represented the feudal interests or the Parliament which represented the Middle Class.

In this struggle, the prevailing Anglican Church and the newly formed Puritan Church rallied on either side. Though the Stuarts were Catholics, the Anglican Church supported the Stuarts.

Anglican and Puritan Churches

It was king Henry VIII who initiated the Reformation in England by revolting against the Catholic Church. Under his son Edward VI the Protestant Church was formed in England. He prepared a prayer book which was made compulsory for all the churches in the country. Later, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Anglican Church was founded which was acceptable to all people and the revised version of the prayer book was adopted. Anglicanism was recognised as the official Church of England and only Anglicans could succeed to the throne of England.

The Puritans were the followers of the Protestant reformer John Calvin in England. The Puritans stood for the election of clergy and the head of the Church. The Puritans who became powerful after Queen Elizabeth controlled the Parliament from 1640 to 1650.

The Puritans supported the independent approach of the Parliament and the Middle Class. The kings imposed many taxes on the Middle Class without the consent of the Parliament and spent the money for their extravagant life. This intensified the struggle between the King and Parliament.



Complete the following chart by identifying the various classes which participated in the constitutional struggle in England.

• King	
•	• Middle class
• Anglican church	

King Charles I was compelled to sign the Petition of Right in 1628 which curbed the autocratic powers of the king. But he soon violated this and dismissed the Parliament and ruled for the next eleven years (1629-1640) tyrannically. The war with Scotland left him hard pressed for money. He summoned the Parliament in 1640 to levy new taxes. This Parliament which continued to function till 1660 passed several laws against the autocracy of the king. This was known as the Long Parliament (1640- 1660). In course of time the relation between the King and the Parliament deteriorated which led to a civil war between the two. This led to the defeat



Oliver Cromwell



'Petition of Right'-Introductory page

of the king. Oliver Cromwell, the leader of Parliamentary army, assumed power and he expelled his opponents from Parliament. Thereafter only the followers of Cromwell remained in the Parliament. This was known as the Rump Parliament. This Parliament put Charles I to trial and executed him.

The government under the leadership of Cromwell was called the Commonwealth. This period (1649-1658) was also one of military dictatorship. Though the Civil War ended in England, he ruled the country by

dominating the Parliament. Scientific experiments were encouraged during this period. World trade was controlled by British merchants during this period. The people who did not approve of military dictatorship asked Cromwell to accept the title of king. But he refused.

Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Cromwell was different from the present Commonwealth. The modern Commonwealth is a movement based in London comprising Britain and her former colonies.

After Cromwell, monarchy was restored in England under Charles II. His successor James II adopted autocratic measures which revived the conflict with the Parliament. He took refuge in France in 1688. His daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange were invited to England. They were

declared the Queen and King of England by Parliament. Thus the despotic rule of monarchs came to an end and monarchy controlled by Parliament came into being. This transfer of power is known as Bloodless Revolution or Glorious Revolution. Thus the feudal order became completely weak and the authority of the king was limited by Parliament.

The authority of Parliament over monarchy was asserted through a series of legislations.

The most important of these was the Bill of Rights of 1689. It was followed by the granting of freedom of religion and of expression. But only members of the Anglican Church could succeed to the throne. Though democracy could not be established in England, the people became free and the Parliament, supreme. This is why it is said that though monarchy is retained, the king never rules.



What are the changes that affected monarchy in England between Petition of Right and Bill of Rights? What was the influence of the Commonwealth era in these changes? Examine.

French Revolution

The French Revolution of 1789 was the movement against the despotic kingship and the feudal order in France. This put an end to the feudal system which was existing in France for centuries together. The aim of the Revolution was to rebuild France on the basis of the ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

The Three Estates

The French Revolution was as much against the social inequalities of France as against the despotic rule of the kings. In all spheres of human life including administration, judiciary and the army inequality was evident. French society was divided into three Estates. The clergy formed the First Estate and the nobles, the Second. The Third Estate consisted of traders, money-lenders, officials, doctors, teachers, etc. All rights and privileges were the prerogative of the first two estates. Not only were the Third Estate

denied all privileges but they also had to bear the entire burden of taxes.

Even in the second half of the 18th century feudalism was prevalent in France. The majority of lords were exploiting the peasants who cultivated their land. The lords used to employ the peasants for their work with no wages on three to four days a week. The peasants had to grind their corn only in the flour mills owned by the lords for which they had to pay a fee. The lords collected rent from the peasants during the harvest season and also tolls on bridges and roads. The lords performed only military service to the state. Most of the cultivatable land was owned by the king, the lords and the Church. The high clergy led a life of luxury and extravagance. But the condition of the ordinary clergy was pitiable. The poverty-stricken clergy joined hands with the Third Estate during the Revolution.



'Nobles fight, clergy pray and people pay'. This statement reveals the inequality of the French society. Analyse the given picture and the above statement and explain how the social inequalities led to the Revolution.



The common man of the Third Estate bears the First and the Second Estates

French Middle Class

The progress of trade, industry and banking led to the rise of cities in France. An educated and wealthy Middle Class consisting of traders, bankers, lawyers and doctors grew up in these cities. They were known as bourgeoisie which meant Middle Class. They were dissatisfied with the prevailing social order. They played a key role in the production of wealth and its ownership; but they had no role in the administration of the state. They realised that it was impossible for them to achieve their demands under the existing structure. Therefore they decided to overthrow the government by leading the revolution.

Bourgeoisie

The word *bourgeoisie* originated from the French word *bourgeois* which means dwellers in cities. The feudal society was divided into two: lords and serfs. A new class of traders emerged between the two. This Middle Class was called bourgeoisie. Their descendants amassed wealth through trade and piracy and started industries by investing this money. They were the founders of capitalism.

Influence of philosophes

You are already familiar with the Enlightenment which was rooted in rationalism. The advocates of Enlightenment were the representatives of the emerging bourgeoisie. It was the Enlightenment thinkers who encouraged the peasants and the Middle Class to revolt against the feudal order in France. The statement of Rousseau that "man is born free; but every where he is in chains" pushed France intensely to the revolution. His *Social Contract* in which he explained that the state came into being as a result of a contract entered into by the people themselves for their own welfare, influenced people to a large extent. Similarly thinkers like Voltaire and Montesquieu criticised the existing social order. Voltaire was highly critical of the Church and the clergy. The physiocrats who argued for free economy without the intervention of the state also created an atmosphere suitable for revolution in France.

Despotic kings

The Bourbon kings of France who concentrated all powers of the state in their hands led a life of luxury and pleasure. They believed in the divine right of kingship. The

attempts made by them to strengthen their position affected the economy of France adversely. They brutally suppressed all opposition to the monarchy. French despotism reached its highest during the reign of Louis XIV. At the end of his rule French economy crumbled rudely. His successors could not prevent the economic disaster. Turgot, the Finance Minister of Louis XVI, adopted several economy measures and encouraged industry and agriculture. Though he was able to revive the economy, he was soon ousted from power. He was followed by Necker, the famous banker of France, as Finance Minister. The progressive measures adopted by him made the feudal lords hostile to him. The reforms introduced by Turgot and Necker were to suit the interests of the Middle Class, which bought the enmity of the nobles. The economic crisis was aggravated by the expulsion of Necker. To

overcome this crisis Louis XVI decided to propose new taxes. He summoned the French Parliament, the Estates General, in 1789. It was in 1614 that the Estates General had met last.

National Assembly

The voting pattern of the Estates General was that each Estate met and voted separately. The Third Estate, namely, the commons, realised that unless the three Estates met together and voted together, the other two Estates would outnumber and defeat them. Hence they demanded that the three Estates should meet together and the principle 'one person = one vote' should be followed instead of each Estate having a separate vote. This demand was opposed by the other two Estates. The commons met in a nearby tennis court and declared itself as the National Assembly. They also started drafting a constitution for France.



Oath of Tennis Court

On 20th June 1789, when the Third Estate came to the hall where they used to meet, it was found locked. Hence they met in a hall nearby which was used as a tennis court. They declared themselves as a National Assembly and vowed that they would not disperse until they drafted a constitution for France. This was known as the 'Oath of Tennis Court'. This is considered to be the beginning of the French Revolution.

Fall of Bastille

Rumours spread throughout Paris that the leaders of the National Assembly would be arrested soon. The attempt to topple the assembly provoked the people who were reeling under poverty. They captured and demolished the fortress of Bastille on 14th July, 1789. Bastille was considered to be the

symbol of royal power and therefore 14th July, the day of its destruction, is celebrated as national day. The National Assembly declared itself as a Constituent Assembly and drafted a Constitution for France. The preamble of the Constitution was the



Fall of Bastille

'Declaration of Rights of Man' which reflected the ideas of Rousseau, 'all men are

born equal and are free'. People are sovereign. Laws are the reflections of General Will. The people directly or through their representatives became part of the government. These were the principles which the Rights of Man proclaimed. The National Assembly enacted laws by honouring the General Will. Through these legislations several administrative, economic and religious reforms were introduced in France.



*Why did the fort of Bastille become the target of peoples' wrath?
Why did the workers and common people join the Revolution?*

Work of the National Assembly

- A uniform administrative system was introduced in France.
- The Church was brought under the control of the State.
- The land owned by the Church was nationalised.
- Taxes were imposed on all uniformly.
- Special privileges enjoyed by the lords were abolished.
- Feudalism was abolished.
- A limited monarchy was established.

In accordance with the new Constitution a Legislative Assembly was formed. The main political parties there were the Jacobins, the extreme revolutionaries, and the Girondists, the Moderates. The Jacobins wanted to make France a Republic by overthrowing the monarchy. In 1792 a new Constitution was adopted and the country was declared a Republic by the assembly called National Convention. Monarchy was abolished and the king Louis XVI and his wife were executed by the Jacobins.



Examine the role of the Middle Class in making France a Republic.



Execution of Louis XVI



Guillotine

Many neighbouring countries declared war on France following the execution of the king. Civil war also broke out in many parts of France. In order to meet this extraordinary situation, a Committee of Public Safety was constituted. When Robespierre took over as its head, the revolutionary government lost its popular character. It led to a Reign of Terror in France. The revolutionaries and people who opposed Robespierre were guillotined. At last the enraged people put Robespierre to the guillotine and brought the Reign of Terror to an end. The French army repulsed all foreign aggressions. The National Constitution promulgated a new constitution. Accordingly a bicameral

legislature was set up. The executive powers were vested in a Directory consisting of five Directors. The Directory could not function properly because it had only limited powers. In 1799 the Directory was overthrown and Napoleon Bonaparte usurped power.

Tipu Sultan and French Revolution

The French Revolution influenced the whole world. It had echoes in India when the ruler of Mysore, Tipu Sultan, declared his solidarity with the Revolution and planted the Tree of Liberty in his capital Srirangapattanam. He also became a member of Jacobin Club.

Napoleon

The European countries under the leadership of England tried to undo the achievements of the French Revolution and restore the old political structure and social order. The triumph of the slogans Liberty, Equality and Fraternity frightened them. A coalition consisting of England, Austria, Russia and Prussia against France was

defeated by Napoleon. He declared himself the Emperor of France in 1804. His ambition was to establish a united Europe under the leadership of France. For the realisation of his ambition he waged a series of wars between 1799 and 1815 which terrorised Europe. He established his sway over Spain, Rhineland, Corsica, Poland and Naples.



Napoleon Bonaparte



A cartoon showing the division of Europe by Napoleon, who occupied Europe and William Pitt, the British Prime Minister, who occupied the oceans.

He realised subjugating Britain economically would help him to control the whole of Europe. With a view to achieving this, he imposed the Continental System. He imposed an economic embargo against Britain in 1805 through the Berlin Decrees. His plan was to unite the European countries against Britain. But his plan failed because he could not control the whole of Europe. The naval supremacy of Britain enabled her

to blockade the French coast by the 'Orders in Council'.

The policies of Napoleon helped in the establishment of French national unity. The Middle Class was able to operate in society on par with the nobles and clergy. The Catholic Church was brought under the control of the state. The peasants were freed from the clutches of the landlords and made the owners of the land. In order to stabilise



Identify the territories conquered by Napoleon in the Map. Examine whether he could realise his aim of conquering Europe.

the finances of the country, the Bank of France was founded. General education was made the responsibility of state. Considerable achievements were made in the field of transport. The Code of Napoleon was the greatest contribution of the Emperor. It codified the laws prevailing in the country. The transition from feudal order to republican government was brought about during the reign of Napoleon.

The advances made by Napoleon frightened European kings. For fear of loss of their kingdoms they joined together under the leadership of Britain against Napoleon. He was defeated at Waterloo in 1815.

Congress of Vienna

The defeat of Napoleon marked the victory of monarchy and the nobles. They met at Vienna in 1815 and decided to restore the political map of Europe which had been redrawn by Napoleon. The Congress which met under the leadership of the Austrian Chancellor, Count Matternich, rejected the basic concepts of nationalism, democracy and the ideas put forward by the French Revolution. The European countries which stood united against France during and after the French Revolution now began to quarrel among themselves.

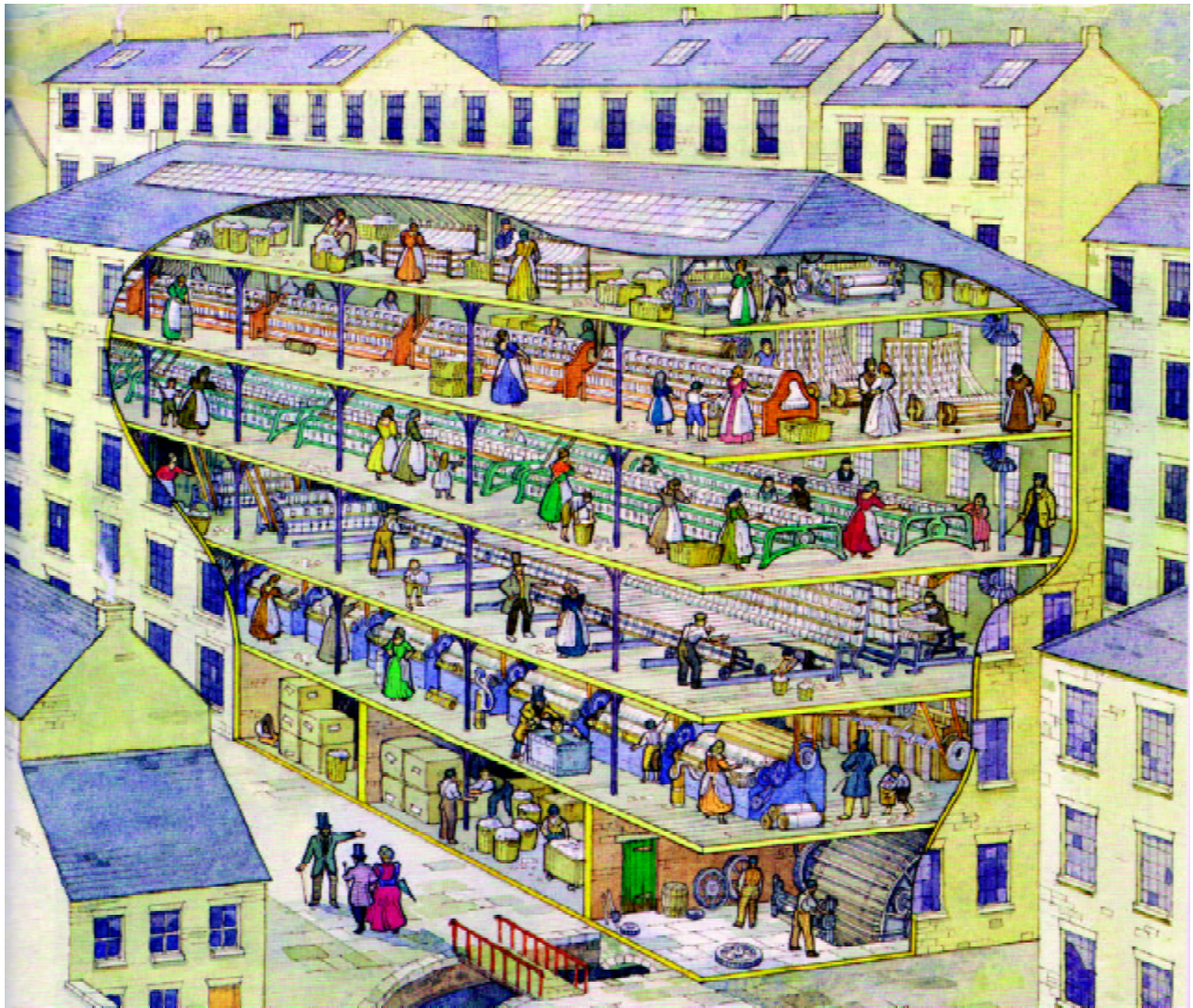
Matternich system

The basic principles of the Matternich system were legitimacy, restoration and compensation. The Vienna Congress decided to restore the kings who lost their kingdoms during the Napoleonic wars, to compensate those who worked for his fall, and confiscate the territories of those who helped him in his wars. The French diplomat, Talleyrand, who pleaded that it was Napoleon who was personally responsible for all the wars and not France, saved the country from partition.

Industrial Revolution

We have already discussed the achievements made in the field of science. Man's control over his environment with the help of science and machines brought about basic changes in the socio - economic sectors. The changes which took place in England from the 18th century onwards came to be known as the Industrial Revolution. The basic feature of this was that human labour was substituted by machines. Their details have been discussed in previous classes.

Although the Industrial Revolution began in England, its impact was global. An important feature of this was the emergence of the factory system. The Industrial Revolution demanded the investment of capital in the manufacture of machines and development of transport. It led to the growth of banks and joint stock companies. The raising of capital through the sale of shares reduced the risk of individual loss. You are familiar with the guild system of the medieval times. The transition from guild system to factory system in industrial production brought about changes in the relations between entrepreneurs and the labourers. In order to increase their profit the entrepreneurs employed the labourers through long hours and paid them only low wages.



A textile mill running under factory system



The novels of Charles Dickens such as *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield* describe the miserable life led by women and children in the industrial society. Read these novels and evaluate the nature of exploitation undergone by women and children in the industrial towns and factories and mines in the above novels and also from the information gathered in the previous classes.

The new capitalists who grew into prominence as a result of the Industrial Revolution demanded equal status with the nobles. The nobles opposed this. Defeating the opposition of the nobles and the king, the British Parliament passed the Reform Act in 1832. As a result of this Act the capitalists were enfranchised. Consequently the pocket boroughs were abolished. It was also the victory won by the commons over the House of Lords. But the workers did not get the

right to vote. The Chartist Movement arose in England in order to achieve the rights of the workers. You have already learnt about this movement in the previous classes.

The capitalists did not want the government to interfere in their activities. This was known as the Laissez-faire policy. The British followed this policy. The workers protested against the exploitation by the capitalists and the consequent hardships. As a result, unity was forged among the

workers. This led to the formation of labour unions and enactment of labour laws. The Government had to abandon the policy of Laissez-faire and was forced to enact factory laws to regulate the working conditions in the factories. It effected many changes in the factories.

- Officials were appointed to inspect factories.
- Employing children below the age of nine was prohibited.
- The working hours of women labourers were reduced to ten.

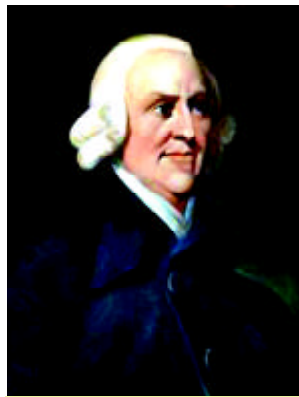


Various kinds of exploitation caused by the Industrial Revolution led to the emergence of the working class movements. Analyse this statement.

Theories of Capitalism

Certain economic theories emerged as a result of the Industrial Revolution. Later they influenced political thought. Political economists like Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus and David Ricardo argued for free economic activities. They were of the opinion that the wealthy people had the right to spend the money in ways they chose fit.

They severely criticised governmental interference in their activities. They argued that the state had only



Adam Smith

the responsibility of maintaining law and order and protecting private properties. They never recognised the right of the workers for collective bargaining or the interference of external forces in improving the service conditions. The political philosophy which emerged during this period was Utilitarianism. Jeremy Bentham was the advocate of this theory. It gave priority to individual achievements over those of the state. Though the Utilitarians opposed the interference of the state in the industrial and commercial activities of the capitalists, they supported democratic form of government.



The economic theories which emerged after the Industrial Revolution encouraged the growth of capitalism. Analyse the statement.

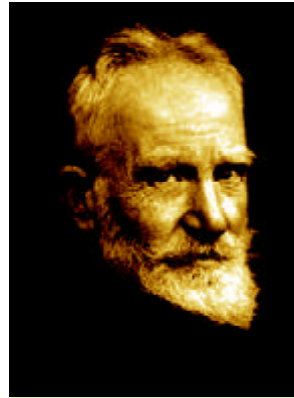
Advent of Socialism

Socialism arose as an ideology against capitalist exploitation. The aim of socialism is to bring production and distribution under the collective ownership and control of society. Robert Owen, Charles Fourier, Saint Simon and others were the early socialist thinkers. They dreamt of a society where each one did his work according to his ability and the fruits of his labour consumed collectively by all through cooperative societies. Since it was too idealistic it came to be known as 'Utopian Socialism'. Louis Blanc



Robert Owen

pleaded that the state should control production through workshops owned by it, it should supervise the distribution of the goods thus produced, the labourers



Bernard Shaw

should be paid fair wages and a share of the profit. This was known as State Socialism or Collectivism. Proudhon was of the opinion that factories should be controlled by joint committees of workers and consumers. This was known as Syndicalism. The Fabian Socialists under Bernard Shaw stood for the construction of a socialist society rooted in democracy and peace.

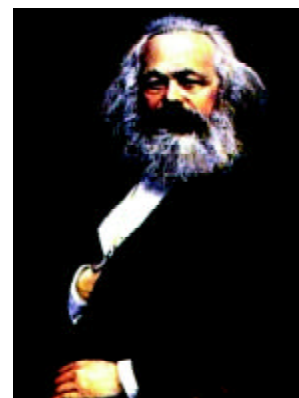


What were the features of the various types of socialism put forward by their advocates? What is the logic of the word 'Utopian Socialism'?

Scientific Socialism

The socialist ideas were developed into a scientific ideology and practical programme for progress by Karl Marx. His ideas are known as scientific socialism. He put forward the ideology of scientific socialism in the *Communist Manifesto* co-authored by his friend Frederik Engels. His other works include the *Capital* and *Theory of Surplus Value*. He was of the opinion that the mode of production determines the social, political, intellectual and all other human activities in a particular society. The surplus

produced by the workers is appropriated by the capitalists. He declared that it was more important to change the world than interpret it.



Karl Marx

Agrarian Revolution

The contributions made in the field of science brought about tremendous changes in the agrarian sector also. The progress achieved by industry in 18th century in England resulted in the increase of population which necessitated the increase of food production. The outdated agricultural implements and methods of cultivation were replaced by machines. The cultivators of England used to cultivate in fragmented pieces of land and they laid the field fallow after two years of continuous cultivation or one third of the land laid fallow every two years. This method known as 'Open Field System' was not profitable to the cultivators. Lord Townshend found that the cultivation of crops like turnip would enable the field to regain its fertility. He introduced the system of four year rotation of crops. He realised that the cultivation of crops like wheat, barley, turnip and clover alternately every year would not only increase the fertility of the soil but also yield good harvest as cattle fodder. The use of fertilisers and pesticides later increased the production of food further. The changes in the method of cultivation brought about

changes in animal husbandry also. Rearing of hybrid varieties of cattle increased the production of meat and milk.

The cultivators of small pieces of land could not experiment scientific method of agriculture. But



Charles Townshend

those who invested capital began to purchase small pieces of land and enclose them together. They influenced Parliament to pass a series of Enclosure

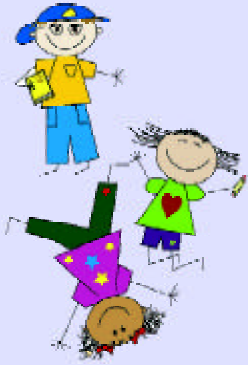
Laws. As a result, small parcels of open fields were enclosed together and fenced for scientific cultivation. This method known as Enclosure Movement expelled the small peasants from their fields and a class of rich peasants emerged in England.

The developments in industry and agriculture increased production. This necessitated the search for raw materials and markets for the finished goods. This intensified the process of colonisation and imperialist expansion.



The Industrial and Agrarian Revolutions in England made India their colony. Explain this statement.

Activities



- Did the progress of trade bring about constitutional crisis in England? Why?
 - Why do the French people celebrate the fall of Bastille as their National Day in spite of many other incidents during the French Revolution?
 - Prepare a flow chart showing the growth of the French Middle Class.
 - To what extent did the French revolutionary ideals influence the reforms of Napoleon?
- “When France sneezes all Europe catches cold”. Examine how the French Revolution influenced Europe in the light of the above statement of Matterinch?
 - Of the three estates in France why did the Third Estate alone stand for social change?
 - Waterloo was the victory of England and the defeat of Napoleon in gaining world economic hegemony. Examine the statement.
 - How did the Industrial Revolution enable England to attain progress in commercial, military and administrative fields?
 - What is the difference between Scientific Socialism and other early socialist ideas?
 - How were the peasants subjected to exploitation?
 - Unlike the French Revolution, the Agrarian Revolution was not caused by the social inequalities directly. But it brought about many changes in the social life of people. Examine the relevance of this statement.
 - A revolution is one which overthrows the existing order by establishing a new one. In the light of the above statement analyse the following revolutions.
 - Bloodless Revolution
 - French Revolution
 - Industrial Revolution
 - Agrarian Revolution