

23/4/19

Chapter → 1

The French Revolution

Notes :-

→ Begining of French Revolution :-

- On the morning of 14 July 1789 the city of paris in a state of alarm.
- The king had ordered troops to move into the city.
- Rumours spread that he would soon order the army to open fire upon the citizen.
- Some 7000 men and women gathered in front of town hall and decided to form a people's Militia.
- He marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress - prison, the bastille where they hoped.
- The fortress was demolished and its stone fragments were sold in the markets to all

those who wished to keep awareness of its destruction.

- Most people were protesting against the high price of bread.

→ French Society during the late 18th century

→ Problem before the King :-

- Upon this accession the new king fastness found an empty treasure.

- Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.

- Lender who gave the state credit, began to charge 10% interest on loans.

- French Society in the 18th century was divided into 3 estate paid taxes.

- Added to this was the cost of maintain an extravagant court at the immense place of Versailles.

- Under Louis XVI France helped the 13 American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain.

- The war added more than billion livres to a debt had already risen to 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.

→ What was the problem before the Louis XVI when he ascended the throne in France 1789?

→ Organisation of French Society during the revolution :-

- Peasants made up of about 30% of the population.

- About 60% of the land was owned by Nobles.

- The most important of these was exemption from paying taxes to the state.

- The Nobels further enjoyed feudal privileges.

→ The struggle to survive :-

- The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789.

- This led to a rapid increase in the demand for foodgrains. Production of grains could not keep pace with demand.

- As the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly, most weavers were employed as labourers in workshops. These weavers joined their wages.

- But the wages did not keep pace with the rise in prices. So things became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest. This led to a severe subsistence crisis.

→ What is Subsistence Crisis :-

→ A growing Middle Class envisage an end to privileges :-

- In 18th Century of social groups, termed the middle class.

- They learned wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods such as woolen and silk textiles.

- These items were either exported or bought by the richer members of society.

- In addition to merchants and Manufactures, the third - estate included professions such as lawyers or administrative offices.

- They believed that no group in society should be uneducated.

→ Reasons of Subsistence in France :-

- Due to increase of population from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789

increased the demand for foreign grains.

- Production of food grains could not be sufficient for the people.

- They also got rejected from manufacturing of goods such as cotton and silk textiles.

- All these groups were educated and believed that no groups in society should be privileged by birth.

→ Role of thinkers and philosophers in French revolution:-

- Society must be based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all. These ideas were presented by the philosophers.

- In this book two treatises of government divine and absolute right of the monarch.

- Rousseau also carried the same ideas based on a social contract between people and their representative.

- In this book 'The Spirit of Laws' Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and Judiciary.

- This model of government was adopted in U.S.A after 13 colonies declared their independence from British.

→ Making of National Assembly:-

- Louis XVI declared that all the taxes will increase in France.

- On 5 May 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the estate general to pass proposals for new taxes.

- Before Louis XVI the voting was based on the principle that each estate has one vote.

- But members of third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have 1 vote.

- Louis XVI rejected this proposal and on 20 June the members of 3 estate assembly in the hall of an indoor tennis court in this ground of Versailles.

• They declared themselves as a National assembly and drafted a constitution for France that will limit the power of Monarch.

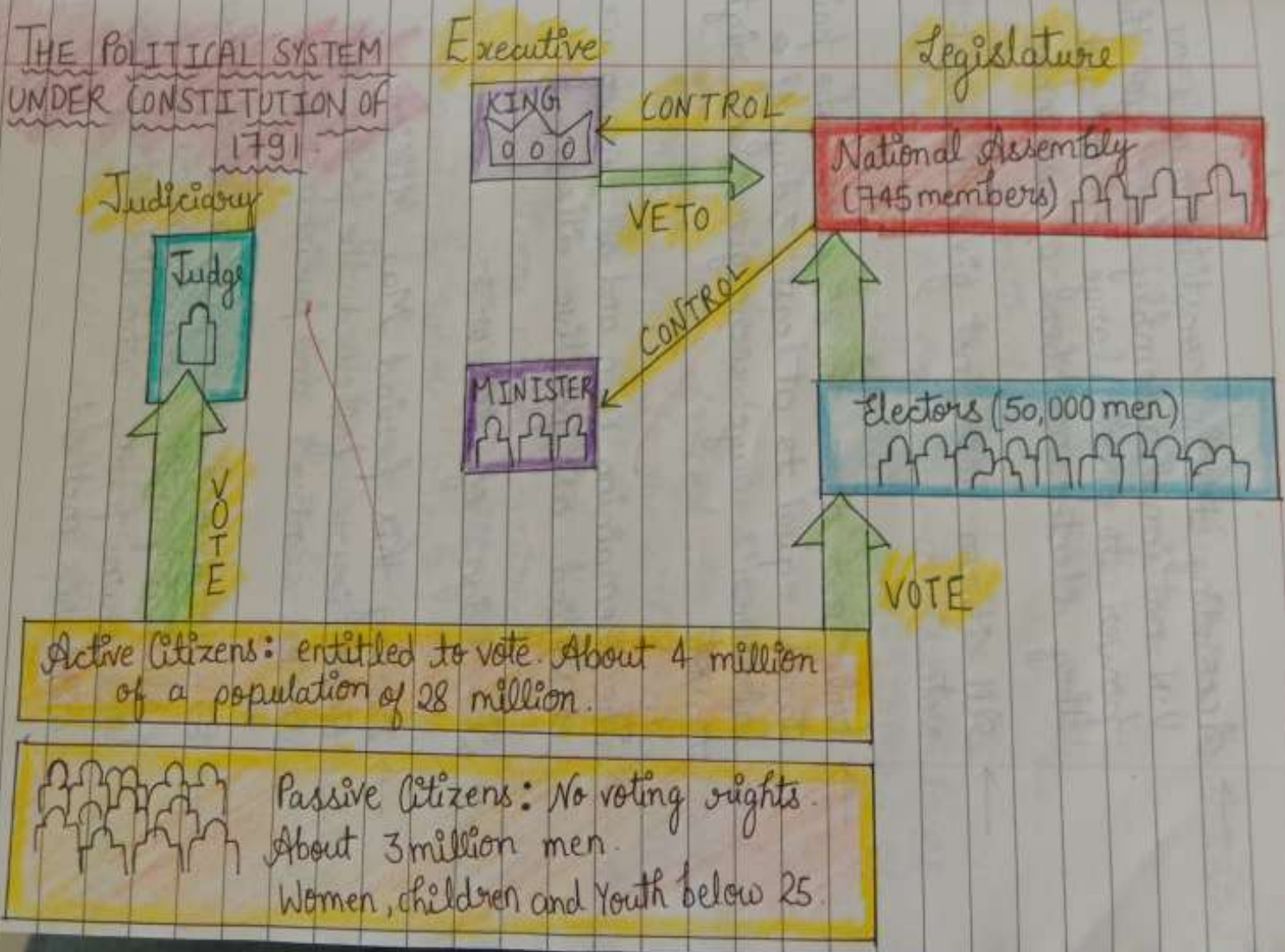
→ How France becomes a constitutional monarchy?

- The national assembly completed the draft of constitutional in 1791.
- Its main object was to limit of power of the monarch.
- According to new constitutional the power is not concentrated in one hand different institution and assignation to

- ① The legislative.
- ② The executive.
- ③ The judiciary.

Fig: Monitor

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM UNDER CONSTITUTION OF 1791



- According to the constitution of 1791
the national assembly have got the
power to make laws citizen and
they elected members of assembly.
- All citizen were not given the right to
vote.
- Only men above the 25 years who paid
taxes equal to at least 3 days of a
labourer's wage were given the right
to vote.
- The remaining men and all women were
classified as passive citizen.
- The reign of Terror :-
- During this period Max Millien
Robespierre followed the policy of
Revolution control and punishment.
- Ex-Nobel and Clergy, members of other
political parties even members of
his own party who did not agree with
his method.

- They were arrested in prison and tried
by revolutionary Tribunal.
- If the court found them guilty
guillotined.
- Rotten P.S government issues laws
fixing a maximum price selling of
wages.
- Meat and bread were rationed and
peasants were forced to transport
their grains to the cities and sell
at a prices fixed by the government.
- All citizens were required to eat the
pain degalite (equality bread a loaf
made of whole wheat).
- Churches were shut down and their buildings
are converted into barracks or offices.
- Directory rules in France :-
- After the fall of Jacobin government wealthier
middle classes seems to power.

a new constitution was introduced which do not give the right to vote to non-susceptible section of society.

→ Directory provided elected legislative council and these council appointed a directory that was an executive made up of 5 members but the directory often clashed with the legislative council which created the political instability in France.

• Role of women in French revolution :-

→ From the very beginning women were active participants in the French revolution.

→ In order to discuss a voice than interest women started their own political clubs and newspapers.

→ The society of revolutionaries and republican women was at the most famous club.

→ One of their main demands was to get the same political right as men.

→ The constitution of 1791 declared the

as to passive citizens, so they demanded the right to vote to be elected to the assembly and to whole political offices.

• The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen :-

→ Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.

→ The aim of every political association is the preservation of the natural and inalienable rights of man; these are liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression.

→ The source of all sovereignty resides in the nation; no group or individual may exercise authority that does not come from the people.

→ Liberty consists of the power to do whatever is not injurious to others.

→ The law has the right to forbid only actions that are injurious to society.

New Terms :-

- Franchise :-
Unit of currency in France discontinued in 1394.
- Almsgiver :-
Group of persons invested with special function in the church.
- Tithe :-
A tax levied by the church, comprising one-tenth of the agricultural produce.
- Tallage :-
Tax to be paid directly to the state.
- Subsistence Crisis :-
An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered.
- Anonymous :-
One whose name remains unknown.
- Chalet :-
Small or a stately residence belonging to a king or a nobleman.

• Manor :-
An estate consisting of the lord's lands and his mansion.

• Convent :-
Building belonging to a community devoted to a religious life.

• Treason :-
Betrayal of one's country government.

• Negroid :-
The term used for the indigenous people of Africa south of the Sahara. It is a derogatory term not in common use any longer.

• Emancipation :-
The act of freeing.

The 1389 question and answers :-

Ques: What was Bastille?

Ans: It was one of the largest prisons in France. It was broken by an angry mob on 14th July, 1789.

Ques 2 When did French Revolution occur?

Ans 2 14th July, 1789.

Ques 3 Give the titles of the books written by:

- (a) Rousseau
- (b) Charles Montesquieu

Ans 3 (a) The Social Contract
(b) The Spirit of Laws

Ques 4 Name any four French philosophers who inspired the French people to revolt.

- Ans 4 Jean Jacques Rousseau
- Montesquieu.
- Voltaire.
- Maximilian Robespierre.

Ques 5 Mention any two factors responsible for the French Revolution?

Ans 5 Heavy taxes on the third Estate.
Social disparity, i.e., all political rights to the people of the first and second Estate.

Ques 6 Who wrote the 'Two Treatises of Government'?

Ans 6 John Locke.

Ques 7 What was the slogan of the French revolutionaries?

Ans 7 Liberty, Fraternity and Equality.

Ques 8 Which is the national anthem of France?

Ans 8 Marseillaise is the national song of France.

Ques 9 Who was the ruler of France during the revolution?

Ans 9 Louis XVI of the Bourbon family was the ruler of France.

Ques 10 Who abolished slavery in France?

Ans 10 The Jacobin Clubs.

Ques 11 In which year women of France won the right to vote?

Ans 11 1946.

Ques 13 When did France abolish the monarch and become republic?

Ans 11 21 September 1792.

Ques 13 Name any two women clubs of France.

Ans 13 → The Society of Revolutionary
→ The Republican Women.

Ques 14 When was Napoleon deposed?

Ans 14 In 1815 in the Battle of Waterloo.

Ques 15 Name the most popular political club started by the French women.

Ans 15 Society of Revolutionary Republican Women.

Ques 16 Name the three continents which were involved in triangle slave trade.

Ans 16 Europe, Africa and America.

Ques 17 Why was slave trade very important for the imperialistic countries?

Ans 17 These slaves were used in plantation agriculture.

Ques 18 When was the slave trade abolished in French for colonies?

Ans 18 1848.

Ques 19 Who was Napoleon?

Ans 19 He was the Commissioner-in-chief of the French society.

Ques 20 When Napoleon crowned him as a Emperor of France?

Ans 20 1804.

Short answer type questions:-

Ques 1 What were the cause for the empty treasure of France under Louis XVI?

Ans 1 When Louis XVI ascended the throne, he found an empty treasure because of the fighting in the seven years war.

The second cause was the revolutionary war in America under George Washington. The French helped to American colonies to gain their independence from Britain.

The third reason was the war which cost more than a billion livres. As a result that had already raised the means from 2 billion livres.

How to rid the French government of the debt to pay all these interest payments alone.

Ques 2 What is subsistence crisis? Mention any two factors responsible for this in France.

Ans 2 Subsistence crisis is an extreme situation when the basic means of livelihood are endangered.

The two factors which were responsible are:-

- The population of France was from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to a rapid increase in the demand.

for foodgrains.

- Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So, the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly.

Ques 3 What was the role of Philosophers and thinkers in the French revolution. Explain by giving three examples.

Ans 3 The philosophers and thinkers believed that no group in a society should be privileged by birth. They supported a society based on freedom and equal laws.

- In his 'Two Treatises of Government', John Locke sought to reduce the doctrine of divine and absolute right of Monarch.

→ Rousseau coined the idea forward proposing a form of government based on a social contract between people and their representative.

- In the spirit of Louis XVI, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government.

between legislative, the executive and the Judiciary.

Ques 4 What was Jacobin clubs? Who were their leaders?

Ans → Jacobins were political clubs of the people. They became an important rallying point for people, who wished to discuss the government policies and plans, and their own form of actions.

→ Maximilien Robespierre was their leader.

Ques 5 Discuss the impact of abolition of censorship in France.

Ans → Before censorship in France all written material and cultural activities, books, newspapers published only after they had been approved by the censor of the king.

→ Now the declaration of the Right of Man and citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.

→ Newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded the town of France.

Ques 6 Explain the impact of fall of Jacobin government of Robespierre.

Ans → The fall of the Jacobin government allowed the wealthier middle class to seize power.

The new constitution was introduced which denied the vote to non-propertied section of society.

The constitution adopted a Directory System.

This was meant as a safeguard against the concentration of power in a one-man executive as under the Jacobin.

Ques 7 "Ideas of liberty and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution." Explain the statement in the light of French Revolution.

Ans 7 → People of Third Estate demanded a society based on freedom and opportunities to all.

The National Assembly was formed in 1791 with an object to limit the power of the monarch.

→ The constitution formed in 1791 began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens.

→ Censorship was abolished in 1789.

→ Long answers type questions:-

Ques 1: Analyse any three main features of the French Constitution of 1791.

Ans: Power of the National Assembly:-

Constitution of 1791 vested the powers to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected. That is, citizen voted for a group of electors, who in turn choose the assembly.

→ Right to vote:-

Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote. Only men above 25 years of age who had taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given by the status of active citizens.

→ Basic Rights:-

All the citizens were given some basic rights such as right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law.

→ It was the duty of state to protect each citizen's natural rights.

Ques 2: How was the French revolutionary society organised? What were privileges did certain section of the society enjoyed? Discuss?

Ans: Division of society into three Estate:-

(a) The First Estate:-

It consisted of the clergymen and church-fathers.

(b) The Second Estate:-

It consisted of landlords, men of noble birth and aristocrats.

(c) The Third Estate:-

It consisted of the vast majority of the common masses,

the landless peasants etc.

Heavy burden of taxes on the Third Estate:

The members of the first two Estates were exempted from paying taxes to the state. So, all the taxes were paid by the people of the Third Estate.

No political rights:-

But of the total population the people of first and second estate were controlling the economic system of a nation. They enjoyed all the rights and privileges.

Ques 3 Highlight the political reasons behind the French revolution?

Ans 3 Empty Treasury:-

In 1774 Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France. Upon his accession of the new king found an empty treasury.

Extravagant Court:-

The basic cause of empty treasury was extravagant court at the

immense palace of Versailles.

Long wars:-

Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France. France under Louis XVI helped 13 American colonies to gain their independence from common enemy Britain.

No Political Equality:-

Voting in the Estate General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each Estate had one vote whereas people were demanding one member one vote.

Ques 4 What was the role of Jacobins during the French revolution?

Ans 4 Middle Class:-

The members of the Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous society. They included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks. Their leader was Maximilian Robespierre.

different classes:-

A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by deck servants.

During the Revolution:-

They were the people who believed that the revolution had to be carried further, so the Jacobins of 1793 gave political rights only to the active section of society.

During the King's period:-

In the summer of 1793 the Jacobins planned an intervention of a large number of Parisians who were angered by the short supplies and high price of food. On 10 August they stormed the Palace of the Louis.

There became a republic:-

Even now on all men of 21 years and above, regardless of wealth, got the right to vote. The newly elected assembly was called

the Convention. On 21 September 1792 it abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.

Ques 5 Which period in the French revolution history is known as the reign of terror? Give examples.

Ans The period from 1793 to 1794 is referred as the Reign of Terror.

Strict policies of Robespierre:-

Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment. All those whom he saw as being enemies of the republic - were arrested, imprisoned or guillotined.

Economic control:-

Robespierre government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices. Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at fixed by the government.

Principle of Equality:-

Equality was also

sought to be practised through forms of speech and address.

Control over Churches:-

Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.

Ques 6 Why were the women disappointed by the Constitution 1791 in France?

Ans Passive Citizens:-

(Women's struggle for equal)
Women were disappointed that the Constitution of 1791 reduced them to passive citizen.

Region of Terror and the women:-

Women's struggle for equal political rights, however, continued. During the reign of ordering closure of women's club and banning their political activities.

No political office:-
Under the new constitution women did not have the right to hold political office.

Ques 7 Explain how the new political system of constitutional monarchy in France worked.

Ans 7 The constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly which was indirectly elected.

With the new constitution the power to govern the country were assigned to different institutions.

The judiciary and the legislators were elected by the people. Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage.

Ques 8 Explain the achievement of Napoleon Bonaparte in France?

Ans 8 Napoleon Bonaparte claimed the emperor of France. Napoleon saw his role as modernizer of Europe.

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He introduced laws such as protection of private properties and Uniform system of weight and measures provided by decimal system.

Napoleon set out to ang. conquer neighbouring Europe countries, disperse dynasties and creating kingdom where he placed member of his family.

Ques: What law provide by revolutionary government to improve the life of in France?

Ans: Concurrently with the construction of state schools, education for girl was mandatory.

Marriage was formed into a contract and thus registered under public laws.

The government made laws, that prevent the marry of the girls against their will.

~~Ques~~ This was for the first time that divorce was made legal filled by both men and women.