

# The Age of Revolution

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## A. Fill in the blanks:

1. The American War of Independence was the first **Organized** political revolution in the history of the world.
2. The discovery of the American continent was followed by the establishment of **Permanent** European settlements in the 16th century.
3. The colonists argued that the British Parliament had no right to tax the colonists because they had no **representatives** in the parliament
4. **George Washington** was chosen as the commander of the American troops in the war against the British.
5. In 1776, the representatives of the colonists met at Philadelphia and adopted a **Declaration of Independence**.
6. In about 200 years, the United States of America transformed itself into the most **powerful** country of the world.
7. The Constitution of the United States has served as a **model and an inspiration** to several countries;
8. French society was divided into three main classes, namely **the first, the second and the Third Estate**
9. The revolutionary writings of political philosophers like **Voltaire, Rousseau and Montesquieu** greatly influenced the middle-class intellectuals in France.
10. The French administration was **Corrupt** and **inefficient**.

## B. Match the following:

- | A                                     | B   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Boston Tea Party</b>            | (a) <b>1789</b>                                 |
| 2. <b>Declaration of Independence</b> | (b) <b>protest against new taxes</b>            |
| 3. <b>Treaty of Paris</b>             | (c) <b>middle class</b>                         |
| 4. <b>French Revolution</b>           | (d) <b>1776</b>                                 |
| 5. <b>Third Estate</b>                | (e) <b>British government and the colonists</b> |

**Answer:**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Boston Tea Party            | (b) protest against new taxes            |
| 2. Declaration of Independence | (d) 1776                                 |
| 3. Treaty of Paris             | (e) British government and the colonists |
| 4. French Revolution           | (a) 1789                                 |
| 5. Third Estate                | (c) middle class                         |

**C. Choose the correct answer:**

1. By the mid-18th century 11/13/19 British colonies had been established on the east coast of North America.

**Ans.** By the mid-18th century 13 British colonies had been established on the east coast of North America.

2. 4 July/14 July/17 June is celebrated as American Independence Day.

**Ans.** 4 July is celebrated as American Independence Day.

3. The Second Estate consisted of the clergy/peasants/nobles.

**Ans.** The Second Estate consisted of the nobles.

4. Marie Antoinette was the queen of England/France/Austria.

**Ans.** Marie Antoinette was the queen of England

5. 14 July/4 July/20 June is celebrated as a national holiday in France.

**Ans.** 14 July is celebrated as a national holiday in France.

**D. State whether the following are true or false:**

1. By the middle of the 18th century eleven British colonies had been established along the east coast of North America.

**False.**

Correct: By the middle of the 18th century 13 British colonies had been established along the east coast of North America.

2. The American colonists were rigid and conservative.

**False.**

Correct: The American colonists were simple and liberal.

3. The American revolutionaries were greatly impressed by the ideas of European philosophers.

**True.**

4. George Washington was the first elected President of the United States of America.

**True.**

5. The French Revolution laid the foundation of a democratic government.

**True.**

### **E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences:**

#### **Question 1.**

Which particular incident sparked off the American War of independence? What is the importance of this event?

#### **Answer:**

The American War of Independence, was sparked off by an incident known as the Boston Tea Party. In 1773, a group of colonists, disguised as Red Indians, raided British ships in Boston harbour and threw 340 crates of tea into the sea. This incident was a protest against the new taxes including a tax on tea, imposed on the colonies. The importance of this act was that it was an act of open defiance of the colonists against British authority.

#### **Question 2.**

Name any two European philosophers whose ideas inspired and influenced the American revolutionaries.

#### **Answer:**

The American revolutionaries were greatly influenced by the ideas of European philosophers Locke, Voltaire and Rousseau who inspired them to fight for liberty.

#### **Question 3.**

What is the significance of the 4th of July in American history?

#### **Answer:**

The 4th July is celebrated as the American Independence Day.

**Question 4.**

Mention two characteristic features of the French monarchy.

**Answer:**

The French king was an autocrat. He enjoyed absolute powers and his will was law. There was no check on his powers by any parliament. He ruled by Divine Right and was answerable to God and not to the people.

**Question 5.**

In what way did the American Revolution influence the Indian Constitution?

**Answer:**

The Constitution of the United States of America has served as a model and an inspiration to several countries including India. The framers of the Indian Constitution adopted various features like the federal form of government, the incorporation of Fundamental Rights like the American Bill of Rights and the system of checks and balances.

**Question 6.**

Why is the French Revolution of 1789 considered a turning point in human history?

**Answer:**

The French Revolution of 1789 was a milestone and a major turning point in human history. It revolutionized the social, economic and political fabric, not only of France but of all Europe and subsequently of almost the entire world.

**Question 7.**

Mention the role of the political philosophers in the overthrow of the French monarchy.

**Answer:**

The revolutionary writings and ideals of great political philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau and Montesquieu created an intellectual ferment in France. The middle class was greatly inspired by the revolutionary ideas. Through their writings, the philosophers exposed the evils of French society and government and inspired the people to revolt and fight for their rights.

**Question 8.**

What effect did the American Revolution have on the French people?

**Answer:**

The French generals and soldiers, who had fought in the American Revolution, returned to France with revolutionary ideas and inspired the people to fight against their unjust,

despotic government. The American Revolution enthused the French people and encouraged them to rebel.

**F. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**1. The American War of Independence was the first organized political revolution in the history of the world. In this context answer the following questions:**

- (a) How was an American colony governed? Why were the colonists resentful?
- (b) How did the American colonists differ from the British?
- (c) Why did the American colonists refuse to pay taxes imposed by the British Parliament in London? Give an account of the Boston Tea Party incident.

**Answer:**

(a) Each American colony had its own Assembly elected by the people of the colony but the governor of the colony was appointed by the British government. The Governor was not responsible to the Assembly. He governed the colony in the interest of England, the mother country, and not the colonists. This caused great resentment among the American settlers who worked very hard but could not enjoy the fruits of their labour.

(b) Socially and culturally, the American colonists were different from the British. The colonists were simple and liberal, unlike the British puritans who were rigid and conservative. The American colonists had a distinct identity i.e an American identity that aspired for freedom to grow and develop as a separate independent nation.

(c) The American colonists refused to pay taxes as they argued that the British Parliament had no right to tax the colonists since they had no representatives in the Parliament. In 1773, a group of colonists, disguised as Red Indians, raided British ships in Boston harbour and threw 340 crates of tea into the sea. This incident was a protest against the new taxes including a tax on tea, imposed on the colonies. The importance of this act was that it was an act of open defiance of the colonists against British authority.

**Question 2.**

The British monarch, King George III, refused to withdraw the unjust and oppressive Acts imposed on the colonists and declared war on them. In this context discuss:

- (a) The revolutionary principles and ideas in the Declaration of Independence in 1776
- (b) The terms and long-term impact of the Treaty of Paris
- (c) The important features of the newly established United States of America

**Answer:**

(a) The Declaration of Independence, 1776 clearly stated that the American colonists

had the right to free themselves from the oppressive and exploitative British government and form their own government. This declaration proclaimed that all men are born equal and are endowed with certain rights such as the right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**(b)** According to the Treaty of Paris signed in 1783 between the British government and the colonists, British government recognized the independence of the thirteen colonies which came to be known as the United States of America.

**(c) Features of the newly established United States of America are as:**

1. A written constitution was framed and a federal, democratic, republican government was set up.
2. The new government guaranteed to all its citizens the rights to freedom of speech, press, religion and justice under the law.
3. The country would be ruled by an elected President who would govern according to the laws written down in the Constitution.

### **Question 3.**

**The French Revolution of 1789 was a milestone and a major turning point in human history. In this context discuss the following causes:**

- (a) An unjust, unequal social order of the Ancient Regime
- (b) The growing power of the middle class
- (c) An inefficient, corrupt administration

### **Answer:**

**(a) An unequal, unjust social order:** French society was essentially feudal in nature. It was divided into three main classes, called Estates:

1. The First Estate consisted of the clergy (church officials).
2. The Second Estate consisted of the nobles and their families.
3. The Third Estate was composed of 95 per cent of the population. It included the peasants, artisans, workers and the middle class (consisting of merchants, manufacturers and professionals such as lawyers, doctors, teachers, etc.)

The First and Second Estates enjoyed numerous privileges. They owned practically all the land in France but did not have to pay any taxes. They were very wealthy and led comfortable and luxurious lives.

The Third Estate, on the other hand, shouldered the entire burden of taxation but was not entitled to any of the privileges enjoyed by the clergy and the nobles. Taxes were imposed on everything, including basic necessities like salt. Life was very hard, especially for the poor peasants who had to pay additional taxes to their feudal lords.

(b) Middle class had acquired great wealth and become economically powerful in the 18th century. However, they were denied of social equality and political rights. This caused great resentment among them. They used their economic power to overthrow the Ancient Regime.

(c) The administration was corrupt and inefficient. The officials were selfish and unconcerned about the welfare of the people.

King Louis XVI was pleasure-loving and extravagant. He was completely ignorant of and indifferent to the sufferings of the common people and was greatly influenced by his beautiful and ambitious wife, Marie Antoinette. Together they squandered money on festivities and pleasures and emptied the royal treasury.

#### **Question 4.**

**With reference to the French Revolution, discuss the following:**

(a) The Tennis Court Oath

(b) The storming of the Bastille

(c) The adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen and its fundamental principles

#### **Answer:**

(a) On 20, June 1789, the members of the Third Estate met at a tennis court and took an oath not to separate until a new constitution was drawn up for France. This is known as the Tennis Court Oath.

(b) The storming of the Bastille symbolized the victory of the people of France and the fall of monarchy. It marked the beginning of the revolution. 14 July is celebrated as a national holiday in France.

(c) The newly formed National Assembly, consisting of the representatives of the Third Estate, took over the control of the affairs of France. It adopted the famous Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen-a landmark in the history of human progress. By 1791, a new Constitution was drawn up for France.

#### **Question 5.**

**With reference to the consequences of the French Revolution, answer the following:**

(a) Mention any four revolutionary changes that took place in France after the Revolution of 1789.

(b) What effect did the French Revolution have on the rest of Europe?

(c) What impact did the French revolutionary principles have on political developments in India in the middle of the 19th century?

#### **Answer:**

(a) **Revolutionary changes that took place in France after the Revolution of 1789 are:**

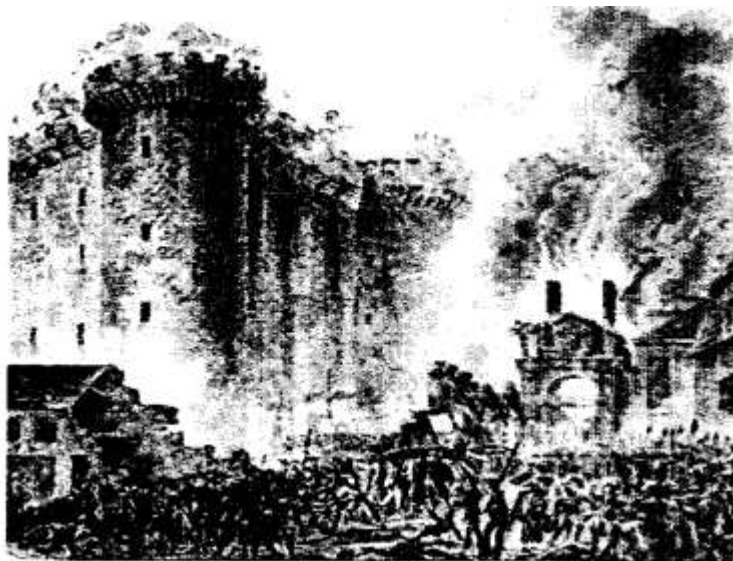
1. This Revolution marked the end of absolute monarchy and paved the way for the establishment of a republic.
2. The revolution laid the foundation of a democratic government.
3. Feudalism and serfdom were abolished and the power of the Church was brought under the control of the government.
4. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity become the guiding principle of the French republic.

**(b)** The revolutionary ideas of the French Revolution spread to all European countries. The slogans of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity become the guiding principles all over the world. Oppressed people in Europe rose in revolt against their tyrannical, hereditary rulers and established new social and political system. It inspired the spirit of nationalism among people.

**(c)** The Revolutionary principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity had an impact on India as well. Indian nationalists imbibed these principles and developed a democratic and nationalist outlook. A National movement for freedom was launched, culminating in India's independence from British rule in 1947.

### **G Picture Study.**

**This picture depicts a very important event in world history wherein a great mob is shown attacking a state prison.**



1. Name the event.

**Ans.** On 14 July 1789, a great mob attacked Bastille the state prison for political prisoners and a much hated symbol of the Ancient Regime. The prisoners were released and they joined the revolutionaries.



2. In which country did it take place and when?

**Ans.** The country was France and it take place on 14 July 1789.

3. What is the significance of this event?

**Ans.** The Prisoners were released and joined the revolutionaries. It also symbolized the Victory of people of France and the fall of monarchy.

4. Give a brief account of the developments that followed this event.

**Ans.** This incident marked the beginning of the revolutions. The newly formed National Assembly consisting of the representatives of the Third Estate, took over the Control of the affairs of France. It adopted the famous Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizens- a landmark in the history of human progress. By 1791, a new constitution was drawn up for France.

## OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

### Question 1.

Into how many classes was French society divided? What did each class consist of?

#### Answer:

The French society was divided into three main classes, called Estates.

- The First Estate consisting of the clergy.
- The Second Estate consisting of the nobles and their
- The Third Estate was composed of 95 percent of the It included the peasants, artisans, workers and the middle class.

### Question 2.

Briefly discuss the inequalities and injustices in French society.

#### Answer:

The First and Second Estates enjoyed numerous privileges. They owned practically all the land in France but did not have to pay and taxes. They were very wealthy and led comfortable and luxurious lives.

The Third Estate, on the other hand, shouldered the entire burden of taxation but was not entitled to any of the privileges enjoyed by the clergy and the nobles. Taxes were imposed on everything including basic necessities like salt Life was very hard, especially for the poor peasants.

### Question 3.

Examine the drawbacks of the French monarch and the French administration which angered the French intellectuals and eventually led to the Revolution of 1789.

#### Answer:

The administration was corrupt and inefficient. The officials were selfish and unconcerned about the welfare of the people.

King Louis XIV was pleasure-loving and extravagant. He was completely ignorant of and indifferent to the sufferings of the common people.

The economic bankruptcy was further aggravated by French involvement in useless wars against England. These all circumstances led to the Revolution of 1789.

### Question 4.

Why is 14 July celebrated as a national holiday in France?

#### Answer:

In 14 July 1789 a great mob attacked Bastille, the state prison for political prisoners were released and they joined the revolutionaries. So this incident was symbolized the victory of the people of France and the fall of monarchy. So 14 July is celebrated as a national holiday in France.

### Question 5.

What important principles did the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen establish?

#### Answer:

**The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen was established on the following principles.**

1. All men are born free and have equal rights. Everyone is equal in the eyes of law.
2. Every citizen is entitled to freedom of speech and expression, religion and a fair trial.