

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 History

Chapter 1 - The French Revolution

NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

Q. 1. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

Ans. 1. In 1789, Louis XVI's need for money forced him to agree to a meeting of the Estates' General-the old feudal assembly. He wanted to obtain its consent for new loans and taxes. All three estates (or classes of the French society) were represented in it but each one hold a separate meeting.

2. On the morning of 14 July 1789, the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. The King Louis XVI had commanded troops to move in the city.

3. Rumours spread that the king of France would soon order the army to open fire upon the people.

4. Soon 7,000 men and women gathered in front of the town hall and decided to form a peoples' militia. They broke into a number of government buildings in search of arms and ammunition.

5. Finally, a group of several hundred people marched towards the eastern part of the city and stormed the fortress - prison, the Bastille. The commander of the Bastille was killed and the prisoners were released. The fall of the fortress was taken as an important symbolic fall of the despotic power of the king in France. -

Q. 2. Which groups of French society benefited from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which sections of society

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would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?

Ans. The people of the Third Estate of the French society were benefited from the Revolution of 1789. This group consists of the common people, who were numbered about 95 per cent of the total population. -

1. The peasants were the largest section of the Third Estate. A major result of the Revolution was the destruction of feudalism in France. All the laws of the old feudal regime were annulled.

2. The people of the lower middle classes of French society were also benefited from the revolution. There were the artisans, workers and poor people living in towns and cities. Then writers, doctors, judges, lawyers, teachers, civil servants - and the richer people who were the merchants, bankers and manufacturers.

3. The position of the **artisans** and city **workers** also improved later on. In 1792, for the first time in history, workers, peasants and other non-propertied classes were given equal political rights.

4. The group of nobles was adversely affected by the French Revolution. The lands of nobles were confiscated. Their all privileges were finished.

5. A new group of capitalists emerged in France, in place of the feudal lords. The capitalists became very powerful because the Revolution in France built up a new economic system in place of the feudal system which had been overthrown.

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6. Clergy or group of persons invested with special functions in the church was also forced to relinquish power. Even the common man was not satisfied because the right to vote did not solve their problems.

Q. 3. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the peoples of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ans. The Legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world : Consequences of the French Revolution (1789) did not bring several vital results for France but for other parts of the world as well.

1. The French Revolution gave the term '**nation**' its modern meaning. A nation is not the territory that the people belonging to it inhabit but the people themselves.
2. From this followed the idea of **sovereignty**, that a nation recognizes no law or authority above its own. And if a nation is sovereign that means the people constituting the nation are the source of all power and authority.
3. French Revolution inspired revolutionary movements in almost every country of Europe and in South and Central America. For a long time it became the classic examples of a revolution which people of several nations tried to emulate.
4. After the downfall of Napoleon and the autocratic governments of Europe found themselves safe for the time being, the rulers of several countries found it increasingly difficult to rule the people of their respective country.

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5. Some of the changes that took place in several parts of Europe and the America in the early 19th century were the immediate, direct consequences of the Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. The wars in which France was engaged with other French occupation of vast areas of Europe for some time.

Q. 4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

Ans. List of Democratic Rights we enjoy today:

1. Right to Freedom.
2. Right to Equality
3. Right against Exploitation.
4. Right to Freedom of Religion.
5. Cultural and Educational Right.
6. Right to Constitutional Remedies. Right to freedom and right to equality could be traced to the French Revolution.

Q. 5. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Ans. Yes, I agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with several contradictions. We can explain our decision giving the following points:

1. Women were not given equal rights as the men were given.
2. The notions of equality and freedom emerged as the central ideas of a new age, but in different countries

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they were reinterpreted and rethought in many different ways. Most of the imperialist powers did not grant full freedom to the peoples of their colonies.

3. Not all citizens had the right to vote. Only men above 25 years of the age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a laborer's wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.

4. The task of representing the people has been given to rich, the lot of the poor and oppressed will never be improved by peaceful means, alone. Here we have absolute proof of how wealth influence the law. Yet laws will last only as long as the people agree to obey them. And when they have managed to cast off the yoke of the aristocrats, they will do the same to the other owners of wealth.

Q. 6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Ans. The Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte:

1. The fall of the Jacobin government permitted the wealthier middle classes to seize power.

2. A new constitution was introduced which denied the vote to non-propertied sections of society. It provided for two elected legislative councils.



Fig. : Napoleon crossing the Alps

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3. Both legislative councils appointed a Directory, an executive made up of five members. This was meant as a safeguard against the concentration of power in a one-man-executive as under the Jacobins.

4. However, the directors often clashed with the legislative councils, who then sought to dismiss them. The political instability of the Directory paved the way for the rise of a military dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte.

5. In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France. He set out to conquer neighboring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms when he placed members of his family.