

- Q- What was the Grenville Policy?
- Q- What was the Mercantilism or Mercantilist Policies?
- Q- The roots of the American Revolution can be traced back to the Grenville Policies?
- Q- What was the Great Enlightenment and Awakening and Enlightenment?

Q. What were the causes of the American Revolution?

ANSWER :-

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another and to assume among the ~~power~~ Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of the nature and of Nature's God entitle them a decent respect to the separation.... We hold these truths to be self evident."

—Declaration of Independence—

The American Revolution, driven by a longing for freedom and equality, marked a significant historical movement. Beginning in the minds of the people and ending in the 1775 Revolutionary War, colonists sought independence from hindering British control. Exploiting British statesmen errors, they successfully gained their desired ~~dream~~ freedom.

Causes OF American Revolution :-

Many causes were involved in the American Revolution but a few major reasons are :

The Mercantilism

The Enlightenment and Great awakening

The Attitude of the British

The attitude of the American.

1- The Attitude OF Americans :-

18-century Americans differed from 17-century English migrants in colonial America. When a century had passed, now, America was a better home for them than Europe. English institutions in 17th-Century America evolved differently due to unique social, political, and economic factors.

The shift to local control of the economy led Americans to sever ties with England. Parliament's tendency to favor England in costs and benefits, coupled with taxation abuses, sparked colonial outrage and convinced them to break away, forming a new country.

2- The Attitude OF Britain :-

The British believed that America was their colony and the colonies being English natives were there to serve their mother country, for that purpose the government in the colonies was brought under Royal Control. Virginia was made royal colony in 1624, New Hampshire in 1679, Plymouth in 1684, New York in 1685, New Jersey in 1702, North and South Carolina in 1729, and Georgia in 1752.

British appointed government, military commanders in the colonies. Governors had vast powers, King could veto laws, Privy Council decided constitutional matters. Imperial control vise to exploit colonies.

Colonies like Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Carolina gained financial control (1703-1750). Progress towards self-government as assemblies and committees acted independently. Informal committees in colonies like Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and North Carolina took control. Americans wanted self-government. There were contest between imperialism and colonial home rule.

3- Mercantilism / Mercantilist Policies :-

The principles of British Supremacy and mercantilism was very much insisted upon in England. The policies emphasized accumulating wealth, primarily gold and silver, by promoting exports and limiting imports. Mercantilist nations aimed to achieve a favorable balance of trade, where the value of exports exceeded that of imports.

Governments imposed tariffs and trade restrictions to protect domestic industries, while providing subsidies and monopolies to encourage exports. They had forbidden the trade to be carried out in foreign vessels and ships. They maximized the use of resources in colonies. They had put a lot of taxes.

Mercantilist policies implemented by Britain in America were as follow:

1. Navigation Act 1651 :-

The Navigation Act of 1651 provided that all goods entering England must be carried in ships owned or manned by British Subjects. This

adversely effected the Dutch interest.

ii. Enumerated Commodities Act 1660 :-

This act provided that English This act was passed by the English Parliament during the period of the Navigation Acts. This act specified that colonial goods such as tobacco, sugar, indigo, ginger, and other plantation crops could only be exported to England or other English colonies. This act aim was to promote English shipping and control colonial trade by allowing specific goods to be sold only to English merchants.

iii. The Staple Act 1663 :-

This law was required all colonial goods to be shipped to England on English ships before ~~was~~ re-exported to other countries after the payment of duty. The Staple Act specifically aimed to control the export of certain colonial products, such as ~~to~~ tobacco and sugar, by ensuring that they first passed through England.

iv. The Duty Act 1673 :-

The ~~duty~~ Duty Act of 1673, or the Plantation Duty Act, imposed taxes on colonial products like tobacco and sugar, aiming to regulate trade and generate ~~an~~ revenue for Eg England or to enforced all of the earlier Acts through Customs Collectors. Enforced by the British govt, it sparked resistance in American colonies, escalating tensions

that led to the American Revolution.

v- The Enforcement Act 1696 :-

The Enforcement Act of 1696 also known as the Trade and Navigation Act. This Act provided stringent measures to check smuggling and this necessitated registration of all colonial ships. The Act also authorized Customs Officials to search ships and warehouses and to seize unlawful goods. The colonists regarded all these measures to be against their interest and resented them.

vi- The Woolen Act 1699 :-

The Woolen Act of 1699 restricted American colonies from exporting woolen goods anywhere except England or other English colonies. It aimed to safeguard the English woolen industry by channeling raw wool from colonies to England for production, limited colonies' economic opportunity and trade autonomy. This regulation fueled colonial discontent with British economic policies.

vii- The Hat Act 1732 :-

The Hat Act of 1732, a British law, restricted American colonists from exporting hats or trading them between colonies. It was part of British regulations controlling colonial trade, limiting production and sales within the British Empire. Colonists resisted, seeing it as an economic freedom violation.

ix. The Molasses Act 1733 :-

The Molasses Act of 1733 was a law passed by the Parliament of Great Britain to impose a tax on molasses and to stop the importation of French West Indian Molasses into the English Colonies.

The colonists were unhappy because they felt that England was hitting colonial trade for the sake of her selfish interests. Till 1758 the measures were not enforced strictly and the colonists did not feel its pinch. However, once the measures were strictly enforced, the colonists started detesting the measures.

ix. The Iron Act 1750 :-

The Iron Act 1750, the restriction on manufacture of certain items in American colonies such as woollen goods, belts, iron forges and mills, and other luxury items. The law provided that these goods must be imported from Britain. Hence the Woollen Act, the Hat Act, and the Iron Act were bound to cause some resentment among the colonists.

Grenville Policies :-

The French-Indian war left a heavy financial burden on the Britishers. The British government resumed mercantilist policies to fill the empty government coffers and the treasury and for that purpose, the British government resorted to new taxes which were greatly resented by the colonists.

i. The Crown's Proclamation 1763 :-

In April, 1763, George Grenville became the Prime Minister of England and issued the Crown's Proclamation with a view to conciliate the Indians, which greatly irritated the colonists. Though the chief objective of the Proclamation was to win over the Indians and discourage Pontiac's War, but it prevented westward settlement of the colonists.

OR

To reconcile with the Indians, win them over and discourage Pontiac's wars and not to support any westward expansion by the colonists. This infuriated the Americans who were the worst of Native Indians' foes.

ii. The Declaratory Act 1766 :-

The British Parliament passed another Act known as Declaratory Act. The object of the ~~Act~~ Act was to assert that the British Crown and parliament will have full power and authority to make laws for the American colonies.

iii. The Quartering Act 1765 :-

The Quartering Act 1765 provided for the quartering of British troops in the American colonies in case of non-availability of barracks, American citizens will provide shelter and ration to the British troops. The burden of supporting the British soldiers was shifted from England to the colonies.

iv. The Stamp Act 1765 :-

The Act was passed in 1765 to raise revenue from all the imported documents; newspapers, pamphlets, diplomas, marriage certificates, almanac, license, and etc. All these were to bear stamp showing that a tax on them had been paid.

Setback Faced By Britain over Grenville Policies :-

- 1- Civilians, lawyers, students, business owners, ministers protested fiercely.
- 2- Nine colonies sent delegates to New York and the Congress passed Declaration of rights and grievances.
- 3- Sons of Liberty formed in New York. It was a party and working voluntarily for the American Revolution and forced civilians to stop stamp use, forced stamp masters to resign, and pulled down King's posters and images.
- 4- The Government gave in and repealed the Act.

• New Govt New Policies :-

- After that the new Government introduced new policies called the Townshend Act {1767-1768} new import duties were on paper, glass, tobacco, tea paint and indigo etc.

i- Tea Act and Boston Tea Party 1773 :-

By early 1773 the East India Company was on the verge of bankruptcy. The Company was looking for relief.

The Tea Act was passed which provided full revision of all import duties on tea to England. Monopoly of trade was given to the company. The company could undersell tea and ~~thus~~ the traders were thus handicapped. In Philadelphia the Act was condemned by merchants who went over to the Radicals.

Ships carrying consignment from England arrived in New York and Philadelphia but were forced to return to Massachusetts. The governor insisted on unloading despite the public demand to send the ships back. In protest, Sons of Liberty disguised as Indians threw \$15,000 worth of tea overboard in Boston Harbor, sparking a crisis.

ii- The Intolerable Act 1774 :-

The British government retaliated with closure of Boston Port and annulment of Royal Charter 1691 of Massachusetts until 15,000 dollars were paid back for the tea destroyed. George Washington called it "Murder Act" and Henry Lee called it a wicked system to destroy the American liberty.

The First Continental Congress 1774 :-

- All the colonies united to support Massachusetts. 56 delegates from all the colonies except Georgia came into Philadelphia. Peyton Randolph was elected as the President.
- The Congress passed a resolution known as 'Declaration of Rights and Grievances', which were demanding that the people of Massachusetts form government, collect

tax, form militia and sanction be placed on British/ Britain.

- A band of militia men broke into Fort Mifflin and Mifflin in Portsmouth and carried away arms and gun powder by over-powering the small garrison force. This incident led to the Parliamentary declaration that colony of Massachusetts was rebellious. This all meant that war was at hand and only an excuse was needed to spark the flame.

Second Continental Congress 1775 :-

- The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775. They had two tasks: to review the possible changes made by the British and to prepare for the war. Massachusetts seized Fort Ticonderoga and occupied The Crown Point St. Johns. They declared war upon the British, and George Washington was Commander in Chief.
- "... We have petitioned, remonstrated, prostrated at the feet of the throne and all in vain: We must fight...." The Declaration of Independence was approved on the fourth day of July, 1776!

4- The Great Awakening and Enlightenment :-

First came the era of European enlightenment which later on trickled down to America to inspire the American enlightenment.

2- The Scientific Enlightenment :-

The first phase of scientific revolution was beginning a century

century earlier and transformed the way people looked at the problems in the realms of science and public affairs. These scientists included Nicolaus, Copernicus, Kepler, Isaac Newton, Galileo, etc.

2- Enlightenment in The Philosophical and Political Domain :

The knowledge and ideas of the French, Scottish, English, German and Swiss, flew from European coffee houses, newspapers, literary salons and went on to inspire the Americans. Among the greatest and most celebrated European thinkers were :

i- John Locke [English 1632-1704] :-

John Locke known as the father of liberalism. His most famous work included "The Two Treatise of Government". He expressed his views against monarchies and stated that a ruler derives his power and authority through the consent of the government. The natural rights of a human included life, liberty and property. If a government fails, "the people have a right to overthrow it."

ii- Voltaire [French 1694-1778] :-

Among many things that he advocated, he stressed the most on freedom of religion, speech and civil liberties.

iii- Rousseau [French 1712-1778] :-

"... Man is

born free yet he is in chains every where. Those who think themselves the masters of others, are in fact greater slaves than they ...". He was a great philosopher. His notable work included "A Discourse On Inequality" and "The Social Contract". He stated that the general will of the people as a whole guaranteed not being subjugated by others. He inspired the French Revolution to a certain extent.

iv- David Hume {Scottish 1711-1776}:-

David Hume was a philosopher, an essayist and a historian. He was critical of British policies towards America and advocated American independence. He once wrote "... Our union with the Americans... in the nature of things, cannot long subsist ...".

v- Immanuel Kant {German 1724-1804}:-

In his essay "what is enlightenment?", Kant summed up the era's motto in the following terms " ... Dare to know! Have the courage to use your own reason ...".

The American Enlightenment at Home

Inspired by The European Enlightenment:

The ideals engendered by the European Enlightenment, inspired by the American Enlightenment. The Americans took those European ideals and shaped them through American experience generating a new kind of politics.

i- In Religious Domain :-

To bring religious, spiritual and moral revival in the colonies. The Wesley Brothers, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards and Roger Williams came forward. Roger Williams famously stated that the church and state should be separated from each other.

ii- In Social and Political Domain :-

Among the political leaders and social activists who stood up for revolutionizing the American society and politics included: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Paine, etc.

The European intellectual revival, enlightenment, and wisdom laid the ground-work for the American Revolution. Without these influences, it's hard to understand how the world might have diverged. These ideas served as the foundation for a society centered on the principles of freedom, democracy, the pursuit of happiness, as well as life, liberty and property, which remain fundamental aspects of American society today.