

Question. 2

The American Revolution was the child of Enlightenment. Comment.

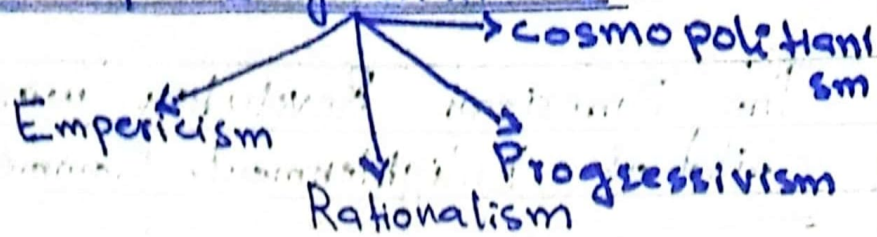
1. Introduction:

Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in Eighteenth century that promoted reason and intellect over fixed knowledge. Enlightenment Philosophers like Montesquieu, John Locke, Thomas Paine, Thomas Hobbes and Benjamin Franklin further motivated the movement. British colonies also came under the influence of this spring, which ultimately resulted into revolution there and caused the independence of America.

2. What is Enlightenment?

The Enlightenment was an intellectual and cultural movement that emphasised reason over superstition and science over blind. This movement questioned accepted knowledge and spread new ideas about openness, investigation, and religious tolerance through Europe and America. It is considered a major turning point in western civilization, an age of light replacing an age of darkness.

3. Ideas of Enlightenment:



- Rationalism: A sharp turn away from knowledge bounded to church and emphasized reason and logic.
- Empiricism: Idea that knowledge comes from experience and observation of world.
- Progressivism: Belief that through man can get unlimited power and progress.
- Cosmopolitanism: view that all humans are universal community and not be ruled through reason, not prejudice.

4. Thinkers who structured Enlightenment and their rationale:

a) Montesquieu's Separation of Power Theory:

Montesquieu in his book 'The Spirit of Laws' wrote that every-thing is ruled through certain unchanging laws. And, governments should separate judiciary, legislative, and executive branches to keep check and balance in system.

b) Jean-Jacques Rousseau's views:

Rousseau in his book 'The Social Contract' states that government should work in a way that protects the rights of lives of people.

'Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains'. - Rousseau

d) Philosophical ideas of John Locke:

John Locke is famous for his philosophical views and political thoughts. He says, "The power of any king or government is derived from people who contract to obey their rules in exchange for law and security. Individuals have a natural right to hold property and this can never be taken from them without their consent. If a ruler infringes the terms of contract that empowers him or seizes property without consent, the people can resist and depose him."

e) Thomas Hobbes' Political Thoughts:

Hobbes' vision for world is amazing. He says that it is uncertain that people live in constant peace without conflict and total freedom of everyone is rejected by him. He further says people should obey someone in power and states should establish and maintain social contract.

Government is necessary not because man is naturally bad --- but because man is by nature more individualistic than social." - Thomas Hobbes.

f) 'Common Sense' by Thomas Paine:

Thomas Paine in his Pamphlet 'Common Sense' adopted the tenets of reason, demonstrating that America is product of Enlightenment. He compares America with a child and England with a mother. He says ^{that} infants are first fed on milk, but as they grew they are not kept away from meat.

g) Benjamin Franklin: A Founding Father of U.S.A.

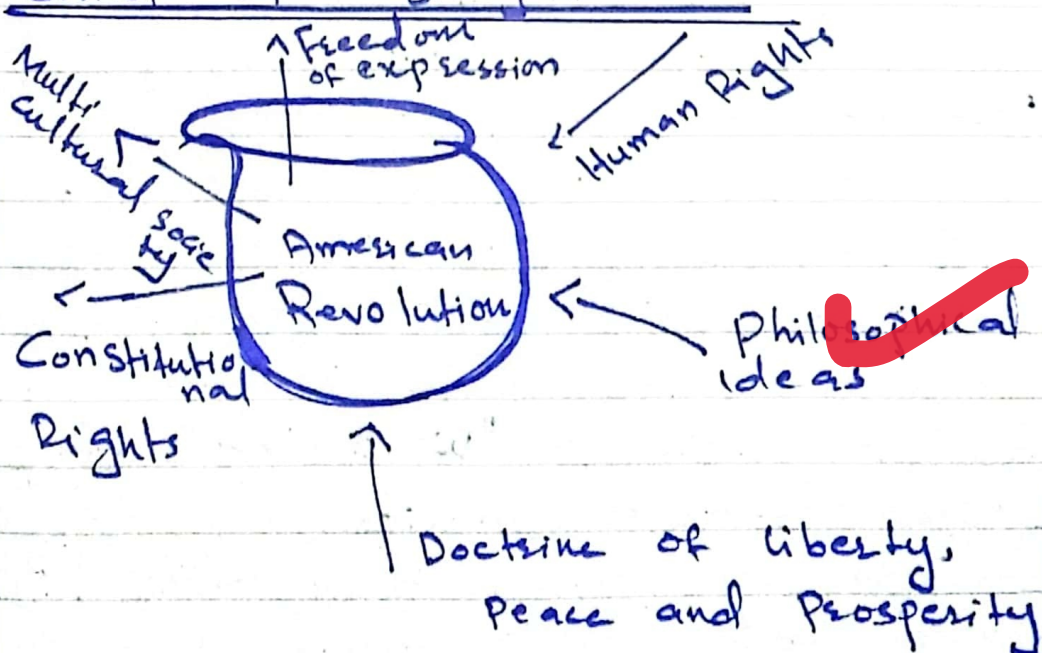
Benjamin Franklin is one of the most prominent founding fathers of America. He contributed in making U.S. constitution and reflected enlightenment principles. He embraced science, reason, knowledge and human rights and did not favour the religious doctrine taught by church. Rather, he aligned with the ideas of morality, good man and human rights.

h) Importance of English Documents in paving way for American Revolution:

English political itself gave the idea of democracy and revolt to its colonies. In 1215, ~~MAGNA~~ CARTA limited king's role, established constitutional monarchy and gave power to legislative assemblies. Under this doctrine human rights were protected and masses' say was respected in government function. Keeping in view the tenets of this doctrine colonies rejected king's monopoly.

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5.

American Revolution as a child of Enlightenment



America won the war from Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson wrote the declaration of independence stated that America had won the revolution from Great Britain and that they gained their independence. They now had freedom to own their country and rule it.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are ^{created} equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and pursuit of Happiness. ... That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers ..."

- Declaration of independence of U.S.A

↳ The ideals of freedom discussed in declaration are the main tenets of Enlightenment. This demonstrates that Enlightenment has significant impact on American revolution. The Constitution of U.S.A starts with "We the People of United States of America". This also highlights the concept of equality which was greatly preached by

Enlightenment philosophers Montesquieu mainly influenced the separation of powers. Hobbes impacted individuals obeying one in power, and Rousseau influenced the social contract. The United States of America turned to all philosophers, and these English Enlightenment perspectives helped build "The Nation of The Nations".

6.

Conclusion:

U.S.A. was a British colony till 1776. It had been under British acts and laws, and economic and legal rights of its people. People were required to stay loyal to the crown. But, the emerging views of Enlightenment opened the eyes of people and incited a yearning for their legal, political, and social rights. Enlightenment ideas like equality, separation of power, government of powerful and liberty shaped American revolution. These ideas further helped to generate govern its newly established government.

Concise your conclusion
You didn't quite merge the analysis. Understand the question's statement. You need to form arguments that would connect enlightenment and revolution. You have got potential. Just practice more. Good luck!