

To educate is to

liberate

OUTLINE

I. Introduction

II. How education liberates people?

1. Education makes people more aware of their rights and their role in state affairs.
2. Education enables people to fight against oppression.
3. Education is a mobilizing force that drives people to liberty.

III. How intellectuals and individuals have used education to liberate people?

1. Nelson Mandela educated people and enabled them to fight against apartheid.
2. The Social Contract by Rousseau laid down the foundation of liberty and constitutionalism.

3. Napoleon's educational reforms

in Europe led to the revolutions of 1848, and a demand for liberty.

4. Martin Luther King educated people to question the power of Church and its role in state affairs.

IV. What role has education played in liberating countries?

1. In Britain education on liberty led to the decline of monarchy and rise of parliamentary sovereignty.

2. The fall of Tsar and Russian Revolution were a consequence of communist education that liberated people.

3. Pakistan was created as a result of education on liberty, rights and freedom.

V. How education liberated women?

1. Education led to suffragist movement and a demand for rights within women.

i. Inspired by writings of Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Sojourner Truth.

VI. How is education used as a tool to suppress movements for liberation?

1. Education has been used to suppress movements in Indian Subcontinent by through Christian missionaries.

i- Thomas Macaulay's 'Minutes on Education'

2. Education was used to erase the history of native American Indians by forcefully enrolling children in Christian missionaries.

VII. What can the world learn from this adage?

1. Education is important to fight against oppression.

2. To liberate oneself, one must educate themselves and the next generation.

VIII. Conclusion

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One cold night, thousands of people marched to the Bastille with a burning rage and fire in their eyes. The loud stamping of the feet and the chants of freedom could be heard from miles away. The people of France were now wide awake. They were demanding rights that used to be unfathomable. They wanted their country back. They wanted liberty. This fire of freedom was ignited by multiple social and political factors, but one man played a significant role. Jean Jacques Rousseau told them to break the chains and demand a social contract. They were now educated about a way out from this slavery.

How can a single philosopher bring about a revolution? What makes people collectively united for the same cause? What causes people to take up arms against a king who claims to be the state? Where do people find the courage to break chains? It is education that teaches them the pathway to liberty. Education made people rise against oppression, fight against authoritarianism, question the role of religion in state, and demand constitutional rights. Many intellectuals played their part in guiding people to liberty. Education has liberated people, countries, and oppressed classes by giving them a voice and a pathway to liberty, equality, and freedom against oppression.

Education liberates people by making them aware of their rights. People trapped in a tunnel, accept the darkness as their reality. Education makes them see the light at the end of the tunnel and guides them to it. It tells people that they have the power, they have a voice, and they have rights. It teaches them to fight against oppression. Oppressed classes do not at times realize that they are oppressed. They tend to accept the status quo. It is education that makes them see the other side of coin and encourages them to cross the boundaries drawn to keep them oppressed. Education has liberated women and slaves by teaching them about their rights.

With industrial revolution came modernization. The invention of printing press changed the world in multiple ways. People could now express their opinions and use their voice. The rising middle class made use of this printing press to float questions about their condition. These questions led to solutions. The wide dissemination of this knowledge educated the masses. The masses could now

see things in a different light. This light was brought to them by education.

Education painted a picture of liberty and how it would look like. This picture was presented to the people and it mobilized them. Education is a driving force, a force of mobilization with immense power. It has the power to topple regimes and take over countries. Education liberates people by using this force of mobilization.

Having established the ways in which education liberates people, this essay will now look into the role of individuals and intellectuals in educating masses. Nelson Mandela is a name that made a mark on this world by bringing about liberation of a country, singlehandedly. In South Africa, the apartheid regime was oppressing the black community by racial segregation and violence against them. Nelson Mandela took upon himself to walk the **'the long walk to Freedom'**. He did so by educating his people. His long walk included highs and lows and periods of incarceration, but the objective remained prime. People flocked under him and he marched them to liberty. It was his power of words, his speeches, his manner

of educating people that made him a messiah in South Africa. The people there were liberated from oppression because of Mandela's education.

In France, the revolution of 1789 was led by the middle class and the third estate against Louis XIV. The masses were enlightened about their rights by the philosopher, Jean Jacques Rousseau. The father of conservatism, **Edmund Burke** criticizes Rousseau for the bloodshed that followed the revolution. **Rousseau** told people that they must break the shackles of slavery. His book '**The Social Contract**' educated people and laid down the foundation of constitutionalism. He educated people about their power, their rights and their role in the state. This education created a vigour of revolution. Education provides a solution in the form of liberty. It provides a way out from slavery. In this way, Rousseau educated people to liberate them.

However, the French revolution led to the reign of terror, which was more oppressive and violent. **Napoleon** took

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the reign of power in Europe and changed its map. Napoleonic empire united Europe under one banner. He introduced educational reforms that included **Lycees, universities,** and institutions that were available to the masses. The middle class was now educated and armed with knowledge. These educational reforms were revolutionary in Europe as they led to the **Revolutions of 1848** all across the continent. People were demanding liberty, more rights, and freedom from monarchy. This education had taught them the advantages of liberty and it eventually led to the overthrow of monarchy in Europe.

People found their way to political liberty through education and intellectuals, but the shackles of religion ~~was~~ ^{were} still binding them. The religious elite included the Pope and clergy. They owned all the lands and were exempt from taxes. All the power resided in the institution of Church and the Pope was supreme. In times when any word against the Church was a crime, **Martin Luther King** educated people about the follies of Church. He told people that the Church exploited its power and religion to make laws that oppresses them. It was

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his education that made people question the authority of Church and the role of religion in state. This education led to the divorce of religion and state and led to the rise of secularism. **Machiavelli**, a proponent of secularism taught people the freedom to practice religion and how it has no place in state affairs. His teachings led to the fall of Holy Roman Empire in Italy and the rise of constitutionalism. Education liberated people from the chains of religious classes and elite that exploited their authority.

Having studied the role of intellectuals in educating people towards political and religious liberty, this essay will now dwell into the ways in which countries were liberated through education. **John Stuart Mill's** book '**On Liberty**' played a significant role in declining the power of monarchy in Britain. Britain had been a monarchy for centuries and the monarch was hailed and followed. However, education taught people about liberty and their role in state affairs. This education led to **Civil War and Glorious Revolution**

in Britain. The people fought to have a parliament that was representative and sovereign. Eventually, the power of monarch declined and the monarch became a titular head. Britain gained a parliament that was elected by them, giving the power back to the people. They gained this liberty through the educated masses that was aware of its rights and role in the state.

Similarly, the fall of Tsar of Russia and Russia Revolution of 1917 were a consequence of Communist education. This revolution was based on the Communist ideology presented by Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Trotsky. They taught people about the ways they were oppressed and subjugated in the state. It was this Communist education that mobilized the labour against the owners, the peasants against their feudal lords, and the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. Communist education unveiled the oppressors and their methods of oppressing people through work. This education mobilized masses to lead from the front as they overthrew the monarchy and gained liberty.

In the formation of Pakistan, education played a vital role in gaining liberty from the British rule. **Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Allama Iqbal** realized the importance of education to liberate people. They believed it was the cornerstone of liberty. They began educating people through their writings and institutions. Allama Iqbal's poetry created a hunger for liberty in people, it reminded them of their glorious past, and provided a pathway to future. Education takes years to instill in people the vigour for liberty. It took decades for Indian Muslims living in the subcontinent to realize that there is a way out from this condition. Education enlightened them and enabled them to demand a separate homeland and liberty.

Education has not only liberated people from monarchs, feudal lords, and religious elite, it has also liberated women from patriarchy. Education taught women the ways in which they were being kept out of public spheres. Leading from the front in creating this realization were **Jane Austen**,

Mary Wollstonecraft, Sojourner Truth and Cady Stanton. They played a significant role in educating ^{women} people about their rights. They taught women that they were being kept out of power corridors by denying them the right to vote. Women were denied inheritance, keeping them economically subjugated to men. Education created a demand for liberation and led to **Suffragist Movement**. It was education that liberated women and continues to do so.

After having dwelled upon the ways in which education has liberated people, this essay will now look into the ways in which education has been used inversely to subjugate people, rather than liberate them. **Edward Said's theory of Orientalism** brings into light the civilizing mission adopted by the British to educate the ignorant, barbaric masses of India. Education was their main tool in this civilizing mission.

Thomas Macaulay gave his **Minutes on Education** in which he presented a plan to send British missionaries into India that ~~is~~ will impart education of

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of Christianity. This was a methodology adopted by the British to subjugate Indians by teaching them Christianity. In this way they could keep a check on revolutions and struggles for liberty. Similarly, in the United States, native Indian Americans were forcefully enrolled into Christian missionaries to erase their history. In this way, education has been used as a tool to subjugate revolutions and demands for liberty. This is the power that education holds, it can be used as a mobilizing force to liberate people, and a tool to silence liberations.

This essay will now look into the ways in which this adage can be used as a lesson. Since education ~~is a~~ makes people aware of their rights, it should be used against oppressors in the contemporary world. Rather than taking to the streets, education should be employed to teach people about their power of voice. People should realize that the first step in freedom from feudalism, oppressive regimes and autocrats is to educate their next generation.

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Education has over the years, brought down kingdoms, brought monarchs to their heels, it has opened new avenues for women, and has given a voice to the oppressed. Education has changed the face of earth by bringing about revolutions that liberated people. Education made people break free from their chains, and the shackles of slavery. Without education people would have been at the lowest rung of political, social, and economic hierarchy, subjugated by the kings, the nobles, the clergy and the feudal lords. Education is the sword that fights oppression and liberates people.