

Q What was the continental system? Why did Napoleon tried to enforce it after 1806? Why did he fail? Explain.

### Synopsis:

- (1) Introduction
- (2) What was continental system?
  - a) Purpose of continental system
- (3) Reasons of Enforcement of the continental system after 1806
  - a) Peace treaty of Britain with France
  - b) War between Elephant and whales
- (4) Stages of Continental system
  - a) The Berlin Decree 1806
  - b) The Milan Decree 1807
  - c) The Fountain blue Decree 1810
- (5) Reasons of Failure of The continental system
  - a) Portugal War 1806
  - b) War with Pop 1807
  - c) Holland invasion 1808-1809
  - d) The Russian war 1812
- (6) Conclusion

## Introduction:

The continental system was a warfare (economic) between France and Britain. Napoleon said about Britain 'they are the shopkeepers and the trade was playing the pivotal role in Britain's growth. Napoleon wanted to make Britain realize that France was a superpower and had a great land army which can stop the trade to British. So, to avoid such disastrous effects, Britain will sign peace treaty. Despite all these tactics, Britain retaliated by using her naval forces, she stopped all the goods from other countries to Europe. After the Trafalgar war, Britain became the Great Naval force. As a result of continental system, both the countries faced drastic effects on their economy but France went to disastrous economic condition.

## What was the continental system?

Continental system was the economic warfare between Britain and France to which was initiated by France to

sign the peace treaty with Britain. All the trade was seized from allies of France to Britain. Resultantly, Britain responded by using her naval force to seized all the goods to Europe which led to famine in Europe.

### Purpose of continental system:

Napoleon started the imposition of the continental system by persuading the allies to seize the trade to Britain. The purpose of Napoleon was to sign a peace treaty with Britain because there was a great rivalry between France and Britain. By stopping the trade, would badly impact the British economy which led to the peace agreement demand from Britain.

### Reasons of Enforcement of Continental System after 1806:

There were following reasons of enforcement

- of continental system, after 1806.
- ◆ Napoleon had become the most powerful leader of France by stabilizing its economy by producing more opportunities to excel and he also opened higher school at the local level. He established the University of France which was the great step towards education.
  - ◆ The rivalry between France and Britain continued so, Napoleon wanted Britain to come to its knees and sign the peace treaty with France.

### Peace treaty with Britain:

- ◆ The continental system was solely introduced to sign the peace treaty with Britain. Napoleon persuaded all the allies to seize the trading goods to Britain.
- ◆ Britain was a great naval force and it stopped the trading goods from all allies or neutral countries and did not reach to Europe.

b) Was between Elephant and whales:

The trade war was historically known as the war between Elephant and whales because France was the great land army and Britain because the biggest Naval army after Taraplaghr was. So, the economic war was between two giants, resultantly, people were suffering due to the shortage of the good which had been exported.

Stages of the Continental system:

Napoleon was fighting this economic war in stages to pressurize the British.

a) The Berlin Decree 1806:

Napoleon aligned with allies and convince (an) them to seize all the British goods and not to reach in Europe.

In 1806, the Berlin Decree included to stop all the products from Britain would be seized by every ally of France.

### b) The Milan Decree 1807:

After The Berlin Decree, Napoleon took another extreme step to hit Britain badly was to seize all the goods through the neutral countries were coming.

In this way, he took part in wars against the neutral countries who refuse to accept Napoleon's order.

### c) The Fountain Blue Decree 1810:

Another extreme decision was taken by Napoleon was to burn all the goods of Britain. This was the extreme to hit British economy and tried to get to knees but he failed because Britain retaliated in severe way rather than to sign any peace treaty.

### British Reaction:

After all the disastrous steps taken by Napoleon, Britain reacted and made

this decision of Napoleon worst for his country's economy.

### a) Order in Council:

Britain seized all the goods coming from allies and neutral countries to Europe. He started war against Denmark which was a neutral country but did not allow the trade pass through water.

Britain was great naval so he succeeded to stop the trade through which impacted the France economy badly. People of not <sup>only</sup> France but Europe suffered a lot because the basic necessities were exports so they faced great famine which became one of the basic reason of Napoleon's unpopularity.

### • Reasons of Failure of the Continental System:

#### a) Portugal war 1806:

Portugal refused to seize the trade of Britain because of the people who were suffering. Napoleon started war against

Portugal by signing a treaty with Spain and took Spain in Spain to attack Portugal.

### b) War with Pop 1807:

The Roman Pop also refused Napoleon and started trade with Britain again. Resultantly Napoleon fought against him and took him out of the country. Rome was a country of Catholic people, after seeing the treatment of Napoleon with Pop they started disliking Napoleon and he became unpopular.

### c) Holland invasion 1808-1809:

In Holland brother of Napoleon was head, but when he saw the situation of economy getting worse due to boycott of British goods, he started trade with Britain. As a result Napoleon stepped him down and merged Holland with France.

### d) The Russian war 1812:

Napoleon fought a war against Russia.

because the King Czar Alexander started doing trade with Britain. Napoleon along with six lak army attacked Russia but after few months winter season came in. The soldiers were not equipped with the things to protect in that harsh season. As a result, many soldiers died because of the harsh winter season and famine. Napoleon was defeated and had to come back to France with 20,000 soldiers.

### Conclusion:

Napoleon became so popular in Europe due to his progressive and economy inclined policies but Britain was not ready to sign peace treaty with her because (he was) there always been a great rivalry between these countries. So, Napoleon undermined the capability of sea power of Britain and started economic war with her by seizing all the goods from allies or neutral countries. In retaliation Britain stopped all goods to Europe which led to famine in Europe and it became the great reason of unpopularity.

of Napoleon. A It was the great setback for France and Europe as a whole. So, the it was the failure of continental system of Napoleon.