

What were the effects of Napoleon's home policy on French Society?

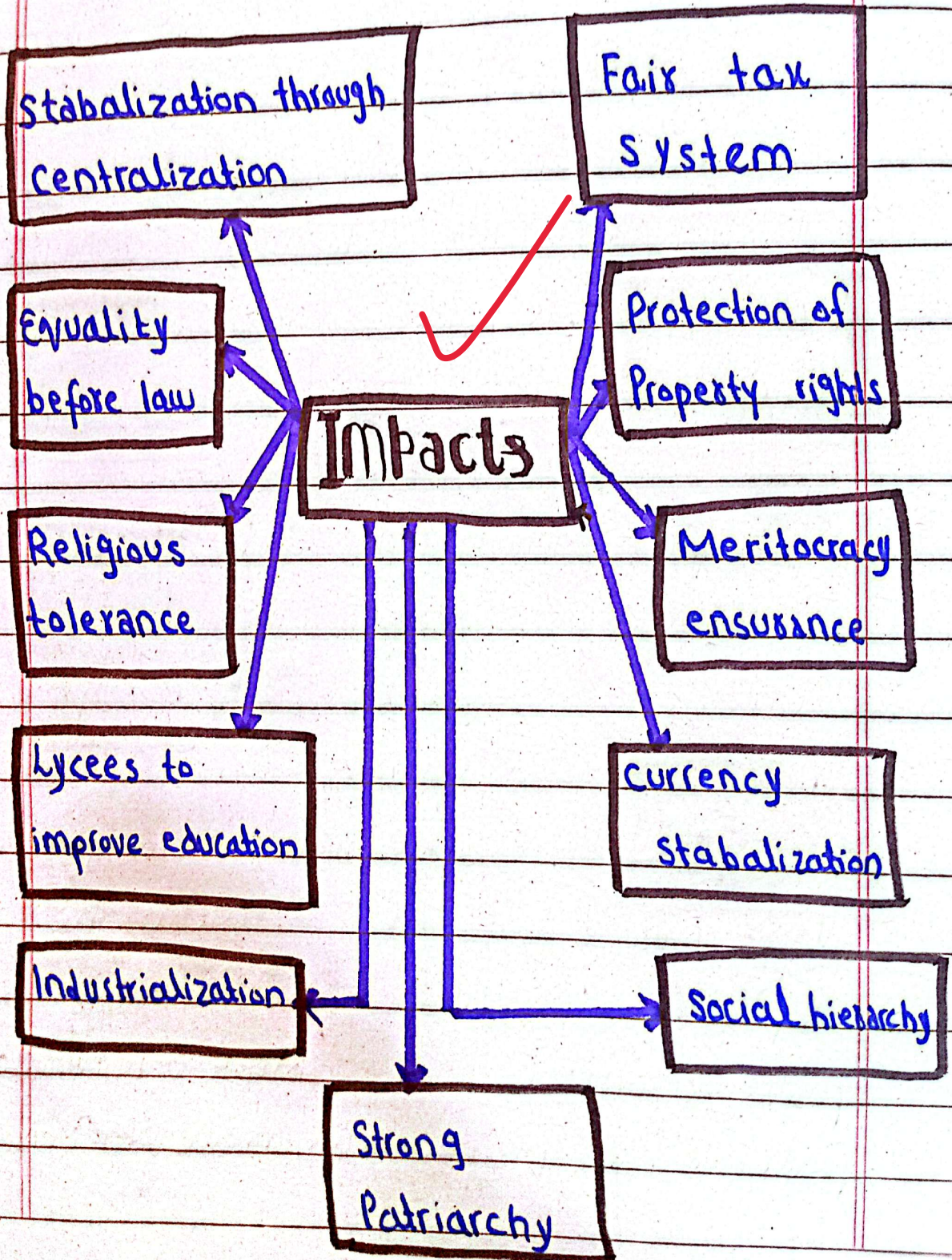
Give numbering to headings and subheadings.

Introduction:

Napoleon's home policy was mixture of both revolutionary ideas and monarchy. It brings stability after chaos of revolution through strong centralization and authoritarianism. Fairer tax system, equality before law, protection of property rights, religious tolerance, meritocracy, Lycees, currency stabilization through the bank of France, industrialization, and social hierarchy through the honor of legion were the impacts of Napoleon's home policy. However, his policies reinforced patriarchy, promoting male dominance.

Effects of Napoleon's home policy on French society:

Following are the significant impacts of Napoleon's home policy on French society.



i) Stabilization after chaos of revolution through centralization

There was widespread chaos due to revolution. Napoleon stabilize the French society through the strong centralization of government. He divided the state into prefects and sub-prefects for efficient administration. This centralization although authoritarian in nature helps to manage society effectively.

ii) Fair tax reforms and prosperity in French society:

In order to strengthen his position, Napoleon adopted some of the ideas of revolution like fair tax reforms. These reform largely pleased the middle class and peasants of French society as they

had suffered from the harsh direct and indirect taxes during the monarchy. These tax reforms made the French society prosperous socially and economically.

iii) The Code Napoleon - Equality before law:

Uniformity of law, less confusion

The Code Napoleon was the significant achievement of Napoleon. Everyone became clear of their position in French society. Equality before law was introduced. This step heavily influenced the French society. Speedy trial before the jury was ensured. Justice was now in access of middle and poor class of the France.

iv) Protection of property rights and land distribution to peasants:

Under the Code Napoleon, protection of property rights of all the individuals were ensured. Napoleon continued the revolutionary idea of distribution of land to peasants to gain support of the peasants. This improved the condition of peasants in society.

v) The Concordat (1801)-Religious tolerance:

Napoleon reconcile with the church through the concordat of 1801. The Christianity was accepted as religion of the majority. This promoted religious tolerance in the

French society. Napoleon was well aware of the fact that peasants were in support of church. So, in order to strengthen his position he made alliance with popes but kept the religion under state control.

Development of civil infrastructure

vi) Meritocracy-Opportunities for Commoners to rise in ranks:

Napoleon introduced "Career open to talent" policy. This opened opportunities for the commoners to rise in the higher ranks on the basis of merit instead of their social and economic background.

✓ Murat, for example, was the son of innkeeper. This merit-based recruitment resulted into skilled labor force hirings.

vii) Educational reforms through Lycees :

Napoleon introduced Lycees educational system under the state control to reforms the educational system. He also established university of France. Besides the scientific education, the loyalty toward state and military was taught in the school. This produced loyalist and passionate soldiers.

viii) Currency stabilization through the establishment of bank of France:

Napoleon pleased the merchant class of France by stabilizing the currency through the establishment of bank of France. This

helped the trading class to increase their trade with the other countries. Also the living standards of the people of France improved due to better economic conditions.

ix) Promoting industrialization to increase production:

One of the policies of Napoleon was to boost the industrial sector of France. He imposed high tariffs on the imports of goods to protect the local industry of France. This step resulted into the expansion of industrial sector. Also the inflation rate decreased due to increased productivity.

v) Social hierarchy through the introduction of Legion of Honor 1802:

Napoleon introduced Legion of Honor to reward the soldiers on basis of their services. As he believed that "Men are led by toys". This resulted into the hierarchy system.

Emergence of national character

xi) Strong patriarchal system blocking the ways of Women empowerment:

In Napoleon's view, women are inferior to man. So, in his code Napoleon he introduced strong patriarchal system with man as superior in the family decision-making. This

resulted into women oppression.
As they became dependent
on the man for property
rights or to work outside
the home.

Conclusion:

Although the Napoleon's
home policy was authoritarian
in nature, but it laid
some positive impacts
on the French society. The
France became stable
economically, politically
and socially.