

Q.NO.1.

I. INTRODUCTION:-

There were myriad of socio-political and economic factors that caused the french revolution. The country was deep in debt, along with bad harvest that worsened the already moribund economy. The socio-political factors also played the major role. The society was divided into 3 states, with 3rd state facing large discrimination. The government was inefficient. The revolution has been successful in eliminating the conditions that existed before it. However, when Napoleon & rise to power, a shift in goals has been observed. from a change in internal structure of france to change in french empire, expanding it's borders. Napoleon brought complete shift in goals of France.

II. Causes of French revolution:



Paris is considered to be a place of origin of French Revolution. There were many different factors that lead to French revolution as discussed below:

II.a. Economic factors that caused French revolution:

II.a.i) Bad harvest :-

The economic conditions were bleak in 1780s. There were shortages of food, which was resulting in widespread hunger. The bad harvest of 1788-1789 exacerbated the economic condition. More and more people were joining the revolution resolutely.

II.a.ii) Increase in consumer price index :-

The consumer price index increased despite the increasing poverty. **CPI increased by 65%**, while the people were deep in crisis, facing abject poverty.

II.a.iii) Increasing debt :-

French government had accumulated large amount of debts. **60% of Expenditure is spent on debt servicing.** The French involvement in American war added more debt on government. The people were suffering at home, whereas government was spending for cause of other state. The expenditure of Versailles court was also quite notorious. These factors resulted in people rising in

rebellion against government.

II.b. Role of Socio-political factors in driving french revolution:

II.b.i) Ruthless tax system:

The tax system by french government was unjustifiable. H. Fearcock in his book 'The history of modern europe' tells that the peasantry was paying 8 times more than their fair share whereas nobility was paying 1/8. Tax officials harshly treated peasantry even if they have no means to pay tax. Government imposed tax on people when they needed capital instead of organising and controlling expenditure.

II.b.ii) Unfair justice system:

For peasantry in french kingdom there was no means of getting justice as the judge and lawyer was appointed by nobility. In case of dispute, the decision would be biased. This worsens the already struggling condition of poor people.

II.b.iii) Restricted promotion in army:

The peasantry can't get promoted to rank of commission in the army. Those ranks were reserved for the nobility. However, they were forced to perform military services. People were not able to gain exception from it.

III. Achieved objectives by french Revolution:

III.a. Abolishment of monarchy:

One of the prime objective of french Revolution was the abolishment of monarchy and to end rule of 'divine right of king'. The revolution has achieved complete success in this regard. As P. Kropotkin writes in his book 'The great french revolution'.

"The french revolution brought about the abolishment of serfdom and absolutism"
— P. Kropotkin.

III.b. Establishment of 1st republic of france.

The people of france wanted more rights and recognition. The ideas of John Locke's philosophy laid the foundation. Through people's struggle during revolution, they established the 1st french republic providing people with more political rights through representation in government.

III.c. Economic and social conditions improved:

The factors that drove french revolution got better after the french revolution. Although, some financial issues were being faced after 1st republic of france but conditions and living conditions of people improved overall.

III. Shift in goal after Napoleon's rise to power:

III.a. Republic to Dictatorship:

After the rise of Napoleon, the government structure has shifted from representative system of government to Dictatorship. This shift undo one of the main goal achieved by proponents of revolution but the economic stability resulted in people's consent to it.

III.b. Focus on internal reforms to expansion:

The Napoleon shifted the goal from internal reforms in the empire to expansion of the empire. Although, Napoleon code brought positive changes but people were deprived of their political rights and he focused largely on expanding his empire.

III.c. Nationalism put an end to:

The Napoleon put an end to wave of nationalism and through his actions gave rise to monarchical structure. By conquering territories and putting his family members on throne, he shifted the goal of nationalism to monarchy.

IV. Conclusion: