

**History:CH-3**

**THE MAKING OF A GLOBAL WORLD**

**1. Give two examples of different types of global exchanges which took place in the seventeenth century, choosing one example from Asia and one from the Americas.**

**Solution:**The following are examples of cross-cultural exchanges from Asia and the Americas:

**a.**The Silk Route (Asia): The Silk Route is a good example of cross-cultural trade and connectivity between distant parts of the world. The name ‘Silk Route’ points to the importance of Westbound Chinese silk cargoes along this route.

Trade and cultural exchange always went hand in hand. Early Christian missionaries almost certainly travelled this route to Asia, as did early Muslim preachers a few centuries later.

**b.**Food from the Americas: The food that is part of our staple diet today, like potatoes, soya, groundnuts, maize, tomatoes, chillies, sweet potatoes etc., were not known to our ancestors until the accidental discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus.

These food items only made it to Europe and the rest of the world after the monumental discovery of the new continent.

**2. Explain how the global transfer of disease in the pre-modern world helped in the colonisation of the Americas.**

**Solutions:**The global transfer of disease in the pre-modern world helped in the colonisation of the Americas. The reason was that the native Americans were not immune to the diseases that the European settlers brought with them. The Europeans were, to a certain extent, immune to the effects of diseases like smallpox due to centuries of exposure. However, the native Americans had no such defence against this disease, as they were isolated from diseases native to the old world.

At times, settlers deliberately practised biological warfare on the natives by giving items laced with smallpox germs as ‘gifts of friendship’. The disease was far more effective in wiping out entire tribes and communities without having to resort to firearms.

**3. Write a note to explain the effect of the following:**

1. **The British government’s decision to abolish the Corn Laws.**
2. **The coming of rinderpest to Africa.**
3. **The death of men of working age in Europe because of the World War.**
4. **The Great Depression on the Indian economy.**
5. **The decision of MNCs to relocate production to Asian countries.**

**Solution:**

1. The British government’s decision to abolish the Corn Laws was due to pressure from the landed groups, who were unhappy with the high price of food and the cheap inflow of agricultural products from Australia and America. As a result, many English farmers left their profession and migrated to towns and cities. Some went overseas. This indirectly led to global agriculture and rapid urbanisation, a prerequisite of industrial growth.
2. Rinderpest (a fast-spreading disease of cattle plague) arrived in Africa in the late 1880s. It had a terrifying impact on people’s livelihoods and the local economy. It started in East Africa and soon spread to other parts of the continent. Within five years, it reached the Cape of Good Hope (Africa’s Southernmost tip), by which it had killed 90 % of the cattle population in that part of Africa. It spread through infected cattle imported from British Asia to feed the Italian soldiers invading Eritrea in East Africa. Using this situation to their advantage, colonising nations conquered and subdued Africa by monopolising scarce cattle resources to force Africans into the labour market. The Africans were forced to work for a wage due to the loss of their livelihood because of the effect of Rinderpest.
3. The First World War was the first modern industrial war. It saw the use of machine guns, tanks, aircraft, chemical weapons etc., on a massive scale. To fight such a war, millions of soldiers had to be recruited from around the world and moved to the frontlines on large ships and trains. The scale of death and destruction was unlike any other conflict in the modern era. Most of the killed and maimed were men of working age; the deaths and injuries of these men drastically reduced the able-bodied workforce in Europe. With fewer members within the family, household incomes declined after the war. Thus, women stepped in to do the jobs that were earlier done by men. It increased the role of women and led to a demand for equal status in society. It made the feminist movement even stronger.
4. In the nineteenth century, colonial India had become an exporter of agricultural goods and an importer of manufactures. The impact of the Great Depression on India was felt, especially in the agricultural sector. It was evident that the Indian economy was closely becoming integrated into the global economy. India was a British colony and exported agricultural goods and imported manufactured goods. As international prices crashed, so did the prices in India. Wheat prices in India fell by 50 % between 1928 and 1934.
5. Wages were relatively low in Asian countries like China. Thus, they became lucrative destinations for investment by foreign MNCs competing to dominate world markets. The relocation of industry to low-wage countries stimulated world trade and capital flow.

The impact of MNC’s decision to relocate production to Asian Countries was as follows:

a. It provided a cheap source of labour for MNCs.

b. It stimulated world trade and increased capital inflow in Asian countries.

c. The local population had a greater choice of goods and services along with prospects of greater employment opportunities for them.

**4. Give two examples from history to show the impact of technology on food availability.**

**Solution:**

1. Improved transportation systems: Improved transportation systems helped the food items get delivered on time to the markets without any harm. Faster railways, lighter wagons and larger ships helped move food cheaply and quickly from faraway farms to final markets.
2. Refrigerated ships: The development of refrigerated ships enabled the transport of perishable foods over long distances. Animals were slaughtered for food at the starting point – in America, Australia or New Zealand – and then transported to Europe as frozen meat. This reduced shipping costs and lowered meat prices in Europe. The poor in Europe could add meat to their diet, which was monotonous with only bread and potatoes.

**5. What is meant by the Bretton Woods Agreement?**

**Solution:**In order to preserve economic stability and full employment in the industrial world, the post-war international economic system was established. To execute the same, the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference was held in July 1944 at Bretton Woods in New Hampshire, USA. The Bretton Woods Conference established the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to deal with external surpluses and shortages in its member nations. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (popularly known as the World Bank) was set up for financial post-war reconstruction, and it started its financial operations in 1947.

Under the agreement, currencies were pegged to the price of gold, and the US dollar was seen as a reserve currency linked to the price of gold. Decision-making authority was given to the Western industrial powers. The US was given the right to veto over key IMF and World Bank decisions. The Bretton Woods System was based on fixed exchange rates. The Bretton Woods System opened an era of unique growth of trade and income for the Western industrial nations and Japan.