

EVALUATION / IMPACT OF FRENCH REVOLUTION 1789:

I It led to End of Feudalism in France

Polity: • **Constitutional monarchy** was set up by constitution drafted by National Assembly (1791) ∴ Democracy replaced Absolute monarchy.

• **Republic (1792)**: Fm was proclaimed a Republic in 1792 ∴ it was the 1st European country to be a Republic.

• **Jacobian Constitution (1793)**: National Convention (1792) drafted the constitution for Fm as a Republic in 1793. This constitution was one of the most democratic constitution of the time as

- (a) it gave right to vote to all men without linking it with income / property criteria
- (b) Right to work
- (c) Goal of Govt was to ensure happiness of masses
- (d) Right to overthrow the Govt if the people if Govt fails to protect rights of people.

Society:

The 3 estates & associated special privileges were ended.

∴ everyone was to be an equal citizen

Meritocracy was established as equality of opportunity for all, allowed commoners to aspire for senior positions in bureaucracy & military.

There was to be rule of law & equality before law

Equality of taxation

Culture:

There was rise of **Nationalism** represented by **Liberty, Equality & Fraternity (Unity)** among the ppl. Nation was given its modern meaning i.e. summation of ppl who felt one.

Nationalism ∴ represented - ppl's interest as being supreme & unity among the ppl.

- # **Economy** : • Concentration of wealth in the 1st & 2nd estate was reduced as lands confiscated during the revolution by peasantry were recognized as legal holdings. ∴ FR 1789 led to land redistribution.
- There was to be freedom of enterprise & security of property ∴ strengthening capitalism in economy.
 - Freedom of work as certificate of good conduct was ended.

2] **NAPOLÉONIC CODE (1804)**

- # IT led to codification of complex & scattered laws into a single code ∴ brought uniformity in law & a clearly written law.
- # IT codified all laws relating to civilian life & property.
- # IT also re-affirmed end of feudalism & meritocracy.
- # NAPOLÉONIC CODE was implemented in territories under F^r's control ∴ it became the tool for ending feudalism & efficient administration even outside F^r. IT inspired similar codes in rest of the world.

3] **SPREAD OF IDEAS OF FR 1789:**

- # There was spread of nationalism, spirit of democracy, republicanism & desire to end feudalism in rest of Europe.
- # NAPOLÉON'S VICTORIES led to spread of revolutionary ideas as feudalism was ended in territories brought under control.

ppl of many European countries rose in protests in **1830 & 1848** for establishment of democracy & republic.

- # **Greece** won independence from Ottoman empire in 1832
- # **Belgium** " " " Kingdom of Netherlands (1839).
- # **Italians** struggled for independence from Austria in North Italy & also democracy & unification in 1830 & 1848.
- # **Germans** struggled for democracy & unification in 1830 & 1848.

In general there was desire among ppl to have

Redrawing of national boundaries on basis of nationality which in Europe was defined by ethnicity & language.

After 1804 Napoleon's image changed from a liberator to a conqueror. It was spirit of nationalism generated by FR 1789 that Spanish ppl fought & defeated Napoleon's forces (1808-13)

In Central America, Haitians fought war of independence against Fr & won (1792-1804).

Simon Bolivar from (1813-24) won independence for Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Columbia from Spain.

- Mexico also won war of independence from Spain (1810-21)
- Spain was weakened by French Revolutionary wars (1792-1804) & Napoleonic wars (1804-1813) ∴ it emboldened the freedom struggle of colonies.

Brazil won independence from Portugal (1824). Portugal was also weakened by wars.

∴ FR 1789 & consequent wars contributed to Decolonization, Rise of Democracy & Republicanism, Unification movements.

④ Concert of Europe - was 1st attempt to have some form of an organization for maintenance of regional peace as a consequence of 23 yrs of wars.

DRAWBACKS:

- (a) FR1789 DID NOT BRING A STABLE DEMOCRACY in France.
- # Reign of TERROR (1792-94)
 - # JACOBIN CONSTITUTION (1793) WAS never implemented.
 - # NAPOLEON DECLARED HIMSELF as EMPEROR in 1804 \therefore ending THE REPUBLIC OF 1792.
 - # In 1815, OLD MONARCHY REGAINED Power.
- \therefore REPUBLICANISM + DEMOCRACY COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED in A STABLE FORM. \therefore FRENCH FAILED TO WIN LIBERTY in POLITY.

However,

SPIRIT OF FR1789 SURVIVED, as FRENCH PROTESTED in 1830 & 1848 FOR achieving DEMOCRACY & REPUBLIC.

In 1848 2ND REPUBLIC WAS ESTABLISHED, however, NAPOLEON III (NEPHEW OF NAPOLEON) DECLARED HIMSELF EMPEROR in 1852 ending THE REPUBLIC.

In 1870, after DEFEAT OF FR in FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR a STABLE REPUBLIC WAS FINALLY ESTABLISHED in FORM OF 3RD REPUBLIC.

Also, even if in POLITY THERE WAS FAILURE OF FR1789, THE FEUDALISM COULD NOT BE RE-ESTABLISHED in SOCIETY.

- (b) NAPOLEON BECAME A CONQUEROR FROM LIBERATOR as he engaged in EMPIRE BUILDING.

- (c) FR1789 LED TO 23 YRS OF DEVASTATING WARS in EUROPE.

- (d) PEASANTS GAINED LANDHOLDING, MIDDLE CLASS GAINED DUE TO STRENGTHENING OF CAPITALISM & THEY GAINED POLITICAL POWER,

BUT WORKERS GAINED LITTLE FROM FR1789 as THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET RIGHT TO VOTE as it WAS

Linked TO income CRITERIA.

∴ This led TO Rise of Socialism as an ideology
Wanting Decline OF Capitalism.

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