

World History Class 12
31st March, 2024 at 9:00 AM

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS CLASS: (09:05:00 AM)

- World War II and its Impacts.

FASCISM: (09:15:00 AM)

- It is an extreme right-wing ideology.
- **Features of Fascism:**
 - 1. Focus on building a great nation and ideology of extreme nationalism that is the superior economy, maximizing net exports, and minimizing unemployment.
 - Military superiority and aggressive foreign policy, especially using war as a tool of foreign policy.
 - 2. Domestically focus on strict unity among all classes and sections, even if it is forced unity.
 - For example, by repressing a section to achieve the goal of a great nation.
 - 3. Establishment of totalitarian regime:
 - Reducing or ending powers of Parliament.
 - Establishing a dictatorial executive, usually by suspending/changing the constitution to reduce the parliament's powers.
 - Making executives not responsible to parliament by ending systems of checks and balances.
 - Removal of political opposition by establishing a one-party State by law.
 - One supreme leader, who is usually charismatic and is to be responsible for making the nation great.
 - Establishment of a cult of personality of a supreme leader by taking titles for example, Il Duce, Furore, and by media propaganda and by changing the education system so the nation rallies behind the leader.

- Destruction of democracy at local levels:
- For example, no provincial elections and hand-picked officers run provincial governments.
- Control of media and destruction of freedom of speech and expression.
- For example, Hitler's government legally took over the radio channels to do Nazi propaganda.
- Change in Education Curriculum for indoctrination.
- Establishment of Corporate State:
- Ban on strikes by the working class and on trade unions and a ban on lockouts by capitalists.
- Strong state role in the economy not by nationalization of private business but by State giving binding directions to the private sector.
- Therefore, it was not a free market economy but still a pro-capitalist economy.
- State loans are also given in the form of fiscal stimulus.
- States create a common body, having representatives of both the working and capitalist classes for dispute resolution.
- 4. Other Features:
- Incentives to industries.
- Focus on food security.
- Focus on the welfare of farmers, for example, MSP and subsidies.
- Public works programs by the state for employment.
- After-work organizations by the State for leisure activities of the working class, for example, free and paid holidays, free movie tickets, free cruise trips, etc.

HITLER: (10:48:00 AM)

- He was successful in eliminating unemployment by 1939 via public works schemes, and large party bureaucracy (Like SA and SS) that created employment for youth.
- Jews were removed from civil services therefore creating vacancies, conscription, and rearmament which boosted employment in the industrial sector and military.
- Hitler got support from all sections like farmers(MSP), the working class (good wages), businessmen (tax incentives, subsidies, etc.), army(conscription and rearmament).
- Hitler's foreign policy was a brilliant success.
- For example, in 1943 introduced rearmament;
- 1935 - Conscription, Saar voted to be part of Germany, Anglo-Gemrna Naval Agreement where Germany could have a navy(35% of the size of the British navy).
- Here Britain wanted to remove the root cause of a future war.
- 1936- remilitarization of Rhineland,
- 1938 - Anschluss with Austria.
- Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia in the Munich conference, he made aggressive speeches raising fear of war, therefor to avoid war, Britain, France, etc. gave Sudetenland in return for the promise of Hitler not taking any further territory of Czechoslovakia
- 1939- Annexation of Czechoslovakia was the first t act where he took non-German territory and after this Britain and France decided that no more appeasement.
- When he attacked Poland in 1939 then WWII began.
- However, His fiscal policies made war inevitable.
- The GDP was growing, but the huge fiscal deficit could be compensated only by adding real value to the economy via annexation.
- Therefore the war became a compulsion to prevent an economic crisis.

SOCIALISM /MARXISM: (11:28:00 AM)

- An important work of Karl Marx was the 1848 Communist Manifesto, where he asked the workers of the world to unite to overthrow capitalism during the 1848 revolts in Europe.
- 1868 - Das Kapital where he developed an economic critique of capitalism.
- For Marx, capitalism is the root cause of all conflicts in society.
- Socialism simply has the goal of an egalitarian society -> A more equal society where there is no oppression of the poor by the rich.
- There exist multiple roads to socialism, for example, Marxism that wants absolute power to the community.
- Fabianism wants power for a welfare state(for example, Annie Beasant and JL Nehru, Obama)
- In practical usage, a socialist is a non-communist.

- **Scientific Socialism/Marxism/Communism:**

- It wanted to overthrow Capitalism and believed in the inevitability of Socialism and the end of Capitalism.
- Feudalism could not survive as it exploited the masses and gave powers to minority elites(nobility, Church).
- Similarly, Capitalists exploit the masses and will be overthrown.
- Capitalism is undemocratic as the capitalist is the owner of the means of production while the actual producer of value in society is the working class.
- Therefore decision-making powers over the production process are not with the workers and the distribution of surplus(profits) is also decided by the capitalists and not by the Working class.
- Workers get wages that are inversely proportional to profits to the capitalists and in capitalism, the primary motive of production for the capitalist is to maximize his profits. (Profits = Revenue - Costs(wages))
- Therefore, due to capitalism, there exists a conflict in society between the working class and the capitalist class.
- Therefore, workers under capitalism lose their autonomy and control over the value they have produced and also their monetary dues as wages are much less than the value produced.

- **(Note:**
- The class comes to exist when:
 - a. Number of members increases.
 - b. Consciousness of similar problems and solutions.
 - c. Members now get organized.)
- Capitalism leads to conflict between capitalists and workers, then with the addition of members there is the rise of the capitalist class and working class, and now conflict becomes a class conflict causing disharmony in the society.
- Marks wanted a classless society to end conflict in society, by ending capitalism which is a result of private property.
- Therefore, he wanted an end to the capitalist class.
- He was a pro-industrial revolution and wanted an abundance of goods in society.
- But he was against industrial capitalism.
- In fact, he argued that when the society is fully industrialized then workers would be masses and then they would have the confidence to unite and overthrow capitalism.
- Workers are the vanguard of communism -> revolution would be led only by the working class because peasants are petty bourgeoisie as they have vested interests in the private property that leads to the profit motive and therefore capitalism.
- Marx wanted community ownership of property and means of production.

- Therefore peasant's grievances are valid but they can't be the leaders of the communist revolution.
- Also, a sense of joint production and therefore, unity in the community is less among peasants as they do not engage in community labor and deploy family labor in small farms.
- In multi-party democracy, there is a political capture by the capitalists.
- Therefore, Marx desired a dictatorship of the proletariat = Absolute will of the masses.
- Therefore, Marx wanted a direct democracy and was not anti-democracy.
- He wanted a stateless society for the complete decentralization of political power to the community.
- For him, the state was a genet of the bourgeoisie, and the rule of law of multiparty democracy was a rule of the bourgeoisie as parliaments were dominated by the bourgeoisie
- In factories, he wanted control of workers with all decision-making power.
- With the end of the profit motive, there would be production for the social good.
- From each according to his capacity and to each according to his need" was the motto of Marx.

- Internationalism:
- Since capitalism is a global force, therefore, the workers of the world need to unite irrespective of nationality, language, color, etc.
- For example, racism is a tool of the capitalist class to prevent the unity of black and white workers.
- Marx was anti-religion -> He favored irreligion as a form of secularism.
- Religion is opium for the masses -> Like a pain reliever that prevents masses from revolting.
- For example, Christianity argued that Human is bound to suffer and to kill is a sin.
- Wars and colonialism are products of capitalism, to maximize profits of the capitalist class.
- Therefore, at the global level also capitalism leads to disharmony and inequality.
- Two issues of Marx:
 - 1. Money -> Wages
 - 2. Decision Making Power/Power in the domain of economics and politics
- These two should be with the working class.

TOPICS FOR THE NEXT CLASS: Forms of Socialism, Cold War, Decolonisation, etc.