

UNACCO SCHOOL  
Excellence in Education  
(HISTORY)  
Study Material

Chapter-2 : Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution (1st Part)

Q1 What is socialism?

Ans: Socialism is an economic and political ideology under which all the means of production, distribution and exchange in the economy of a country are owned and controlled by the state.

Q2 What is capitalism?

Ans: The system of economy where the factors of production are controlled by private owners for profit rather than the state is known as capitalism.

Q3 Which group of workers were regarded as aristocrats among workers?

Ans: The metal workers were regarded as aristocrats among workers.

Q4 List two differences between the capitalist and socialist ideas of private property.

Ans: Capitalist ideas

i) Capitalists were owners of the ~~of the~~ industries in which they have invested capital.

ii) Capitalists believe that the profit should be enjoyed

by the owners of the industry.

### Socialist Ideas

- i) Socialists think that all property and means of production should be socially controlled.
- ii) They believe that the profits are the result of the workers' labour, so the workers deserve a share.

Q5. Write a short note on early socialist thinkers -

- i) Robert Owen
- ii) Louis Blanc
- iii) Karl Marx.

Ans. i) Robert Owen (1771 - 1858)

Robert Owen was an English industrialist who tried to improve the condition of the workers. He advocated a co-operative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA).

ii) Louis Blanc

Louis Blanc of France believed that everyman has a right to live and entitled to a livelihood. He wanted the government to encourage co-operatives which are the association of people who work together and share the profit according to the work done by the members.

iii) Karl Marx

Karl Marx was a philosopher who favoured socialism. He argued that industrial society was capitalist. He further said that the conditions of the workers



could improve only if the workers overthrow the capitalists and rule of private property. Marx believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, workers had to construct a radically socialist society, where all the properties were socially controlled.

Q6 Describe the incident known as 'Bloody Sunday'.

Ans: On Sunday, a procession of workers led Father Gapon went on strike in 1905, demanding a reduction in the working day to eight hours, an increase in wages and improvement in working conditions. When this procession reached the Winter Palace it was attacked by the police and the Cossacks, killing 100 workers and wounding 300.

This incident was popularly known as Bloody Sunday and it started a series of events known as the 1905 Revolution.

Q7 Why were socialists against private property and saw it as the root of all social ills?

Ans: i) The people who propagated socialism said that individuals, who owned property, did provide employment to many people but they were concerned with personal gains only.

ii) They did not bother about the welfare of the people.

iii) They felt that if society controlled property, more attention would be paid to collective social interests.

Q8 Describe the views of radicals.

Ans: i) Radicals wanted a nation in which government was based on the majority of a country's population.

ii) They supported women's suffragette movements.

iii) They opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners. Though they favoured private property, they disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.

Q9 Describe the views of liberals.

Ans: i) Liberals were group of people who wanted a nation which tolerates all forms of religion.

ii) They opposed to the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers.

iii) They wanted to safeguard the rights of individuals against government.

iv) They supported a representative, elected parliamentary government and an independent judiciary.

v) Liberals were not democrats as they did not favour Universal Adult Franchise. They did not favour the vote for women.



Q10 What were the viewpoints of the conservatives?

Ans: i) In the beginning of the eighteenth century, they were opposed to the idea of change but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they accepted some changes.

ii) They asserted that past must be respected.

iii) They wanted change but at a slow process.

Q11 State any two events after the Bloody Sunday which led to the Revolution of 1905 in Russia.

Ans i) Strikes took all over the country and universities of Russia were closed down, complaining about the lack of civil liberties.

ii) Lawyers, doctors, engineers, middle-class workers established unions and demanded a Constituent Assembly.

Q12 What was Duma?

Ans Duma was an elected consultative Parliament of Russia.

Q13 Who ruled Russia in 1914? How did he manage his empire?

Ans. Tsar Nicholas II was ruling over Russia during the revolution.

i) He was an autocrat.

ii) Though he created 'Duma' after the Revolution, he never cared for it.

iii) He was carrying the war against the wishes of the people.

iv) He worked under a monk called Rasputin.

Q14 Explain the economic condition of the workers before the Russian Revolution.

Ans: i) Most of the industries were the private property of the industrialists. In craft units and small workshops, sometimes working hours were 15 hours, compared with 10-12 hours in big factories.

ii) The working conditions were very poor and paid low wages.

iii) Workers were divided into different social groups. Metalworkers considered themselves aristocrats among other workers.

iv) Women workers consisted of 31% of the factory labour and they were paid less than men.

v) Some workers formed associations to help members in time of employment or financial crisis.