

CHAPTER-II

SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

2 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Who was Karl Marx?

ANSWER:

Karl Marx was a philosopher who favoured socialism. He believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, workers had to construct a radically socialist society, where all the properties were socially controlled.

2. Who were the 'greens' and 'whites'?

ANSWER:

They were the group of people who were against the Bolshevik Revolution. They started a civil war. They were supported by the French, American, British and the Japanese troops as these countries were worried about the growth of socialism in Russia.

3.What was the basic idea of socialism?

ANSWER:

Socialists were against private property, and saw it as the root of all social ills of the time.

4.What was the Russian Revolution?

ANSWER:

The fall of monarchy in February 1917, and the events of October are normally called the Russian Revolution.

5.“The year 1904 was particularly bad for the Russian workers” Give reason.

ANSWER:

In 1904 prices of essential goods rose very quickly and the real wages declined by 20%.

4 MARK QUESTIONS

1: In What Ways Was the Working Population in Russia Different from Other Countries in Europe, Before 1917?

ANSWER:

Before 1917, Russia's working population differed from that of other European countries because not all Russian workers travelled from the countryside to work in the factories. Some of them remained in the villages and commuted to work in the towns daily. They were a socially and professionally separated group, which was reflected in their attire and demeanour. Because their trade required more training and skill, metal workers were considered "aristocrats" of the working class. Despite this, the working class remained united behind a single cause: strikes against poor working conditions and employer tyranny.

2. Why Did the Tsarist Autocracy Collapse in 1917?

ANSWER:

After dismissing the first two Dumas, the Tsar filled the parliament with conservatives. The Tsar made decisions without consulting the Duma during the First World War. The war's large-scale fatalities of Russian soldiers alienated the people even more from the Tsar. The retreating Russian soldiers set fire to farmland and buildings, resulting in a severe food scarcity in Russia. All of these factors contributed to the Tsarist autocracy's demise in 1917.

3. What were the Main Changes Brought about by the Bolsheviks Immediately after the October Revolution?

ANSWER:

The following are the major changes brought about by the Bolsheviks shortly following the October Revolution:

- (i) Nationalization of banks and industries.
- (ii) The nobility's land was proclaimed social property, allowing peasants to seize it.
- (iii) Houses in metropolitan areas were divided into sections based on family needs.
- (iv) New clothes for the army and authorities were designed, and old aristocratic titles were abolished.

4. Why did Kerenskii's Government become unpopular in Russia ?

ANSWER:

The Kerenskii's government became unpopular in Russia because :

- His failure to feel the pulse of the nation. He tried to suppress the workers' movement and the Bolshevik influence.
- People wanted peace, but he tried to continue the war.
- The non-Russian nationals failed to get an equal status under his government.

5.Which event in Russian history is known as Bloody Sunday ?

ANSWER:

- On 9th January, 1905 a mass of peaceful workers with their wives and children was fired at St. Petersburg while on its way to the Winter Palace to present a petition to the Tsar.
- More than a hundred workers were killed and about 300 were wounded.
- The incident known as Bloody Sunday in history of Russia as the massacre had taken place on Sunday.

7 MARK QUESTIONS

1.What were the Social, Economic and Political Conditions in Russia Before 1905?

ANSWER:

Before 1905, Russia's social, economic, and political situation was backward:

(i) Social Conditions: Agriculturists made up 85 % of Russia's population. Industry existed, although it was uncommon for the majority of it to be privately owned. Workers were classified based on their profession. They primarily moved to cities in search of factory work. The peasantry was passionately devout, yet they were unconcerned about the nobility. They believed that land should be split between them.

(ii) Economic Condition: Russia was going through a difficult economic moment. Prices of basic goods rise while real earnings fall by 20%, resulting in the well-known St. Petersburg strike.

The 1905 Revolution began with this strike, which sparked a chain of events. There were strikes all around the country during this revolution, universities shut down, and numerous professionals and workers formed the Union of Unions, seeking the formation of a constituent assembly.

(iii) Political Condition: Before 1914, political parties were unlawful. In 1898, socialists who admired Marx's ideas created the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party. This party was split into two sections in 1903: Mensheviks and Bolsheviks. Lenin, who is recognised as the greatest theorist on socialism after Marx, led the Bolsheviks, who were in the majority.

2. Write a Newspaper Report on:**(a) The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre****ANSWER:**

On April 13, 1919, a large throng was assembled in Jallianwala Bagh's walled grounds, some to protest the British government's harsh tactics, and others to attend the annual Baisakhi Fair. These citizens were not aware that Marshal Law had been imposed in the city. The Commander, General Dyer, barricaded the Bagh's exit points and opened fire on the civilians. Dyer's goal was to create a "moral effect" through terrorising satyagrahis. Hundreds of innocent civilians, including women and children, were killed or injured as a result of the British soldiers' indiscriminate firing, which sparked national indignation. The incident at Jallianwala Bagh was the most violent in Indian history.

(b) The Simon Commission

The British government established a commission to investigate the 1919 Government of India Act. The commission's goal was to investigate the operation of the act and provide recommendations for additional reforms to the administrative system. As a result, the commission was named after its chairman, Sir John Simon. However, Indian nationalists opposed the Commission since it did not include a single Indian member. As a result, When the Simon Commission landed in India in 1928, the slogan "Go Back" welcomed them. All parties, including Congress and the Muslim League, took part in the debate.

3. Make Two Lists: One with the Main Events and the Effects of the February Revolution and the Other with the Main Events and Effects of the October Revolution. Write a Paragraph on Who Was Involved in Each, Who Were the Leaders and What Was the Impact of Each on Soviet History.

ANSWER:

February Revolution: Events

- (i) On the 22nd of February 1917, women led the procession and a factory was locked out.
- (ii) The Duma was suspended by the government on February 25th.
- (iii) On the 26th and 27th of February, workers went on strike, which was shortly followed by the military.
- (iv) On March 2nd, the Tsar abdicated and Soviet and Duma's leaders formed a transitional administration.

Effect: There was no political party at the forefront of the February Revolution. The people themselves were in charge. Petrograd had deposed the monarchy and so earned a prominent position in Soviet history. The number of trade unions expanded. The Tsar's dictatorial rule came to an end. Public meeting and Association restrictions were eliminated.

October Revolution: Events

- (i) In April 1917, Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia.
- (ii) In July, the Bolsheviks staged a demonstration against the provisional government.
- (iii) Between July and September, peasants took land from wealthy landowners.
- (iv) On October 16, 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik party to agree to a socialist takeover of power.
- (v) On October 24, a Bolshevik revolt took place in Petrograd.

Effect: The October Revolution was principally spearheaded by Lenin and his subordinate Trotsky, with the masses rallying behind them. It was the start of Lenin's reign over the Soviet Union, with the Bolsheviks under his command. The fall of the interim government was the most significant result of the October revolution. Russia had embraced socialism.

4. Write a Few Lines to Show What You Know About:

Kulaks; the Duma; Women Workers Between 1900 and 1930; the Liberals; Stalin's Collectivisation Programme

ANSWER:

Kulaks: It's a Russian word for wealthy peasants who, according to Stalin, were stockpiling food to increase their profits. By 1927-28, grain supplies in Soviet Russia's towns were in short supply. Part of the blame was attributed to the Kulaks. To construct modern farms and administer them on an industrial scale, the Communist Party, led by Stalin, believed it was also vital to exterminate Kulaks.

The Duma: The Tsar permitted the formation of an elected consultative parliament in Russia during the 1905 Revolution. The Duma was the name of Russia's elected consultative parliament.

Women Workers Between 1900 and 1930: By 1914, women accounted for 31% of factory workers, but they were paid between half and three-quarters of the wages paid to males. Women employees, on the other hand, were the ones who led the road to strikes during the February Revolution.

The Liberals: Stalin believed that agricultural collectivization would improve Russia's grain supplies. In 1929, he began the process of collectivization. All peasants were obliged to work in communal farms (kolkhoz). The majority of the land and implements were transferred to the collective farm's ownership. Many peasants resisted such initiatives by destroying animals as a form of protest. Collectivization did not produce the intended outcomes, and the food supply crisis worsened in the years that followed.

Stalin's Collectivisation Programme: They advocated for a country that was tolerant of all religions and would defend individual liberties from the government. Despite their desire for an elected parliamentary system of government, the liberals believed that the ability to vote should only be granted to men, and only to those who owned property.

5.State any three events after the Bloody Sunday which led to the revolution of 1905 in Russia.

ANSWER:

Three events after the Bloody Sunday which led to the revolution of 1905 in Russia were :

- The news provoked unprecedented disturbances throughout Russia. Strike took place all over the country.
- The universities of Russia were closed when student bodies staged walkouts, complaining about the lack of civil liberties.
- Lawyers, doctors, engineers, middle class workers established Union of Unions and demanded a constituent assembly.

6.Differentiate between the ideas of the liberals and radicals in Europe.

ANSWER:

(a) The liberals did not believe in universal franchise. In contrast, radicals wanted a nation in which government was based on most of a country's population.

(b) Liberals felt men of prosperity mainly should have the vote. They did not want the vote for women. On the other hand, the radicals supported women's suffragette movements and opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners.

(c) Radicals were not against the existence of private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.

7.How was the bad condition of women responsible for Russian Revolution ?

ANSWER:

The bad condition of women responsible for Russian Revolution because :

- Most of the women were working in small factories.
- Women made up about 31% of the factory labour force by 1914.
- They were paid less wages and were forced to work for long hours.
- When they launched an agitation, they were fired by the police.

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9. Discuss the positive aspects of the Bolshevik government on Soviet Union and its people.

ANSWER:

The positive aspects of the Bolshevik government on Soviet Union and its people were :

- Immediately after coming to power, Lenin announced his decision to withdraw from the First World War.
- Private property in the means of production was abolished. Economic exploitation by capitalists and landlords came to an end.
- The control of industries was given to workers. All the banks, industries and mines, water transport and railways were nationalized.

10. How did the 1905 Revolution in Russia prove to be a dress rehearsal of October 1917 Revolution ? Explain.

ANSWER:

- In 1904—05, there was war between Russia and Japan. In this war, Russia was defeated by Japan. The Russian people began to oppose the Tsar. They believed that the only cause of this defeat was the government of Tsar which had failed to carry out war properly.
- A procession of thousands of peaceful workers along with their wives and children went to the palace of Tsar to show their anger and present a petition on Sunday, 9 January, 1905. While the workers were on the way to the Winter Palace of Tsar, they were fired at by the army of the Tsar.
- More than one hundred people were killed and about three hundred were wounded.

11.What were the significant changes in the Soviet Union after the death of Lenin ?

ANSWER:

In 1925, Stalin became General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union after the death of Lenin.

The following were the significant changes in the Soviet Union after the death of Lenin.

- The economic and military power of the Soviet Union was enhanced rapidly.
- The unemployment and economic backwardness was controlled to some extent.
- The international position of the Soviet Union became much better than the previous time and it became one of the super powers of the world.

12.Describe the circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution.

ANSWER:

The circumstances which were responsible for the Russian Revolution as given below :

- The Russian peasantry was in a miserable condition. The farmers could not get even two square meals a day. Their land holdings were very small and they had to pay heavy taxes.
- The Russian as well as the foreign capitalist industrialists exploited the workers by taking 12-14 hours of work and paying very low wages to them. The workers had no right to form trade unions or seek reforms. They led a miserable life.
- The Tsar Nicholas II was a despotic and autocratic ruler. He enjoyed unlimited powers and rights. The people of the higher

strata enjoyed great privileges. The bureaucracy was corrupt and inefficient. The common people who suffered most, were fed up with the absolute rule of the Tsar and wanted to get rid of him.

- Karl Marx propagated 'Scientific Socialism'. He strongly opposed capitalism which meant untold exploitation of the common men.

13.Explain in brief Lenin's contribution to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

ANSWER:

- Lenin had played an important part in the Russian Revolution of 1917. It is true that after the fall of Tsar, Lenin led the revolutionaries. Really, it was the beginning of the revolution.
- The Provisional Government, under the leadership of Kerenskii, could not implement the demand of the people and failed.
- Under Lenin's leadership, the Bolshevik Party put forward clear policies to end the war, transfer the land to the peasants and advance the slogan 'All power to the Soviets'.
- He had described the Russian empire as a Prison of Nations and had declared that . no genuine democracy could be established unless all the non-Russian people were given equal rights.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1.The leader of the Bolshevik party was

- (a) Stalin
- (b) Lenin
- (c) Karl Marx
- (d) Louis Blanc

Answer: (b) Lenin

2.Tsarist power in Russia collapsed in the year

- (a) 1905
- (b) 1916
- (c) 1917
- (d) 1920

Answer: (c) 1917

3.Tsarina Alexandra was of the

- (a) German origin
- (b) French origin
- (c) Russian origin
- (d) Dutch origin

Answer: (a) German origin

4.Jadidists were within the Russian empire.

- (a) Muslim reformers
- (b) Muslim educationists
- (c) Parsi reformers
- (d) German refugees

Answer: (a) Muslim reformers

5.The main occupation of the people of Russia in the beginning of the twentieth century was

- (a) manufacturing
- (b) poultry farming
- (c) fishing
- (d) agriculture

Answer: (d) agriculture

6.A Labour Party in Britain was formed by socialist and

- (a) trade unionists
- (b) peasants
- (c) industrialists
- (d) young students

Answer: (a) trade unionists

7.The Central powers during the First World War included countries like Germany, Turkey and

- (a) France
- (b) Austria
- (c) Britain
- (d) Russia

Answer: (b) Austria

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. One of the groups which liked to change the society, was the **Liberals.**
2. Industrialisation brought men, women and children to **Factories**
3. Who was Giuseppe Mazzini He was an **Italian nationalist.**
4. Marx argued that industrial society was the **Capitalist**
5. Workers in England and Germany began to form associations to fight for **October Revolution of 1917.**

SUMMARY

Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution tells us about the evolution of Socialism in Europe. The revolution changed the whole society entirely and raised different questions about the well-being of peasants and workers as well as questions on economic equality.