



Q1. Give two examples of different types of global exchanges which took place before the 17th century, choosing one example from Asia, and one from the America.

Answer: (i) Exchange of food : Food offers many examples of long distance cultural exchange. It is believed that 'noodles' travelled west from China to become 'spaghetti'.

(ii) Exchange of germs : The Portuguese and Spanish conquests and colonisation of America was decisively underway by the mid-sixteenth century. The European conquest was not just a result of superior firepower. In fact, the most powerful weapon of the Spanish conquerors was not a conventional military weapon at all. It was the germs such as those of smallpox that they carried on their person. Because of their long isolation, America's original inhabitants had no immunity against these diseases that came from Europe. Smallpox in particular proved a deadly killer. Once introduced, it spread deep into the continent, ahead even of any European reaching there. It killed and decimated whole communities, paving the way for conquest.

Q2. Explain how the global transfer of disease in the pre-modern world helped in the colonisation of America. [CBSE 2008 (O), Sept. 2010, 2011]

Answer: (i) The Portuguese and the Spanish had a strong firepower and army.

(ii) But along with these, they also used germs and viruses for conquering parts of America.

(iii) As America was isolated, so the original inhabitants had no immunity against these dreadful germs and viruses.

(iv) Smallpox proved a deadly killer. Once introduced, it spread deep into the continent killing several communities, and paving the way for conquests.

(v) These germs were more dangerous as compared to guns and firearms because guns could be brought or captured, but there was no answer for these germs.

Q3. Write a note and explain the effects of the following :

(a) The British government's decision to abolish the Corn Laws.

(b) The coming of rinderpest to Africa.

(c) The death of men of working-age in Europe because of the World War.

(d) The Great Depression on the Indian economy.

(e) The decision of MNCs to relocate production to Asian countries.

Answer: (a) (i) The scrapping of Corn Laws lead to free trade of food grains.

(ii) After the abolition of Corn Laws, food could be imported into Britain more cheaply than it could be produced within the country.

(iii) British farmers were unable to compete with imports. Vast areas of land were now left uncultivated, and thousands of men and women were thrown out of work. They flocked to the cities or migrated overseas

(iv) Increase in demand due to fall in prices and increase in income leads to mismatch between demand and supply of food grains.

(v) Many countries of the world like Russia, America and Australia and some eastern European countries started exporting food grains to Britain which gave further set back to the local producers.

(b) (i) Arrival of rinderpest: Rinderpest arrived in Africa in the late 1880s. Within two years, it spread in the whole continent reaching Cape Town (Africa's southernmost tip) within five years.

(ii) Loss of Cattle: The germs of the disease were carried by infected cattle imported from British Asia to feed the Italian soldiers invading Eritrea in Eastern Africa. The rinderpest killed about 90 per cent of the cattle.

(iii) Loss of livelihood: As cattle was the main wealth of the people so the loss of cattle destroyed the African livelihoods.

(iv) African into labour market: Planters, mine owners and colonial governments now successfully monopolised what scarce cattle resources remained, to strengthen their power, and to force the Africans into the labour market.

(v) Subdue of Africa: Control over scarce resource of cattle enabled the European colonisers to conquer and subdue Africa.

(c) (i) Reduction in the work force: Most of the killed and injured were men of working age. These deaths and injuries reduced the able-bodied workforce in Europe. With fewer numbers within the family, the household income declined after the war.

(ii) New Social Set-up: The entire societies were reorganised for war - as men went to battle, women stepped in to undertake jobs that earlier only men were expected to do.

(d) (i) Impact on trade: The depression immediately affected Indian trade. India's exports and imports nearly halved between 1928 and 1934. As international prices crashed, prices in India plunged.

Between 1928 and 1934 wheat prices in India fell by about 50 per cent.

(ii) Impact on farmers: The fall in prices had a deep impact on the poor farmers. Though agricultural prices fell sharply, but the colonial government refused to give any relief to the farmers in taxes. Peasants producing for the world market were the worst hit.

(iii) Impact on Urban India: The depression proved less grim for urban India. Because of falling prices those with fixed income- say town-dwelling landowners, who received rents and middle-class salaried employees now found themselves better off. Every thing low cost.

(iv) High Industrial investment: Industrial investment also grew as the government extended tariff protection to industries, under the pressure of nationalist opinion.

(v) Political Impact: The Great Depression paved way for Gandhiji to launch the Civil Disobedience movement.

(e) (i) Wages are relatively low in Asian countries due to excess supply of workers.

(ii) Most of these economies have low cost structure.

(iii) Most of these countries have a huge market.

Q4. Give two examples from history to show the impact of Science and Technology on food availability.

Answer: (i) Availability of cheap food in different markets :

Improvements in transport; faster railways, lighter wagons and larger ships helped move food more cheaply and quickly from the far away farms to the final markets.

(ii) Impact on meat : Till the 1870s, meat from America was shipped to Europe in the form of live animals which were then slaughtered in Europe. But live animals took up a lot of ship space. But the invention of refrigerated ships made it possible to transport meat from one region to another. Now animals were slaughtered in America, Australia or New Zealand, and then transported to Europe as frozen meat. The invention of refrigerated ship had the following advantages :

1. This reduced shipping costs and lowered meat prices in Europe.

2. The poor in Europe could now consume a more varied diet.

3. To the earlier, monotony of bread and potatoes many, not all,

could add meat, butter and eggs.

4. Better living conditions promoted social peace within the country,
and support for imperialism abroad.

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