



4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

Answer:

We can trace the origin of the following democratic rights we enjoy today to the french revolution:

1. Right to Equality
2. Right to Freedom
3. Freedom of Speech and expression
4. Right against exploitations
5. Right to justice

5. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Answer:

Yes, the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions:

1. Many ideas in the "Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen" were replete with dubious meanings. For example, "the law has the right to forbid only actions injurious to society" had nothing to say about criminal offences against other individuals.
2. The declaration stated that "law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to participate in its formation...All citizens are equal before it", but when France became a constitutional monarchy, almost 3 million citizens including men who did not pay sufficient taxes, women and men under the age of 25 were not allowed to vote at all.

Hence, by these universal rights poor were suppressed. Constitution is only available for the rich. Women were totally neglected in decision making.

6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Answer:

After France became a republic in 1792, the then ruler, Robespierre, followed a policy of severe control and punishment. He was a sort of autocrat himself. This led to a reign of terror for the following many years. After Robespierre's rule came to an end a directory was formed to avoid concentration of power in one individual. Members of the directory often fought among themselves leading to total chaos and political instability. This created a political vacuum in France. This was a conducive situation and Napoleon Bonaparte took the reign of power as a military dictator.

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