

**Question:-1. Explain the factors which resulted into the transition of medieval age into modern one.**

*(Question analysis– Question is hypothetical. Keyword- transition from medieval to modern age, Directory word- Explain)*

**Model Answer –** There were three main hurdles in the way of transition from medieval to modern age – Feudalism, European Church System and Holy Roman Empire. It is only after the demolition of these institutions that rise of modern west became possible. Following factors made a contribution to its rise-

- As a result of technological upgradation and Commercial Revolution, there was influx of money in countryside. Consequently, feudal structure started to crumble out as cash-nexus undermined its structure. Furthermore, the decline of feudalism led to the rise of capitalism as well as that of powerful monarchy.
- Likewise, protestant movement destroyed European Church System. It removed a major hurdle behind the rise of a nation-state.
- Lastly, Thirty-years war paved the way for the decline of Holy Roman Empire. The treaty of Westphalia (1648) proved a landmark in the history of Europe as modern nation-state system came into existence after the treaty.

In this way, the process of transition from medieval Europe into modern one was completed.

**Question:-2. Was protestant movement merely the product of religious factor?**

*(Question-analysis– This question is ‘argumentative’ in nature. We need to clarify our stand first then we should start writing.)*

**Answer–** Protestant movement was a revolt against Roman Catholic Church system. Religious factor, definitely, made a contribution to this movement. It is said that various types of religious corruptions were prevailing within Roman Catholic Church system i.e. contravention of vows of chastity, sale of indulgences etc.

But it is equally true that under the influence of Counter Reformation, the process of reforms had already started within Roman Catholic Church system. Therefore, even protestant movement would not have occurred, religious reforms might, well, have been carried on, as political and economic factors worked as the main catalyst behind these reforms.

- **Economic factor –** For the promotion of trade, profit-making and money-lending were essential tools while Roman Catholic Church used to discourage usury (money-lending) and profit-making.
- **Political factor –** For creation of a nation-state, to bring the Church under the state was imperative and protestant movement created such a condition through

creating rupture within Universal Church System. Ambitious monarchs of Europe, definitely, benefited from this situation through transforming the regional Church as the national one.

Therefore, we can accept that in protestant movement the decisive role was political and economic factor rather religious.

**Question:-3. How far do you agree with the view that in 16th and 17th century Europe the rise of nation-state became possible more by chance than by design?**

*(Question Analysis– This question is 'argumentative' in nature. Keywords are 'nation-state', 'design', 'chance', 'do you agree'.)*

**Answer–** In the rise of nation-state in 16th and 17th century Europe, the role of 'design' and that of 'chance' both can be underlined, but for making the assessment of their relative importance we are supposed to explore various factors, such as-

- 1. Feudalism vs. Monarchy** – The decline of feudalism, definitely, was the product of chance, but it is equally true that it might result into either political anarchy or the government by the people. But the ambitious monarchs of Europe seized the opportunity and manipulated the situation in their favour.
- 2. Renaissance vs. Reformation**– Renaissance was rather the product of chance but protestant movement was sponsored. It was enjoying the support of rising middle class as well as monarchy.
- 3. Commercial Revolution** – The role of chance was instrumental behind Commercial Revolution, but mercantilism was well designed by European monarchs, as its objective was to strengthen the monarchy and the nation.

Thus we can say that in the rise of nation-state, even there was a role of chance but decisive role was played by design itself.

**Q4. Explain the causes of the rise of nation-state in 16th and 17th century Europe.**

**Q5. Treaty of Westphalia gave a new direction to European politics. Clarify the statement.**