

■ **Relation between Colonialism and Imperialism :-**

- The term 'Imperialism' became prevalent in the late 19th century. There is contradiction and debate about the relation between colonialism and imperialism. Generally, it is considered that if a nation establishes its political and economic control over another nation, this scenario is called imperialism. If the mother country formulates an economic policy for the exploitation of the colony it is called colonialism.

■ **Difference between colonialism and Imperialism (Neo-colonialism) :-**

- From the 16th and 17th century onwards the way for colonisation of the world was prepared by phenomena like geographical discovery and commercial revolution.

Colonialism was associated with commercial capitalism but old colonialism or imperialism was associated with industrial and financial capitalism. But during the end of the 18th century colonialism started to decline. This had following reasons -

1. The American war of independence gave a serious jolt to colonialism because it proved that they could not rely on the colony for their benefit for an unlimited period.
2. Furthermore, some of the important scholars of that time like Adam Smith, Richard Cobden and even James Mill through his text 'Wealth of Nations' started an ideological battle against mercantilism and colonialism. So, naturally, during this period European nations developed a sense of disenchantment with colonialism.
3. In the meantime, a liberation movement started in the Latin American colonies of Spain and Portugal. After 1815, under the leadership of Simon Bolivar, these colonies got independence.

4. Later in 1823, the declaration of '**Munro Doctrine**' in American continent gave a serious threat to European colonialism.
- From the 1870s onwards colonialism reappeared in altered form. That came to be known as '**Neo-Imperialism**'. What could be the reason behind this? A radical reformist J. A. Hobson in his famous text '**Imperialism- a Study**' tries to explain this situation. According to him, capitalism worked as an engine for imperialism. He tried to establish that the capitalist class in its enthusiasm for excessive profit deprives its labour class of its due share in profit. It leads to the shrinking of the market for industrial products. Therefore to compensate it, the capitalist class moves to capture other market.
- **Factors contributing to Neo-imperialism:-**
1. **Impact of the Industrial Revolution-** The intellectuals like Hobson, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg etc. linked the rise of imperialism with capitalism. Capitalism can be determined as a driving factor-
 - a. **The market for manufactured goods -** European powers were searching for the market for their products due to two factors. First, the volume of production was too large that domestic market could not provide enough demand and second, almost all European countries were imposing duties on the products from other European countries.
 - b. **Search for raw materials-** Industrial revolution demanded larger volume of raw materials.
 - c. **Capital investment-** It was a big question for imperial power where to invest the accumulated capital. Colonies became preferred destination because of availability of cheap labour. Cheap labour could ensure better profit.
2. **A Sense of national glory-** The Industrial Revolution was definitely a major factor, but it was not the only factor. We also have examples of countries which were not much industrialised, but were more imperialistic in their approach e.g. France. Therefore, somewhere the rise of neo-imperialism was also linked to a sense of national glory. For example, the British declared that there is no sunset in our empire while Germany gave a counter declaration- we also need land under the sun. USA declared that the 20th century is for Americans while the Japanese proclaimed that Asia is for the Asians.
3. **Social Imperialism-** The sense of national glory was deeply linked to even the important domestic issues of western powers. In fact, most of the governments were worried about the progress of the socialist and communist parties in their countries and these parties tried to promote class conflict. So, as a countermeasure, the western power preferred to export this conflict from internal to the external front so that the attention of the people from domestic issues could be diverted to the external front. In this way, Imperialism could serve the interest of the western governments in a better way. This is characterised as 'social imperialism'.
4. **Extension of European Diplomacy-** One important factor which promoted imperialism was the role of European diplomacy. For example, Germany under Bismarck was inclined to prevent the conflict of powers in Europe, so he consciously diverted European powers from Europe to African continent. Bismarck once forcefully declared that I see the map of Africa while sitting here in Europe and at his initiative, there was convening of the Berlin Congress in 1884. In this Congress, Africa was partitioned.

5. **Social Darwinism**– Social Darwinism was inspired by the racial superiority and it proclaimed that war and struggle was necessary to strengthen the nation. Therefore, social darwinism also encouraged aggressive foreign policy and imperialism.
6. In the search for colonies, even **Christian Missionaries** played some role. They encouraged their respective government to make expansion in the new region, where they could work to spread Christianity.

Practice Questions:-

1. *'The neo-colonialism of the 19th century was inspired by a sense of national glory, not by the economic factors.'* Critically examine the statement.
2. *Do you consider that the only industrial revolution was responsible for the neo-colonialism of the 19th century? Give answer in favor of your view.*

■ Partition of Africa -

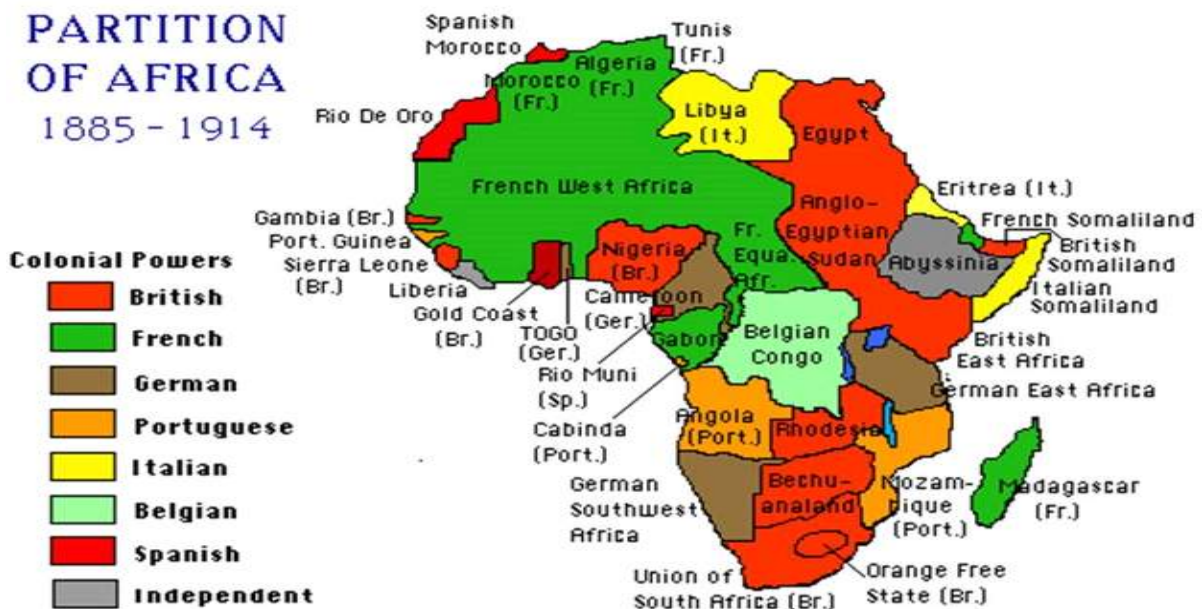
- From the viewpoint of geographical distance, the African continent was much near to Europe. Earlier European powers simply colonised the coastal regions and kept themselves away from the interior part. But after the 1880s, Africa was partitioned by European powers within 20 years and except Ethiopia and Liberia, all

the regions were under the control of European powers. This was the result of the 'Scramble for Africa' between the European powers.

■ Factors inspired European countries to penetrate the regions of Africa up to the end of 19th century–

1. After the discovery of 'Quinon' (anti-malaria) it was easy to fight against malaria. Apart from that, the invention of Machine guns helped to subdue African tribal chiefs.
2. European nations were attracted towards the exclusive products of Africa, which includes palm oil, mining materials, platinum, gold, rubber etc.
3. Furthermore, after the industrial revolution in search of the raw materials as well as market for their manufactured products, the European nations attracted towards African continent.
4. **Extension of European diplomacy**– The rivalry among the European powers on the issue of Africa enhanced to such an extent that it could take the form of an all European war. On the other hand, German Chancellor Bismarck wanted to avoid war at all cost. Therefore, at his initiative, there was convening of the Berlin Congress in 1884. In this Congress, Africa was

PARTITION OF AFRICA 1885 - 1914



partitioned. In the Berlin-African Congress 14 countries participated including the USA and Turkey. But surprisingly, no African states were given representation.

- **Distribution of African territories among European nations**– After the Berlin-African Congress of 1884, the scenario of the African continent was as follows-

Britain – Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda etc.

France – a big chunk of the region in North West Africa including Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco etc.

Italy – Libya, Somaliland etc.

Germany – Cameroon, Namibia, Tanzania etc.

Belgium – Congo.

■ **Impact of the Partition**–

- **Political Impact of the Partition** - The partition of Africa sowed the seeds of future conflicts within Africa. Actually the European powers just tried to impose a nation-state system modelled on the Treaty of Westphalia on African continent, while the basic identity in Africa was tribal not territorial. So, artificially different tribes were clubbed together as a single nation. But some tribes were hostile to each other and they didn't like this merger. As long as the national liberation movement continued, somehow unity and integrity was maintained among different tribes in the face of a common enemy i.e. colonial power. But soon after the exit of the colonial powers from this continent the old tribal feuds resurfaced and African nations like Ethiopia and Sudan disintegrated. This is not the end of the story as many other African nations have been facing the same problem.
- **Economic impact of the Partition** - Its economic impact was equally destructive. Economically, Africa was divided into two

regions. One region was in the control of European capitalists and had European technologies. This region was more developed, but the profit of this development could not pass to the concerned region, as it was under complete control of the metropolitan state (controlled by Europeans). The other regions still used traditional means of production and were controlled by Africans. African agriculture remained backward and despite its contact with Europe the African industries could not develop. Thus we can see that although Europeans benefitted the African economy, but Africa couldn't gain from European industrialisation.

Question: Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. (UPSC-2013)

Answer: Africa continent was closest to Europe than other continents. Nevertheless, before 1880, European countries had shown their keen interest in spreading to other continents. In case of Africa they were confined to the coastal areas. But after 1880, they started spreading rapidly in the mainland of Africa. This resulted in the partition of Africa within twenty years. If we consider the main reasons for its partition, then we find that if the Industrial Revolution attracted European countries to Africa because of the need for raw materials and markets, then it was the European diplomacy which partitioned it into small pieces.

However, in order to reduce mutual competition and tension among European countries, 'Berlin Congress' was organized in 1884-85 and it divided the continent of Africa. This resulted in French control over Tunisia, Algeria and other regions. At the same time Britain occupied Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda etc. it was distributed so much so that even nations like Italy and Germany, which were unified later, did not lag behind in this

process. Italy and Germany also acquired a large chunk of land in Africa.

As we know that, African society was a tribal society, but European nations tried to impose their national political system on them. But this system was not suiting to the African society. This was the reason that, after the departure of the European powers, tribal tensions, civil wars and disintegration became too frequent events in Africa.

Thus we see that while the Industrial Revolution paved the way for the partition of the continent of Africa, European diplomacy practically implemented it.

■ Expansion of imperialism in Asia -

- During the phase of imperialism, European powers expanded to Asia as well, but in the phase of neo-imperialism, the new regions were captured and brought under their control. (In fact, as per Munro doctrine the expansion to the west of the Atlantic was restricted). Different regions of Asia was occupied by different powers like -

Britain – India, a part of Iran, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaya Peninsula.

Russia – Siberia, Mongolia, North Persia.

Japan – Korea, Taiwan etc.

Holland – Indonesia

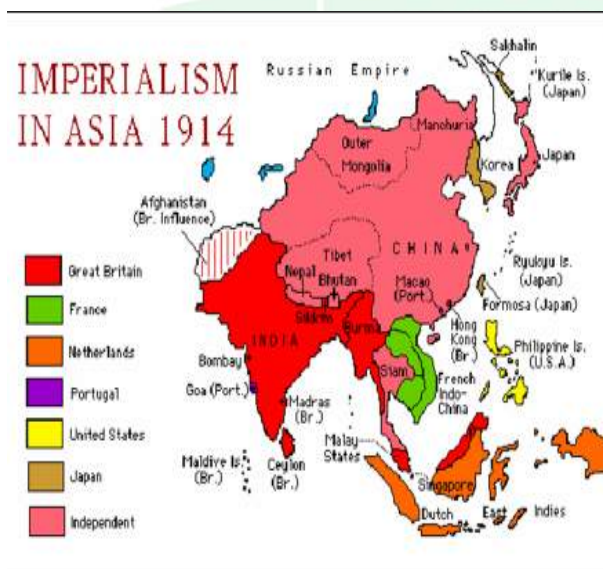
France – Vietnam

■ American Neo-Colonialism:

- The USA was the first colony to be liberated. After its liberation its first priority was to expand in its own continent. In one sense expansionism and imperialism are inherent in the American gene.
- With a slogan of “Manifest Destiny” the USA made a westward expansion and colonized new regions in its neighborhood in North America. Up to 1868 American westward expansion was almost over with the annexation of Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii Islands etc. When the USA faced the problem of overproduction, it was in need of a new market. So it planned a naval expansion in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, in 1898 USA fought a war with Spain on the issue of Cuba & Philippines. After this war Cuba & Philippines were liberated and the Philippines was converted into a semi-colony of America. The USA tried to cover its colonial greed under the garb of an ideology. A British poet Rudyard Kipling composed a famous poem ‘White man’s burden’. In other words it was asserted that it is a white man’s responsibility to civilize the black. So it was known as American Neo-colonialism.

Question: How was American neo-imperialism in the Philippines different from Dutch imperialism in Indonesia and French imperialism in Indo-China?

Answer: The United States was pressurised due to Industrialization to acquire a market. But it was the first colony to gain independence and promoted itself as a symbol of liberation from colonial rule. That’s why it wanted to establish its colonies, but did not want to present itself as a colonizer. Due to this compulsion, on the one hand, it started its expansion policy in the Pacific region, while on the other hand it tried to legitimize the policy of expansion. American



neo-imperialism needs to be understood in this context.

The United States waged war against Spain on the issue of Cuba and the Philippines. Then it freed Cuba as well as the Philippines from the Spanish rule. It wanted to label this war with a different name. America stated that the war was fought for the independence of the Philippines. But in reality Philippines became the semi-colony of America. America announced that it was working for the growth and development of the Philippines. It was the time when an English poet Rudyard Kipling introduced the concept of 'White Man's Burden' and he tried to prove that it should be the responsibility of white people to civilize blacks.

This model of imperialism was certainly different from the Dutch and French models in East Asia as the Dutch and the French were openly exploiting in Indonesia and Indo-China respectively. These powers had established direct control over these colonies and used them as markets for finished goods and suppliers of raw materials. The Dutch had established a new system of exploitation in Indonesia. It has been named 'Dutch Culture System'.

In contrast, the American model established indirect control over the colony and legitimized American imperialism by declaring their objective as civilization and development of the colony. It was a sophisticated version of imperialism hence it is called neo-colonialism.

■ **Differences in the nature of exploitation between old imperialism and neo-imperialism –**

- **Old imperialism** - Old imperialism was inspired by commercial capitalism so under old imperialism exploitation occurred in many ways. Firstly, procurement of the goods of the colonies with the money earned from the colonies only, i.e. the colonies did not get any benefit in return. The cost of maintaining

colonies was outweighed the benefits accruing from them. Secondly, they looted precious metal from the colonies.

- **New imperialism** - This was inspired by industrial capitalism and this phase of imperialism also exploited the colonies in following ways -

1. Under new imperialism, colonies were converted into the producer of raw materials and importer of finished goods.
2. It led to the destruction of the traditional industries of colonies, which is known as deindustrialization.
3. Imperialist power developed the modern transport and communication system like railways and telegraph to exploit the market of colonies.
4. The European education system was implemented in the colonies so that it could create a class of society that would be attracted towards the industrial products of the mother country. In this way, the society of the colonies get divided.

Ques: Neo-Colonialism of 19th century was the product of a nationalistic phenomenon but not an economic one. Do you agree?

Ans: In the progress of neo-colonialism or imperialism during the second half of 19th century, nationalism definitely worked as a major catalyst particularly in context of those nations which were much advanced from the perspective of imperialist expansion but not equally advanced from that of industrialization. In spite of that, the role of economic factor should not be denied.

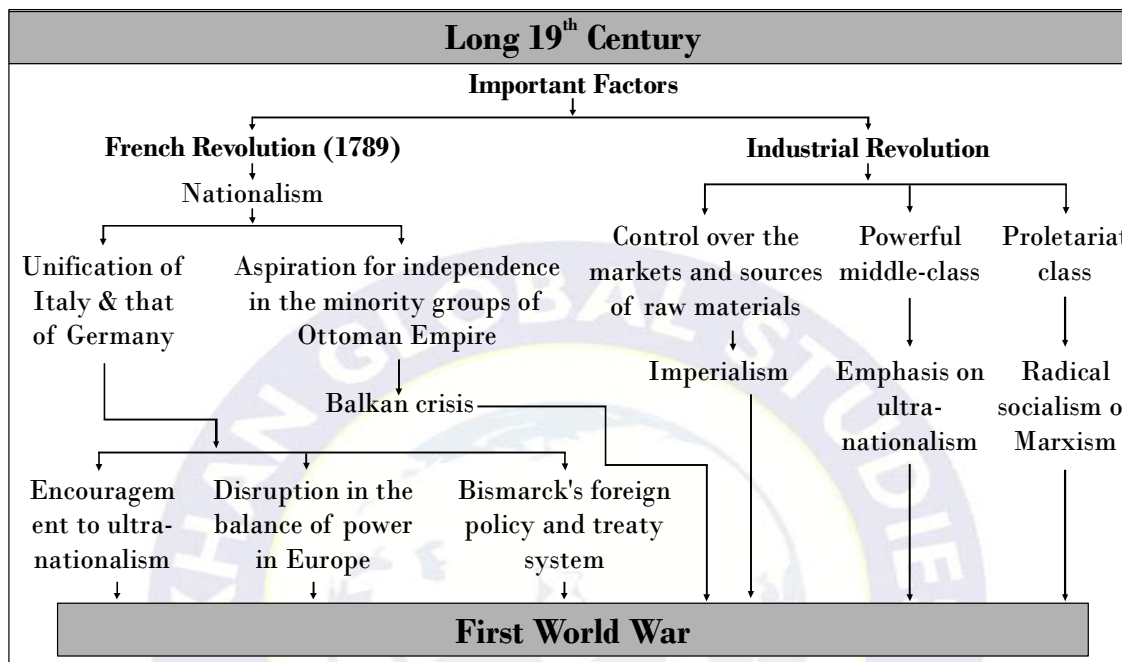
It is true that some nations like France, could achieve uncommon progress in land-grabbing particularly in African continent in spite of the fact that France lagged behind others on the front of industrialization. So, it seems that in context of France, nationalism worked as a major variable. Not simply France but almost all imperialist powers were guided, at least partially, by a sense of national glory. A British declared that there is no sunset in

our empire. In a reply, there appeared welt politics in Germany and its counter slogan stated that German race had to prevail in the world. In this way nationalism added fuel to the fire of imperialism.

But at the same time it was industrial revolution which added a strong material

motive to new-colonialism. Industrial revolution intensified the demand for market for industrial products and the source for new materials. Therefore, major industrial powers moved to the colonies.

Therefore, neo-colonialism should be explained in context of nationalistic and economic factor both.



Question:- The 19th century was a very long century which started from 1789 and ended in 1914. Comment.

Answer: The 19th century has been considered as a long century and an attempt has been made to prove that it started with the French Revolution and ended with the First World War. The following are the logical grounds behind this idea-

The 19th century was the century of two revolutions viz the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution. Both the revolutions created such conditions that led to the First World War.

Revolution of France-

1. The French Revolution gave birth to nationalism, but very soon this nationalism took the form of ultra-nationalism.

2. Germany was unified under the influence of nationalism, but due to this the balance of power collapsed in Europe.
3. Under the influence of nationalism, the Balkan crisis took place, which eventually culminated in the First World War.

Industrial Revolution-

1. As a result of the industrial revolution, the European powers once again turned to imperialism to get markets and raw materials. Then the rivalry between the imperialist powers led to the First World War.
2. On one hand industrial revolution gave birth to a strong middle class, on the other it also paved the way for a proletariat class. Furthermore, the sense of ultra nationalism and national glory developed in the middle class worked as a catalyst for neo-imperialism. On the other, the

influence of Marxism on the proletariat encouraged class-struggle in most of the European countries and the threat of Marxist revolution emerged there. This encouraged the social imperialism.

Therefore, ideologies like nationalism and neo-imperialism developed from both the revolutions gave impetus to the First World War.

Inter-Disciplinary Approach

What was the globalization of the 19th century? How was it operated?

Even before the present era, the world has already attained a state of globalization. This development can be seen in the 19th century. In this period, the following factors that gave impetus to the process of globalization were-

1. Development of transport and communication systems like railways, steam-powered ships and telegraphs, and the opening of the Suez Canal increased the mobility.
2. Use of the gold standard as an international currency
3. The international economy was run by the imperialist powers. If any country refused to pay its debt, then these powers used to recover the debt forcefully from that country. This was seen in the context of Turkey, when the imperialist powers recovered the loan amount by force.

Impact of Imperialism on Western Countries-

Western countries benefited immensely from imperialism. First, the capital collected through imperialist exploitation was used for investment in industrialization. Secondly, after 1860, when the period of second industrialization came, they got many benefits from the colonies. In this period, capitalist industries obtained mining products as raw materials. Then, finished goods of mother country were exported to the market of colonies. For example, without establishment of Indian Railways, the British rail and steel industry would not have received that much impetus. Apart from this, colonial powers also used colonies for their capital investment. Thirdly, the demand of agriculture products increased in large amounts due to the increasing urbanization in the western countries. Thus, western imperialism exploited the agricultural economy of the colonies as well.

The colonial powers also had some indirect benefits from imperialism. In fact, industrial working class had been established in these imperialist countries as a result of industrialization. It paved the way for class struggle. This class struggle also supported imperialism in the respective country. In such a situation, they started running welfare programmes for their workers with the money brought from the exploitation of colonies. Then, workers left the path of revolution. Apart from this, due to the success of concerned country on the imperialist front, people's attention diverted from internal problems to the external front. This also hindered the progress of socialism.

Impact of imperialism on Colonies

It was a very miserable and painful experience for the colonies. The imperialist powers squeezed agricultural wealth of the colonies. Then, industrial products of the western countries gave a serious blow to the handicraft industries of the colonies. Due to this, the purchasing power of colonies decreased. Above all, European imperialism

exploited not only natural resources but also labour force of colonies. Earlier, slaves were sold on a large scale from the African continent. But by the second half of the 19th century, imperial tactics of exploitation began to change and this policy was coined as 'Whitemen's burden'. Therefore, now the slave system was replaced by the indentured labour. Indentured labour of the 19th century was also known as the 'New Slave System'. It is said that when the sun rises in the British Empire, the first ray falls on the Chinese islands. The British Empire developed its colonies in the Caribbean islands mainly Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname, Mauritius and Fiji and began sending indentured labour to those colonies. These workers were employed in various fields like mining, plantation, railway construction, but a large part of them was employed in sugar production.

Most of the indentured labourers were sent from present-day Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Central India and Tamil Nadu. Tamils were mainly sent to Sri Lanka and Malaya. In fact, when the slave system was formally abolished in the British colonies in 1833-34, it was compensated with indentured labour. Between 1834 and 1900, 5 lakh Indians were brought to Mauritius alone. Similarly, the first group of indentured labourers were brought to Guyana in 1838, but by 1917 their number reached upto two lakhs.

If we examine closely, we find that these indentured labourers did not migrate voluntarily to other countries but through exploitative British rule. In fact, the British industrial policy led to the decline of the Indian handicrafts industry. Due to this, a large number of Indians became unemployed. Similarly, due to the excessive rate of land revenue, farmers were losing their land and then they were forced to go somewhere as labour. Further 1900 CE onwards, Indian nationalist leaders strongly opposed this practice. Finally, this practice was abolished in 1921.

If we talk about their condition in the respective countries, then we find that some of them came back to India, but a large number settled in the country concerned. At present, majority of people in present-day Mauritius is of Indian origin. Some people of Indian origin made their mark on the global stage. Among them, Trinidad's VS Naipaul is prominent figure, who has also been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

These migrant people tried to alive their culture and identity. Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi etc. languages are also spoken in Mauritius along with Bhojpuri. Similarly, Indians came in Guyana with taste of spices and epic Ramayana. Sometimes, a situation of cultural tension has also been seen due to the emphasis on cultural identity in the area concerned. At many places, they also had to face racial discrimination.

Development of Constitutionalism

The European middle class had always emphasized on limited franchise, but fear of socialist revolution compelled capitalist governments to introduce welfare programmes for labours and also mentioned the word 'republican socialism' in the constitution.

