

Model Answer

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

(Question-Analysis – The question is hypothetical in nature. In other words, we are supposed to prove this hypothesis. Here the keywords are – ‘Nation – state’, ‘Origin’, ‘16th and 17th century’ and Directory is ‘Explain’.)

Answer- The rise of the nation-state in 16th and 17th century was the product of a complex process. The decline of two medieval institutions i.e. feudalism and European Church System paved the way for its rise and the Treaty of Westphalia almost completed the process. Following factors made their contribution in the rise of nation-state-

- **Decline of feudalism** – The ambitious monarchs of Europe benefited from this situation and they tried to restore their lost power and authority.
- **Disintegration of European Church System** – European monarchs quickly seized the opportunity and could get success in bringing regional Church under the control of the state.
- **Role of mercantilist policy-** European monarchs channelized Commercial Revolution in favour of monarchy and state. Therefore, it became possible for a monarch to strengthen himself through forming standing army and professional bureaucracy.
- **Treaty of Westphalia** – This treaty became harbinger of modern state system. It is during this treaty the nation-state get legitimacy.

In this way, a number of factors made their contribution to the rise of the nation-state.

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

(Question-Analysis– This Question is hypothetical in nature. Keywords are ‘European Politics’, ‘New Direction’ and Directory is ‘Clarify’.)

Ans – Treaty of Westphalia proved a landmark in European politics. It changed the basis, nature and direction of politics. Following features had to be underlined-

- In the community of the nations, the principle of the equality of the state had to be accepted irrespective of their geographical seize.
- The king had to be recognized as the head of the state and diplomatic relations had to be established among different states.
- As the impact of religion declined, so diplomacy became the basis of the relation among European nations.
- As Holy Raman Empire became politically defunct, therefore balance of power was a distinctive phenomenon in European politics.
- Last but not the least, international laws came into existence and diplomacy became a substitute for war.

In this way, Treaty of Westphalia produced all paraphernalia of modern politics.