

■ **Background :**

- The French Revolution is considered a very significant event in world history. The process of transformation of the middle age into the modern one, which had started from the period of Renaissance and Reformation, was completed during this period. Furthermore, a series of modern institutions came into existence in the course of the French Revolution. In fact French Revolution should not be evaluated in isolation rather it should be taken as the continuation of the event taking place right from the time of enlightenment. On one hand the American revolution encouraged the French revolution in terms of ideological factors and the success of the middle class gave new consciousness to the revolution on the other.
- French revolution tried to answer the questions which had been awaiting before Europe till 1789. These questions were such as- relations between monarchy and middle class, monarchy and aristocratic class, aristocratic class and middle class and lastly, middle class and lower class. The French revolution answered earlier three questions but the fourth one remained unanswered which later Russian Revolution tried to answer.

■ **How was it inspired by American Revolution?**

- The French revolution was significantly influenced by American Revolution in following ways -
 1. The French troops were sent to the American colony to fight against the British. So, there they were inspired by the ideas of revolution.
 2. The American revolution symbolised victory of the middle class, so it encouraged the expectations of the middle class in France.

3. The French monarchy had been facing a financial crisis for a long time. So, its participation in American war of independence brought it to the verge of economic bankruptcy. Therefore, financial distress became the immediate factor of French revolution.

■ **Political, Economic, Social and Cultural factors responsible for French Revolution -**

- **Political Situation** - In the situation of economic-social unrest & economic crisis, only a competent ruler could handle the situation in better way. But, unfortunately both the successors of Louis XIV, Louis XV & Louis XVI were not competent enough to tackle the situation. Therefore, economic & social unrest were allowed to escalate into a major political crisis which became a prelude to the revolution.
- **Economic Factor** - The most favorable situation for a revolution is a condition in which a long period of economic prosperity is being followed by a short period of economic decline. In the same manner, the French economy expanded widely between 1730s and 1760s, but from 1770s onwards depressionary situation prevailed in Europe. One of the reasons behind it was the disruption in the influx of precious metals from the New World (America). Naturally, it impacted France as well. Then incidents of crop failure in France consecutively in 1788 and 1789 made the situation more complicated and finally bread riots occurred.
- **Social Structure of France** - French society was internally divided between privileged section and unprivileged section. The first Estate comprising the clergy and the second Estate comprising the aristocracy were associated with the privileged section. These two estates enjoyed various sorts of economic & social privileges

- including not simply exemption from taxes but also the right to impose some taxes on commoners. The middle class as well as the lower class belonged to the Third Estate which represented the non-privileged section of society. The Third Estate consisted of the middle class and lower class.
- Middle class was highly dissatisfied with its position as its economic status was largely improved, but it was socially deprived. In other words, in France, there was a major contradiction between economically effective class & socially effective class. Even lower class was grieved due to tax burden and excessive feudal exaction. Therefore, it was looking towards middle class for leadership and was ready to link its future with that of the middle class.
 - **Intellectual and Cultural Factor** - The profound impact of the Enlightenment was seen on France and Paris became the epicenter of intellectual activity. It is said that an all encompassing event like French Revolution can never occur in the condition of intellectual vacuum. Therefore, the French scholars who influenced the course of revolution were Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau etc. Though they were middle class thinkers so they believed in peaceful transformation, not in revolution and these thinkers made their contribution to the revolution in following manner-
 1. They drew the attention of the people towards existing political, economic & social apathy through their ideas.
 2. They coined certain revolutionary terms like 'Rule of Law', 'Citizen', 'Motherland', 'Individual Rights' etc.
 3. They organised one of the earliest forms of civil society i.e. 'Club and Coffee houses' through which their ideas spread quickly.
 4. Revolutionaries used their ideas time & again to legitimise their position.
 - But there is another side of the picture as well. None of these thinkers were present during the time of revolution. Unlike American leaders Thomas Jefferson & Benjamin Franklin, they neither participated in the revolution nor did they form any political party. In fact, they had a very remote and indirect relation with the revolution. That's why the role of philosophers cannot be evaluated in dissociation with the objective material factor of the time.
 - **Immediate Factor** - The French monarchy had been facing the situation of financial crisis since a long time. Consequently, its participation in the Seven Years' War depleted its treasury even more and finally its participation in the American war of independence brought it to the verge of economic bankruptcy. Now the government had only one solution, i.e., to expand the tax base by including the aristocracy within its ambit. A financial advisor Colonne tried to talk to the nobles in the council of notables, but the nobles turned down the proposal.
 - At last, the French monarch, Louis XIV summoned the Estate General. The Estate General was a French Parliament, which had remained in the state of animated suspension for the last 175 years. The summoning of the Estate General had a symbolic meaning that the monarchy surrendered before the revolutionary forces.
 - So when, in May 1789, the session of Estates General started, it became almost impossible to conduct the business smoothly. In the session, differences appeared between the privileged sections and the members of the Third Estate on the issue of voting.

In fact, the Estates General consisted of three chambers. First Chamber and the

Second Chamber represented the clergy and the aristocracy respectively while the third chamber was represented by the middle class. Traditionally, voting was done in each chamber separately and then the decision was taken on the basis of the majority of chambers. This pattern of voting favoured privileged sections but this time the middle class demanded combined voting and a decision based on numerical strength. But the privileged classes rejected this proposal. As the matter could not be resolved, the representatives of the third estate boycotted the session and moved to Tennis Court Assembly in nearby region on 17th of June. It is here they were joined by artisans of Paris and peasants of France popularly known as 'Mob of Paris'. Thus, started the revolution.

- Here we should be conscious about the fact that even the third estate was not a monolithic class. It consisted of middle class as well as lower class both and both the classes were having divergence in their objectives. The objective of the middle class was to establish a limited monarchy, on the other hand, the objective of the lower class was to achieve economic & social democracy. So, even within the third estate, the class conflict was going on and it was this class conflict & the relative change in the position of the two classes which specified the nature of the revolution in different phases.
- **Why did this revolution occurred in France, not in other regions of Europe?**
- It is to be noted that the ideal condition for a revolution in any country are the presence of a strong middle class and deep discontentment among different classes. Apart from that, these classes should be ready to form an alliance among themselves against the system. As we know, such conditions existed only in France, whereas, Poland and Hungary lacked a

strong middle class, and in the Netherlands the peasants supported the counter-revolutionaries against the middle class. Furthermore, The French middle class differed from that of its European counterpart in that in France there was deeper contradiction between economically effective class and politically effective class.

Progress and Nature of Revolution (1789-1815)

First Phase - The phase of Constitutional Monarchy (1789-92)

- **Social basis :-** During this phase, the leadership of the revolution was in the hands of the middle class, but the lower class also influenced the revolution. That's why at some places revolution took a violent form but the middle class leadership maintained its hegemony, so revolutionary radicalism remained to be subdued to a certain extent. This phase is considered as the phase of constitutional monarchy. During this phase the following events occurred-
 1. **Decline of Bastille (July 14, 1789)**– On 14th July 1789, the Mob of Paris made an attack on Bastille. It was a royal prison and it was the symbol of the absolutist character of the government. The mob looted the weapons stored there while killing the royal guards. This event had a greater symbolic value, as it was tantamount to the decline of the royal autocracy.
 2. **Abolition of Feudalism (August 4, 1789)**– On 4th August 1789, National Assembly abolished feudalism and France became a nation of free peasantry. Feudal Lords or aristocrats had to loose their privileges like imposing taxes on others, exemption from the state tax and also judicial rights. Similarly, Clergy had to surrender their right to impose religious tax. All these changes meant that class privileges were abolished in France and legally all came

on the common footing. But things were not as simple as they appeared to be on the surface. In spite of the abolition of feudalism, Nobles could preserve their property rights. It meant, after losing relatively less important rights they could preserve more important rights.

3. Declaration of the rights of men & citizens (August 26, 1789) – On 26th August 1789, National Assembly presented a Declaration of the Rights of Men and Citizens. It is supposed to be a major achievement of the revolution. It was the next and logical step to the earlier declaration of American revolutionaries. However, the declaration of the rights by the French revolutionaries were more significant and unique as it was theoretically guided by Rousseau's concept of 'General Will'. This declaration was not simply in context of France but rather in context of the whole world. In this, they promised the right to individual freedom, right to property, right to safety from arbitrary imprisonment etc., which reflected the interest of the middle class. But they did not bother about ensuring the right to work, the right to livelihood etc. that were desperately demanded by the lower class. Lastly, it was the declaration of rights of men, but not those of women.

4. Framing of New Constitution (1791) – As National Assembly had been working as a constituent assembly as well, so in 1791, a new constitution came into existence. In this constitution, there was the hegemony of the middle class. As we know, having been inspired by the idea of Montesquieu, the concept of separation of power introduced in this new constitution. In this constitution, there was the provision for limited franchise, which suited to the interest of the middle class. The voting criterion was linked to the property criteria. There was a provision for

a unicameral legislature in the constitution but the assembly committed a major mistakes as it decided that the members of the constituent assembly could not be the member of National legislature. Due to this reason, the revolution lost those elements which were responsible for maintaining the balance between 1789 and 1791. But in spite of the limitations mentioned above, this constitution had a larger value, as this constitution was the first written constitution in Europe (British constitution was a gradually evolved constitution).

Second Phase - The phase of Radical Republicanism (1792-94)

- **New class equation** - During this phase, the middle class leadership was knocked out and the lower class seized the platform for the time being. The reforms and changes brought by the middle class could not satisfy the lower class. During this time, the two radical parties prevailed in France i.e. Jacobins and Girondists and they wanted to bring radical change in France. In 1792, radical members established their control on assembly through the second revolution and brought a new constitution in August, 1792. In this constitution, Universal Male Suffrage was introduced. These radical members abolished the monarchy by making the king captive and declared France a republic in September, 1792.
- **Formation of Jacobin Government** – Later on, the differences appeared even between Girondists & Jacobins. According to Girondists, after declaring republic the objective of the revolution was accomplished, so the revolution should have stayed there. But, according to Jacobins, the revolution had to move further on. The Jacobins were inclined to bring the revolution under the Mob of Paris. In fact, Girondists & Jacobians

represented two different social bases. Girondists represented the lower middle class while Jacobians lower class. As Jacobians were much more organized than Girondist so they eliminated Girondists completely and finally in June 1793, Jacobians came to establish a dictatorial government that is known in French history as “Reign of Terror” or “Jacobians Terror”.

- Actually during the phase of radical republicanism, the platform of the revolution was hijacked by the lower class. That's why the revolution became bloody & violent and Jacobian rule continued between June 1793 and June 1794 and it gave a terrible face to the revolution. So it became the first evidence of a modern type of dictatorship government. All powers were regimented under a single dictator Robespierre as he eliminated other leaders like Dante, Herbert etc. and established a one-man dictatorship. Quite surprisingly, this dictatorial government was formed in the name of “General Will of Rousseau”. In June 1794, the government of Robespierre declined and even he was eliminated. In French history, this incident is known as the 'Thermidorian Reaction', as it occurred on the day of 9th Thermidorian. In fact, Thermidorian was the name of French calendar. This incident was symbolic of the takeover of power by the middle class once again.
- **Positive contribution of Jacobin Government**– Jacobin government encouraged the republican and socialist ideas and also promoted secularism. It was for the first time that universal adult male suffrage was introduced in France. He encouraged socialist ideas through ensuring ‘right to work’ and ‘right to food’. Government started the rationing of grains for the urban artisans. Apart from this, the right to education, the right to property as well as the right to revolt

against an incompetent government were also ensured. Under this government, the system of 'military conscription' was introduced by a Military General ‘Carno’ and that became instrumental behind the military success of France.

- **Limitations of Jacobin government**– The ‘Reign of Terror’ is characterized as the darkest phase of the democratic revolution in France. This phase produced one of the worst dictatorial governments in the world. During the phase of Jacobin terror, the French Revolution started to devour its own children under Robespierre. Guillotine worked as a death machine and later it came to use as phraseology for the era of violence & dictatorship. The worst side of the picture was that the Reign of Terror was declared in the name of the betterment of the lower-class but the maximum number of people who were killed in this course were associated with the lower class itself.

Third Phase - Moderate Republicanism (1794-99)

- **Class Equation**– During this stage once again the leadership came into the hands of the middle class. At this turn of history, lower-class people were not so strongly organized. On the issue of rationing of grains to the artisans of Paris, differences appeared between peasants & artisans. As peasants were compelled to sell their grains at cheaper rates, that’s why the government of Robespierre declined.
- **Rule of Directory**– In this phase, the middle class again brought the changes in the nature of government according to its own world view. After the decline of Jacobin rule, a new constitution was introduced in 1795. Once again the provision of limited franchise was introduced in place of universal male suffrage. In this constitution there was a provision for bicameral legislature with the executive power vested in five directors.

This government is known as the 'Rule by Directory'. In this government, the political parties were consciously discouraged but at that time, no one surmised that the absence of a political party could automatically lead to the rise of an individual, and that was Napoleon Bonaparte.

Fourth Phase - The Age of Dictatorship and Imperialism in the name of democracy

(1799-1814)

- As we observed after 1794, the revolution turned in favor of the middle class. Though, Napoleon was also working in favor of the middle class, he dismantled the Directory rule in 1799 and established a new government with a new constitution. Further, in 1804 he abolished the republic in France and declared himself the emperor of France. Napoleon ended the radical reforms brought by the Jacobin government and tactfully ditched the revolution from the idea of equality and liberty and linked it to nationalism and military pride.
- **Evaluation of Napoleon :-**
 - **Positive Aspects: Child of the revolution or made a link between old France and New France-** It was the revolution itself that prepared the way for the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. The revolution opened the gate for the rise of talent. A newcomer like Napoleon could rise from the status of common man to the military General of France and further to the position of French emperor. It was the ideals of the revolution which legitimized the position of Napoleon Bonaparte on many occasions even after Napoleon departed from the set course of the revolution. Even when he declared himself to be the emperor of France, he declared that now republic laid in a single person i.e. Napoleon Bonaparte.
 - Napoleon's reforms could also maintain certain ideals of revolution. In fact, the provision of equality before law, freedom of religion, property rights etc. were included in his civil code (Napoleon Code). Moreover, he emphasized the talent for the selection in government services. His tax policy was based on the ideals of revolution as it included the provision of distribution of taxes. Further, he established the 'Bank of France' for the smooth functioning of finance. Even outside of France, he was welcomed as crowned-Jacobian, as Napoleon projected himself as the representative of revolution.
 - **Negative Aspects: Destroyer of the revolution** – Napoleon altered some important ideals of the revolution. He restored the monarchy in altered form and even tried to link his legacy to old Bourbon kings. For example, he called Louis XIV 'mon-oncle' means my uncle. Further, he sidelined the legislative body and carried his works through plebiscite. This became a common tool for future dictators like Hitler and Mussolini. Napoleon put a check over liberty, one of the ideals of the revolution. Although he permitted equality, for him the equality means equal opportunity but not economic equality. His Napoleon Code made female members of the family subordinated to the male ones. Likewise, the revolution had emphasized the method of direct tax but Napoleon gave more emphasis on indirect tax. In the same way, the revolution had emphasized more on the policy of laissez faire but Napoleon gave more priority to mercantilist policy. He maintained certain coercive laws, discouraged political parties and through secret police, eliminated his enemies. So he became an inspiration for future dictators. Napoleon separated the ideals of liberty and equality from French

Revolution and turned it into nationalism and military pride.



MAP 21.1 Napoleon's Empire at Its Height, 1812

■ How was the nationalism encouraged after the victory of Napoleon?

- The regions where Napoleon expanded his empire, the ideals of the revolution also expanded there. The ideals of the revolution gave legitimacy to the Napoleonic empire. Therefore, in his conquered territory he abolished feudalism and redefined the relations with the Church and implemented the Napoleonic Code. In fact, the reforms of Napoleon developed the essence of unity among the European nations and strengthened nationalism. Apart from that, he reorganised the Italian regions and formally abolished the Holy Roman Empire and consolidated the German states.

■ How did Napoleon link old Europe to New Europe?

- Actually the Napoleonic reforms were guided by certain exigencies. The radical phase of revolution destroyed old institutions completely but they did not create new institutions for compensating them. So a vacuum was created which Napoleon had to fill up and he took following steps-

1. Here old France meant pre-revolutionary France and New France meant the radical

France of the post-revolutionary era. Napoleon realized that the revolution has linked to the radical ideas of Rousseau. So he preferably tried to detach the revolution from the idea of Rousseau and to link it to that of thinkers like Montesquieu and Locke.

2. On the one hand, he tried to maintain equality but put a certain check on liberty. Even on the front of equality, he was a bit cautious as he promised to apply the equality of opportunity.
 3. He even tried to link his lineage to the Bourbon kings and in their fashion, he concentrated the power into his hand. Although his monarchy was different from the Bourbon monarchy in that it was approved by the popular support and plebiscite.
 4. Although he maintained the abolition of feudalism and talks in terms of equality of people. But he revived some old laws of Bourbon monarchs in which there was a provision of arrest even without a warrant.
 5. On the one hand he neglected the legislative body but on the other hand, he got the approval for his policy directly from the people through the method of a plebiscite. Likewise, through secret police, he preferred to eliminate his enemy.
- In this way, through adopting certain courses of action, Napoleon preferred to link New France with old one.

■ Continental System of Napoleon

- After continuous success, Napoleon was inclined to destroy his only rival, Britain. He realized that the power and strength of Britain lay in its commercial success. Napoleon therefore, implemented an economic blockade against Britain after the Treaty of Tilsit. With this purpose, Napoleon introduced, so called, Berlin Declaration and Milan declaration in 1806 and 1807 respectively. After the support

of Russia it was assumed the victory of this policy. According to this policy, British ships were not allowed to anchor at either French port or any port of its friendly country. There were two objectives of this policy, primarily it aimed to cripple the British exports and secondly, channelize European trade in favor of France. Britain responded to this policy and declared if anyone was barred from British goods he could not buy the same from other countries. But this system backfired damaging France. Due to the lack of sufficient naval force, France was unable to enforce this system strictly and due to the disruption of British merchandise goods, there was severe scarcity of consumer goods in the market. It created popular discontentment, so revolt against Napoleon started in Spain and Holland. Then European monarchs benefitted from this situation and they also started to make revolt against Napoleon one by one. When Russian monarch Czar Alexander I withdrew from this system Napoleon was so enraged that he decided to punish him. This started Moscow expedition of Napoleon in 1812. Therefore, this continental system proved more devastating to France than Britain.

■ **Reason behind the collapse of Napoleonic Empire –**

- Napoleon created one of the largest empires in Europe but right from the very beginning, this empire had continued to face some basic contradictions. So, due to the contradictions of Napoleon's imperialism and the strategic mistakes committed by him led to the decline of its empire.

Contradictions of Napoleon's imperialism -

1. The major contradiction was the incompatibility between the noble ideas of revolution and the reality of the Napoleonic Empire. In other words, whereas revolution professed the noble

ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity while outside of France Napoleon ruthlessly followed the imperialistic policies. Earlier Napoleon was welcomed by European people as a liberator but very soon in the light of noble ideas of revolution the imperialistic character of his rule was exposed. Obviously, the people turned against him and his empire in Europe was shaken.

2. One of the major factors behind the military success of France against Europe was military conscription or the concept of the citizen's army. It is on that basis, France could take excellence in other European countries. But later having been inspired by France itself even other European nations adopted the method of military conscription so France lost its specialty and now French soldiers could be outnumbered by other European nations.

Strategic mistakes–

1. **Continental system developed by Napoleon Bonaparte-** As Napoleon introduced the system without the proper planning and preparation so it resulted in a scarcity of essential goods from the market. It created wider public discontentment and this discontentment led to the revolution. This popular revolt was later joined by European power against Napoleon. So, Napoleon was defeated in 1813.
2. **Moscow expedition** was a major mistake on the part of Napoleon Bonaparte. In this expedition, a larger part of his soldiers was destroyed. In fact, on the western and eastern border of Europe, there were two superpowers, one was Britain and other was Russia. If any third power in Europe was inclined to maintain the dominance in Europe it needed the support of at least one of the powers. But a big mistake on the part of Napoleon was that he went on such a devastating expedition in the eastern part (Moscow expedition) while in west, Britain was still unconquered. The

same mistake was committed by Hitler 130 years later.

Question: French Revolution was the harbinger of democracy in Europe. Critically examine the statement.

‘Critically examine’ means you have not to take one sided view rather you have to go through pros and cons, merit and demerit, strength and weakness i.e. both side of the statement. Then you should take the conclusion. The conclusion should be in favor of any side depending on the issue which is involved in the topic.

Answer:- French Revolution proved a greater land mark in the history of France and Europe. It brought a momentous change in the nature of government, statecraft and the relationship between state and society. But in course of the revolution to what extent the gap between promises and fulfillment could be bridged, needs deep scrutiny.

The revolution started with the famous slogan liberty, equality and fraternity. Feudalism was abolished and then appeared the declaration of rights of men and citizen which was ideologically inspired by Rousseau’s concept of common will. The buck does not stop here but up to September 1892 monarchy was uprooted and France became a republic. Very soon French Revolution was converted into an all European Revolution when Napoleon’s conquest gave a serious jolt to old order in Europe.

But there is another side of picture as well. Gradually revolution diverted from its main course. Under Jacobian rule, the revolution turned to be bloody and violent. After that Napoleon Bonaparte tactfully diverted revolution from the slogan of liberty and equality and moved it towards military conquest and imperialism. After Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna tried to undo the changes which had earlier been made by the revolution. So, a gap appeared between promise and performance.

On this basis we find that for revolution objective of democratization remained to be a distant dream. But still we can give some

credit to this revolution for launching a process which was full of future potentialities.

■ **Significance of French Revolution and its legacy–**

- The French revolution brought immediate changes in France and Europe but in the long-term it changed the perspective of the whole world.
- 1. It promoted liberal ideology i.e. representative government, the declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.
- 2. The major outcome of the French revolution was to encourage popular participation in politics and this resulted in structural change in politics.
- 3. It was enshrined with the idea of modern nationalism, which was based on popular sovereignty, and as a result, the unification of Italy and Germany was possible.
- 4. Revolution gave impetus to ideas like republicanism and democracy.
- 5. During the reign of Jacobin, concepts like socialism or socialist ideas also thrived.
- 6. Furthermore, it produced its impact on the liberation movement in Latin America during the early decades of the nineteenth century.
- 7. It also left an imprint on Asian continent. For example, the nationalists like Raja Rammohan Roy and Tipu Sultan in India were also influenced by the ideas of the French revolution.

■ **Limitations of the French Revolution–**

- The revolution professed the noble ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity while it was far away from its implementation because it preferred limited franchise in place of universal adult suffrage.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen came into existence on August 26, 1789, in which females were excluded. In fact, the universal adult suffrage was acknowledged in the year 1946.
- The French revolution remained unanswered to the question of relation

between the middle class and the lower class which was later answered by the Russian revolution.

Question: French Revolution failed to achieve what it intended to achieve. Do you agree?

Answer: It is undeniable that in course of the French Revolution the gulf between promises and performance remained to be unbridged but still its significance cannot be undermined.

French Revolution started with lofty democratic slogan of liberty, equality and fraternity but very soon it drifted from its course. Then firstly it fell a prey to Jacobian terror as a result of which the revolution started to devour its own children and finally the revolution was hijacked by a military Junta under Napoleon. Even in Europe what was offered in the name of the revolution was nothing but merely the ideas of the revolution.

But in spite of the limitations mentioned above we cannot underrate the extent of change brought by the revolution. In France, feudalism became a thing of the past. Declaration of Rights of Men and citizen reflected the spirit of General will of Rousseau. There started an era of popular participation in politics. Outside of France, in Europe, the revolutionary ideals of liberalism and nationalism worked as formidable forces of change. Even the Vienna order succumbed to these ideals which resurfaced in course of the revolutions of 1830s and those of 1848. Last but not the least, the unification of Italy and that of Germany was the victory of revolutionary ideas.

Therefore, we can say that although French Revolution achieved less than but not far less than what it had intended to achieve.

Question- The French Revolution changed France as well as Europe. Examine.

Question Analysis- *This question is 'Hypothetical' in its nature. We have to proof the statement with proper logic and examples. Its keywords are 'France', 'Europe', 'changed', 'examine'.*

Answer- The geographical spread, intensity and comprehensiveness of the French Revolution proved to be very effective. Through this, the transformation of France as well as Europe from Medieval Age to Modern Age became possible.

In France, this revolution gave death certificate to ancien regime. In the midst of the revolution, France became republic after abolishing the monarchy, feudalism came to an end, Rights of Men and citizen were declared. In this way, France went far ahead of Europe in the matter of ideology and institutional development.

So, what was the revolution in France, that took the form of a war in Europe and this war brought a new revolution in Europe. In fact, wherever Napoleon went, they brought their certain reforms. For example, he abolished feudalism, put a check over the church and introduced the so-called Napoleonic code. So, the French Revolution turned into a European Revolution. Further its impact was also seen on other continents.

Thus, the French Revolution changed France and Europe both.

Food for Thought

- Why did the French Revolution prove to be more radical than the American Revolution?
- What were the reasons for the dominance of the lower class in the midst of the French Revolution?
- Despite all the efforts, why did the lower class fail to establish its supremacy over the revolution?
- Why did the French Revolution take the form of the European Revolution and what impact did it have on Europe?
- Did Napoleon Bonaparte act as a harbinger of revolution or as a destroyer?

