



Chapter 5 – Print Culture and the Modern World (Complete Simplified Notes)

◆ 1. A World Without Print? 🤖

Before printing:


- People depended on  **oral storytelling** and  **handwritten manuscripts**
- Life without newspapers, books, ads, calendars? Unimaginable today!

This chapter shows how print changed:




-  Education
-  Ideas
-  Politics
-  Society


2 The First Printed Books 📖

 In China 🇨🇳

- Printing began in **594 AD** using woodblocks
-  Accordion-style books printed for **imperial exams**
- Used by: Officials, merchants, women



 In Japan 🇯🇵

- Printing came via **Buddhist monks**
- Famous book: *Diamond Sutra* (868 AD)
- Printed on  cards,  art,  money, etiquette books

 Famous Artist: **Kitagawa Utamaro** → inspired European artists like Van Gogh

3 Print in Europe 🏰

 Marco Polo brought Chinese printing ideas in 1295

-  Rich people still liked handwritten **vellum books**
-  Printed books spread among **students and merchants**

 Handwritten books couldn't meet demand

➡ Printing press was the solution!

4 Gutenberg's Printing Press 🖨️

- Invented by **Johann Gutenberg** in 1430s (Germany)
- First book printed: **Bible** (180 copies in 3 years!)

🖋️ Used:

- Olive press model
- Movable metal type for alphabets
- Could print 250 pages per hour! 🔥

Printed books still had space for 🖋️ hand-painted decorations — rich buyers loved the uniqueness.

📌 **CBSE Tip:** Gutenberg's press = start of the **Print Revolution**

5 The Print Revolution 🌐

♦ New Reading Public 📖

- 📖 Books became cheaper → 📈 more people read
- Illiterate people still enjoyed **listening** to printed stories
- Ballads and tales sung in taverns 🍺

🎯 Oral + Print cultures merged!

6 Print & Religion 🏛️

👤 Martin Luther's Reformation (1517)

- Criticized Catholic Church
- Printed his *95 Theses* → huge spread
- Called print: “**Ultimate gift of God**” 🙏

📌 **CBSE Repeats:** Print's role in the Protestant Reformation

7 Print, Fear, & Dissent 🗣️

People feared:

- 📖 Uncontrolled spread = danger
- ⚡ Rebellious ideas might rise
- 😡 Religious leaders, kings = scared of print

📖 **Menocchio**, an Italian miller, read books → made his own ideas → punished by Church

📌 **CBSE Alert:** Why did some fear print culture?

8 Reading Mania in Europe 📖

- 🌐 Literacy rose → everyone wanted to read
- 📖 Books for all: children, workers, women
- 🗣️ Penny books, folktales, newspapers, novels

- 👤 Chapmen (pedlars) sold books door-to-door
- 📰 Periodicals = entertainment + current affairs

9 Print and French Revolution 🇫🇷

🔊 How print contributed:

1. 🌟 Enlightenment ideas (Voltaire, Rousseau) spread
2. 💬 Public debate, questioning of monarchy & Church
3. 🗞️ Satirical cartoons, underground literature mocked royalty

But people read **both** revolutionary & royalist content.

📌 **CBSE Fav:** Connection between print and French Revolution

10 The 19th Century – Mass Literacy 📈

👦 Children:

- 📖 Textbooks, fairy tales (Grimm Brothers)
- Folk tales edited for children

👩 Women:

- 📖 Manuals on behavior
- ✍️ Writers like Jane Austen, Bronte Sisters
- 📖 Journals for women's education

👷 Workers:

- 📖 Libraries, self-written autobiographies
- 📖 Writings by Sudarshan Chakr, Kashibaba, Gorky

1 1 Innovations in Printing Tech 🔧

- 🖨️ Power-driven presses (8,000 sheets/hour!)
- ✍️ Offset presses, colored prints
- 📦 Publishers used ads, **cheap paperbacks**, **serialized novels**

📌 Examples: *Shilling Series*, *Dust Jackets*, Railway ads

1 2 Print Comes to India 🇮🇳

📖 Before print:

- 📖 Manuscripts on palm leaves, handmade paper
- 🗞️ Written in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, regional languages

Issues:

- 📈 Expensive
- 🧩 Hard to read
- 🍃 Fragile

📖 First Press:

- Portuguese missionaries in Goa (1550s)
- Tamil book (1579), Malayalam (1713)

📰 First English newspaper: *Bengal Gazette* by Hickey (1780)

1 3 Print and Reform Movements 🙌

🗣️ Religious/Social Debates:

- Reformers like **Rammohun Roy** spread ideas via press
- Muslims: **Deoband Seminary**, **fatwas**
- Hindus: **Ramcharitmanas** printed in Hindi

📖 Urdu, Gujarati, Persian papers promoted public discussions

1 4 New Publications & Visual Culture 🎨

- 📖 Novels, lyrics, essays about real life
- 👁️ Visuals: Raja Ravi Varma's mythological paintings
- 🎭 Caricatures: Mocked British or warned of western influence

1 5 Women & Print 🧑🏻

- 📖 Autobiographies: *Amar Jiban* by Rashsundari Debi (1876)
- ✍️ Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai – wrote on gender injustice
- 📖 Women's journals, novels, schoolbooks

⚠️ Some conservative families resisted girls' education


1 6 Print & The Poor 💰

- 📖 Cheap books sold on roads, in markets
- 📖 Jyotiba Phule's *Gulamgiri* (1871)
- ⚡ Periyar, Ambedkar wrote against caste
- 📖 Mill workers set up libraries (Bombay, Kanpur, Bangalore)

1 7 Censorship & Colonial India 🔒

📅 Timeline:



- 📅 1798: First press controls on English writers
- 🚫 1878: **Vernacular Press Act**
- 🚫 1919: Rowlatt Committee strengthened censorship
- 📅 1942: 90+ newspapers banned during Quit India

 Gandhi (1922): “Freedom of press = core of Swaraj!”

Key Terms You Should Know

Term	Meaning
Satyagraha	Truth force (Gandhi’s philosophy)
Ballad	Song/poem telling a story
Vernacular	Local/regional language
Lithographic Press	Used stone/metal plates for printing
Fatwa	Islamic legal opinion
Chapbook	Pocket-sized cheap book
Despotism	Rule by an absolute, unregulated power

Timeline of Major Events

 Year	 Event
594 AD	First printed books in China
868 AD	<i>Diamond Sutra</i> printed in Japan
1295	Marco Polo brings printing to Europe
1430s	Gutenberg invents printing press
1517	Martin Luther's <i>95 Theses</i> printed
1558	Catholic Church starts banning books
1780	Bengal Gazette (India's 1st newspaper)
1810	Ramcharitmanas printed
1871	<i>Gulamgiri</i> by Phule
1878	Vernacular Press Act
1938	<i>Chhote Aur Bade Ka Sawal</i> published
1942	90 newspapers shut during Quit India