

CHAPTER 16 HISTORY OF DEVELOPED SOCIETIES

Objectives: After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- discuss the Renaissance in Europe.
- examine the Industrial revolution/age of machine.
- discuss the French Revolution and the growth of nationalism and democracy.
- examine the emergence of Asian tigers and lessons derived from it.

Introduction

This chapter sets to study the European history which is characterized by the Renaissance, French Revolution and Industrial Revolution. It also studies the emergence of Asian Tigers and the lessons we can draw from them.

16.1 Renaissance

Renaissance means ‘rebirth’. This is a period after the Middle Ages that is characterized by increased desire in classical learning, values, arts and music. Renaissance first started in Italy and spread to other countries. It was an event that started in the 14th century and led to discoveries which promoted learning. For example, there was the establishment of paper and printers which led to production of learning and scholarship. The innovation of compass led to discovery of other parts of the world.

The period of the renaissance was a period of revival of learning and wisdom which declined. The Renaissance period enabled people to express themselves through works of arts while before the Renaissance, arts was dominated by religion such as paintings of Virgin Mary. There was rise in the architecture, painting, sculpture, literature, philosophy and theology.

The Renaissance was also associated with growth and development of science which led to inventions and innovations that later charged the history of Europe. There was invention of gun powder which affected the world in terms of wars. The Renaissance led to intellectual freedom which made people think and formulate ideas. Infact, it divided ancient world from modern world.

16.2 Industrial Revolution

Industrial Revolution is the rise and growth of industries in Europe which led to production of goods in large quantities for internal and international markets. The industrial revolution started in Britain and spread to other areas. The revolution started from 1750 to 1850 and brought changes on all aspects of the economy which included manufacturing, mining and transportation. The revolution affected almost daily life. There was rise in standard of living, increase in birth rate and decrease in death rate. It also made European countries seek for centres of raw materials for European industries and markets for their finished goods. The industrial revolution led to capital accumulation in Europe

which further created power and fame and the desire of European countries to conquer other parts of the world, Africa inclusive.

The Industrial Revolution led to production of textiles in large quantities, arms and ammunition ships and the general progress of industry which led to the development of Europe.

16.3 French Revolution

The French Revolution was an event that happened in 1789 in France. The revolution was carried out in every aspect of the French society which brought changes that promoted the development of Europe. There were changes in traditional ideology and King Louis XIV and other officials in France who were believed to be efficient in government were executed (killed). The catholic system was abolished and a new calendar was established.

It is believed that the French Revolution has led to the growth and development of France and other countries as all traditional ideas were done away with. This led to the establishment of Republic government which gave the citizens equal rights. France was divided into three classes with the peasants at the bottom which led to their exploitation. The French Revolution brought changes in the lives of women. Before the revolution, women could not vote or hold any political office and they were considered ‘passive’ citizens who had to rely on the men. It was really a man’s world. The revolution changed the status of women to the same status of men. They could vote and hold political offices. The French Revolution is believed to have brought liberty on all aspects of the society. It also defined the rights of the citizens.

16.4 The Emergence of Asian Tigers

The Asian tigers are Japan, China and South Korea who have a well developed economy despite their different historical experiences. Japan was bombarded in 1945 by America who dropped a nuclear bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaka area which led to the death and disability of many Japanese people. Yet, Japan is a power that can be listed among the developed and industrialized countries.

China like Nigeria had its colonial experience but the Chinese are today one of the largest exporters of toys, textiles and jewelries in the world. The economy of China is today developed and has become a powerful country.

In the same vein, Nigeria can adopt the method used by Japan and China in the way they achieved economic growth and development. Nigeria can make use of its raw materials for industrial production for internal and international markets. This would help to reduce poverty and provide employment.

Summary

- Renaissance means ‘rebirth’ of learning arts and science.
- It started in Italy in the fourteenth century and later spread to other areas.

- Renaissance led to the establishment of paper and printers which led to the production of many books which promoted learning.
- Renaissance led to innovations of gun powders, compass and ship.
- Industrial revolution is increase in production associated with the rise of industries.
- Industrial revolution started in Britain in the 18th century and later spread to other parts of Europe.
- Industrial revolution led to rise in the standard of living, increase in birth rate and decrease in death rate.
- French revolution took place in France in 1789.
- French Revolution led to the overthrow of monarchical system and introduction of Republican system.
- French revolution abolished discrimination of women and promoted human rights.
- Asian tigers like Japan and China had their own historical experiences yet they are able to develop.
- Africa should adopt the style of the Asian countries and establish industries that produce goods for internal and international markets.

Objective Questions

1. Renaissance means _____.
 - A. Rebirth
 - B. Education
 - C. Wealth
 - D. Country
2. Renaissance started in _____ and later spread to other areas.
 - A. China
 - B. Japan
 - C. Portugal
 - D. Italy
3. The following are characteristics of Renaissance except _____.
 - A. classical learning
 - B. arts
 - C. science
 - D. wealth acquisition
4. Industrial revolution started in _____.
 - A. America
 - B. China
 - C. Britain

- D. France
5. Production of large number of goods using machine is associated with _____
- French Revolution
 - German Revolution
 - Industrial Revolution
 - Technological Revolution
6. The following are impacts of the Industrial revolution except
- Rise in standard of living
 - Production of goods in large quantities
 - Wealth accumulation
 - Rise in death rate
7. French Revolution led to the abolition of _____ system.
- Class
 - Value
 - Social
 - urban
8. French Revolution took place in France in _____.
- 1976
 - 1966
 - 1866
 - 1879
9. _____ led to abolition of women discrimination.
- French Revolution
 - Enlightenment
 - Liberty
 - Struggle
10. The following are Asian tigers except _____.
- Japan
 - China
 - South Korea
 - Malaysia

Essay Questions

- Examine the significance of Renaissance.
- Discuss the French Revolution.
- Discuss the Industrial Revolution.
- Examine the impacts of Industrial Revolution.
- Which lessons can Africa learn from Asian tigers?