

MODULE 3

HISTORY

The French Revolution

Robespierre- Reign of Terror

1793-1794:

- severe control and punishment
 - all enemies of republic (ex-nobles or clergy) were arrested and imprisoned
 - if found guilty were guillotined
- ❖ Guillotine: The guillotine is a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person is beheaded and is named after Dr. Guillotin who invented it.

Suggestions of Robespierre

- Maximum ceiling on wages and prices.
- Meat and bread were rationed.
- Expensive white wheat was forbidden.
- All citizens were required to eat the pain d'égalité (equality bread), a loaf made of whole wheat.
- Rather than traditional Monsieur (sir) and Madame (Madam) all French man and women were citoyen and citoyenne (citizen)
- Churches were shut and their buildings converted to barracks.

Even his supporters demanded moderation.

He was sent to court in 1794 and guillotined.

Directory Rules France

- After Jacobian government fell, wealthier middle class seized power.
- New Constitution- denied vote to non-propertied section.
- Provided 2 elected legislative councils and appointed Directory (executive of 5 members) to safeguard concentration of power in one hand as under Jacobins.
- But directors clashed with legislative council who dismissed them- this led to military dictator-Napoleon Bonaparte.

Did Women have a Revolution?

- Most women had no access to education or job training.
- Only wealthier class could study in convent and later marriage could be arranged.
- Wages of women were lower than men.
- Women started political clubs to raise voice with 60 such clubs in various cities.
- Most famous club- The society of Revolutionary and Republican women.
- Disappointed that constitution of 1791 reduced them to passive citizens.
- Demands- right to vote, to be elected, hold political office and get representation in govt.
- During the Reign of Terror, the new govt. issued laws ordering closure of women's clubs and banning their political activities but it continued.
- Women got right to vote in France in 1946 (result of international suffrage movement)

❖ SUFFRAGE: Right to Vote

OLYMPE DE GOUGES

Politically active women in revolutionary France, in 1791 wrote- "Declaration of Rights of Women and Citizen", She opposed Jacobins govt. forceful closure of women clubs and was executed.

Abolition of Slavery

- Effort of social reform of Jacobin in French colonies in Caribbean- Martinique, Guadeloupe and San Domingo (suppliers of tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee)
- Triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa and America.
- The slave trade began in the 17th century.
- French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast, where they bought slaves from local chieftains.
- Packed on 3-month voyage and were sold to plantation owners.
- Convention in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.
- However, it was reintroduced 10 yrs. later by Napoleon.
- Finally abolished in French colonies in 1848.

Revolution and Everyday Life

- Abolition of Censorship
- Freedom of speech and expression
- Freedom of press

❖ CENSORSHIP: the control of the information and ideas circulated within a society.

Conclusion

1804- Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of France- became modernizer of Europe.

He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.

Initially, was seen as liberator but later as invading force.

In 1815- Defeated at Waterloo.

Tipu Sultan and Rammohan Roy are 2 examples of individual who responded to the ideas coming from revolutionary France.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was one of those who was inspired by new ideas- French Revolution and later July Revolution (he insisted to visit warships flying revolutionary tricolor).

USEFUL LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cG8PRwcwHHU&feature=youtu.be>

SELF ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. Why was Robespierre guillotined?
2. Who write “Declaration of Rights of Women and Citizen” and when?
3. A triangular slave trade was held between which areas of the world during the 18th century?
4. When and where was Napoleon defeated?
5. Which Indian individuals responded to the ideas coming from revolutionary France?
6. Describe any 3 causes for the fall of the Jacobin government in France.