

DAV POLICE PUBLIC SCHOOL, PANCHKULA

CLASS-IX

HISTORY

CHAPTER-2

SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

1. SOCIAL , ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA BEFORE 1905 :-

Social Condition

- The majority religion was Russian Orthodox Christianity. But, the empire also included Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.
- The non-Russian nationalities were not treated equal to that of Russian nationalities. They were not given freedom to follow their culture and language.
- Workers were a divided group on the basis of skill and training. Peasants formed their group called commune or mir.

Economic Condition

- Majority of Russians were agriculturists. Grain was the main item of export from Russia.
- Industries were few. Major industrial areas were St. Petersburg and Moscow.
- There were large factories alongside the craft workshops.
- With the expansion of Russian rail network, foreign investment in factories grew.
- There was huge coal, iron and steel production.
- The workers were exploited by capitalists who made their life miserable.

Political Conditions

- Russia was a monarchy.
- The Tsars believed in the divine rights of kings.
- They were not responsible to the Parliament.
- All political parties were illegal in Russia.

2. WORKING POPULATION IN RUSSIA WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:-

- Vast majority of Russians were agriculturists. This proportion was higher than in most European countries. In France and Germany this proportion was between 40% and 50%.
- The cultivators in Russia produced for the markets as well as for their own needs.

- Workers were a divided social group on the basis of skill. Metalworkers considered aristocrats among other workers as their occupations demanded more training and skills.
- Peasants in Russia had no respect for the nobility. Nobles got their power and position through the Tsar and not through local popularity, whereas in countries like France, peasants respected nobles.
- In Russia peasants had pooled their land together and divided the profits according to the family needs. In other parts of the world, agriculture was done individually by the peasants.

3. REASONS FOR THE FAILURE OF TSARIST AUTOCRACY IN 1917

SOCIAL REASONS

- In the First World War, the defeat of the Russian army was shocking and demoralising.
- There were 7 million casualties and 3 million refugees by 1917.

ECONOMIC REASONS

- There were labour shortages due to participation of able-bodied men in war, leading to shut down of many small factories.
- Large quantities of grain were sent to feed the army. For the people in cities, bread and flour became expensive and scarce.
- This scarcity led to riots in bread shops. People became dissatisfied with the policies of the Tsar.

POLITICAL REASONS

- Tsar Nicholas II was an autocratic, inefficient and weak ruler who believed in the divine rights of the king.
- The bureaucracy got special rights and privileges but the general public got none.
- The Tsar had built a vast empire and imposed Russian language and culture on diverse nationalities.

4. **EVENTS OF FEBRUARY REVOLUTION:-**

- 22ND February, 1917- Lockout of factory on the right bank of Neva River. The next day the workers of 50 factories went on strike in sympathy. Women also led and participated in strikes. This came to be called “International Women’s Day”. The government imposed a curfew.
- 24TH and 25TH February- The government called out the cavalry and the police to keep an eye on them.
- 25TH February- The government suspended the Duma and politicians spoke against this measure.
- 27TH February- The police headquarters were ransacked. A delegation went to meet the Tsar. The military commanders advised him to abdicate.
- 2ND March- The Tsar was abdicated. A provisional government was formed by the Soviet and Duma leaders to run the country.

EFFECTS OF FEBRUARY REVOLUTION:-

- Restrictions on public meeting and associations were removed.
- Soviets were set up everywhere.
- In individual areas factory committees were formed which began questioning the way industrialists ran their factories.
- Soldiers’ committees were formed in the army.
- The provisional government saw its power declining and Bolshevik influence grew. It decided to take stern measures against the spreading discontentment.
- It resisted attempts by workers to run factories and arrested leaders.
- Peasants and socialist revolutionary leaders pressed for a redistribution of land.
- Land committees were formed and peasants seized land between July and September 1917.

EVENTS OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION-

- 16TH October 1917- Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power. A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet to organize seizure.
- 24TH October- Uprising began. Prime Minister Kerenskii left the city to summon troops. Military men loyal to government seized two buildings of Bolshevik newspapers. Pro-government troops were sent to take over telephone and telegraph offices and protect the Winter Palace.
- In response, Military Revolutionary Committee ordered to seize government offices and arrest the ministers.
- The “AURORA” ship shelled the Winter Palace.
- By night the city had been taken over, and ministers had surrendered.
- All Russian Congress of Soviet in Petrograd approved the Bolshevik action.
- By December- Heavy fighting in Moscow. The Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow-Petrograd area. The people involved were Lenin, the Bolsheviks and pro-government troops.

EFFECTS OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION-

- Most industries and banks were nationalized in November 1917.
- Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
- Use of old titles was banned.
- New uniforms were designed for the army officials.
- Russia became a one party state.
- Trade unions were kept under party control.
- A process of centralised planning was introduced.
- Industrial production increased.
- An extended schooling was developed.
- Collectivization of farms started.

5. **Main changes brought about by Bolsheviks immediately after the October**

Revolution:-

- The Bolsheviks opposed private properties; thus they nationalized industries and banks.
- Lands of the clergy and nobility were seized and land was declared the state property.
- The use of old titles of aristocracy were banned. To assert the social change new uniforms were designed for the army and the officials.
- In cities, large houses were portioned to accommodate another families.
- The Bolshevik party renamed itself as the Russian Communist Party. Russia became a one-party state.
- All Russian Congress of Soviets became the Parliament of the country. Trade unions were kept under party control.
- The secret police vigilance on citizens punished those who criticized the Bolsheviks.

6. **SHORT NOTE-**

- **KULAKS-** It is the Russian name for well-to-do peasants. In 1927-28, Stalin took the decision to develop modern farms and run them along industrial lines. For this purpose, it was necessary to eliminate Kulaks. Many Kulaks' properties were raided. Under Stalin's Collectivization Programme, land of Kulaks was taken away and converted into large modern farms. This programme was severely resisted by the Kulaks. Many of them destroyed their livestock. Those who resisted collectivization were punished; many Kulaks were deported and exiled.
- **THE DUMA-** It was the elected consultative Parliament set up after the Revolution of 1905. Its members were charged with the responsibility of making laws. The Tsar dismissed the First Duma within 75 days and re-elected the second Duma within 3 months. The Tsar did not want any questioning of his power. He changed the voting laws and packed the third Duma with conservative politicians. Finally, in February 1917, the Duma was suspended. Many members of the Duma became a part of the Provisional government.
- **WOMEN WORKERS BETWEEN 1900 AND 1930-** In Russia the women worker constituted 31% of the factory labour force. They were paid less than their men counterparts. In most of the factories, they were paid between half and three quarters

of men's wage. During the February Revolution, women led the way to strikes in many factories.

- **THE LIBERALS:** - One of the groups which looked to change society were the liberals. They were opposed to the uncontrolled power of the dynastic rulers. They preferred religious tolerance and wanted to safeguard individual rights. They favoured parliamentary system of government and an independent judiciary. They did not believe in universal adult franchise. They wanted voting rights to be restricted to men of property only.
- **STALIN'S COLLECTIVIZATION PROGRAMME:-** In 1927-28, Soviet Russia was facing an acute shortage. The peasants refused to sell the grains at the price fixed by the government. Stalin believed that peasants had surplus grain, but were holding it back, expecting higher prices. So, he introduced the concept of collective farms (kolkhoz). To develop these farms, it was necessary to eliminate Kulaks, take away land from peasants and establish state-controlled large farms. From 1929, all peasants were forced to work in Kolkhoz. The Kolkhoz profit was shared by all the peasants who worked on the land. Those who resisted collectivization were severely punished. Stalin's government allowed some independent cultivation, but treated such peasants unsympathetically.

THANKYOU....