

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, PURULIA

Subject – History

Phase – 1

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Chapter - 1

A Period of Transition

Class - VIII

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Introduction:- During the period of transition, a number of inter-related changes radical changes took place in the world. The main factors to introduce these changes in the world were the Renaissance, Industrial Revolution, Reformation, Voyages and Discoveries and Imperialism. The term 'Renaissance' was used by the historians to describe the socio-cultural changes that spanned between the 14th-18th century AD. It is a bridge to understand the modern world.

Meaning of Renaissance:-

- 'Renaissance' literally means 're-birth'. It was the revival of literature, art, philosophy, politics, religion, science and music. It began in Italy and spread to all the rest of Europe.
- The Renaissance thinkers were rationalistic.
- One of the most famous person during this time was Leonardo da Vinci. He was also known as the 'Renaissance Man'.
- Another important personality during this period or another so called 'Renaissance Man' was Michelangelo, who was a sculptor, painter, architect and poet.

REFORMATION:-

Attempts to reform (change and improve) the Catholic Church and the development of Protestant Churches in Western Europe, together are known as Reformation.

The Reformation movement began in 1517, when a German monk named Martin Luther protested against the Catholic Church. His followers became or came to be known as Protestants.

Causes of Reformation:-

With the start of the 16th century, many events led to the Protestant reformation. The abuses made by the Clergies, forced the people to begin to criticize against the Catholic Church. The greed and scandalous (unsustainable) lives of the clergy people created a split between them and the common people. The clergy did not respond to the need of the common people. They thus, slowly lost their prestige.

Voyages of Discovery:-

Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Turks. They blocked the trade routes to Asia. This led to the need of new trade routes to Asia. The early 15th century which continued up to the early 17th century, during which European ships travelled around the world, searched for new trading routes and partners.

In AD 1488, a Portuguese sailor, Bartolomeu Dias sailed along the west coast of Africa. He managed to reach its southernmost edge. He named it as the Cape of Storms. However, this tip was renamed by John – II as the Cape of Good Hope, as it facilitated the route to India. through this route, Vasco da Gama reached Calicut on the west coast of India in 1498.

Another great sailor was Columbus who discovered an entirely new continent, named America.

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese explorer who discovered sea route to Asia.

Meaning of the Industrial Revolution:-

There was a significant transformation of industry and economy in Britain, between 1780s and 1850s. It was called the 'First Industrial Revolution'. It experienced the first major breakthrough from rural handicraft economy to one controlled by urban machine driven production.

Reasons why the Industrial Revolution started in England:-

1. England was rich in minerals like coal, iron-ore, lead, copper and tin.
2. Political stability, common laws and increasing markets.
3. The abolition of serfdom made easy availability of cheap labour.
4. A good network of rivers, an indented coastline and the spread of railways helped the movement of goods.
5. The colonies served as a market where the British could dump their manufactured goods.

The following inventions spurred the process of Industrialization:-

1. The Flying Shuttle Loom designed by John Kay could weave broader fabrics in less time.
2. The Spinning Jenny made by James Hargreaves. On this machine, a single person could spin many threads of yarn at the same time.
3. The Water Frame invented by Arkwright could produce a much stronger thread.

4. The Mule invented by Samuel Crompton could spin strong and fine yarn.
5. The Power Loom invented by Edmund Cartwright made the task of spinning and weaving easy.

Impacts of Industrial Revolution:-

1. It reshaped the lives of men, women and children.
2. It introduced the factory system, which in turn spurred (encouragement) the migration of millions from the countryside to the cities.
3. A class of rich individuals developed and their capitals multiplied.
4. Another class was the workers. They were exploited and led a life of great hardships.
5. When the economic life shifted from the villages to the cities, many industrial towns and cities developed. Examples like Manchester and Liverpool.

Meaning of Imperialism:-

Imperialism is a policy of extending a country's dominance and influence through colonization. It involves the use of military force and other means.

The imperialist country is known as the 'mother-country', whereas the defeated country is known as the 'colony'.

The imperialist or the 'mother-country' exploits the economic and other resources of its colony in a very offensive way.

Main Causes for the Rise of Imperialism:-

1. Geographical Explorations and Discoveries.
2. The Industrial Revolution.
3. Need for Raw Materials.
4. Aggressive Nationalism.
5. Invention of modern means of Transportation and Communication.
6. Role of Christian Missionaries.

Positive Impacts of Imperialism:-

1. Means of Transportation and Communication provided political stability.
2. Introduction of English Language removed the Linguistic barriers.
3. Western Education was responsible for the Western Ideas.

Negative Impacts of Imperialism:-

1. The policy of economic exploitation led to poverty, starvation and backwardness of the colonial people.
2. The Colonial powers crippled the local industries.
3. The Imperialist rule led to social and cultural discrimination.
4. The racial supremacy created racial segregation.

:=HOMEWORK:=

EXERCISES – C and F to be done in the school History Copy.