

13. Democratic and Nationalist Revolutions 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries

Improve your learning

1. Question

Identify the name of the country in the context of following statements: (UK, USA and France)

- a) Revolution where parliament system was established.
- b) Country where king continues to play some role even after revolution.
- c) Country that had to war against another in order to establish democracy.
- d) The Bill of right was adopted.
- e) Overthrow of the monarchy was led by the peasants.
- f) The Declaration of Right of Man and Citizen was adopted.

Answer

- a) England. In 1649 England became a republic with parliamentary system.
- b) France. Kingdom of France did not finish with the execution of Louis XVI, There were three more in power before the Presidency.
- c) USA.
- d) England. The English Bill of Rights is an act that the Parliament of England passed on December 16, 1689.
- e) France. The peasants who belonged to the third estate of the social strata overthrew the monarchy.
- f) France. Declaration of rights was adopted in 1791 by French men.

2. Question

What were the main ideas of social thinkers, which were significant to the establishment of new forms of government? How did they gain popularity?

Answer

Social democracy was the chief thought of social thinkers. This is a societal, political and financial ideology. It supports social and economic involvement. It helps to support social justice within a polity that is free-thinking democratic as well as consumerist economy. The norms that are occupied in

this method include a dedication to representative and participatory democracy. This social thinkers gained reputation by mass support of their plan.

3. Question

Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protests in France.

Answer

The situation that causes outbreak of revolutionary protest in France was Social Inequality. French society in eighteenth century was separated into three estates namely The Clergy, The nobility and third estates which contain peasants, officials and small business. The noble class of Clergy and nobility were exempt from taxes. The peasants were left to suffer socially and economically. This led to revolution.

4. Question

Would you agree with the view that the message of universal right was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Answer

The message of universal rights was overwhelmed with contradictions. Many ideals in the "Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen" were not understandable in their meanings, e.g., (i) "The law has the right to prohibit only actions harmful to society". It did not state about illegal offences in opposition to other individuals.

5. Question

What made the American colonists to raise the slogan 'No Taxation without Representation'?

Answer

"No taxation without representation," a slogan originating during the 1750s and 1760s. The slogan summarizes a primary complaint of the British Colonists in the 13 colonies. It was one of the major causes of the American Revolution.

6. Question

How do you understand women's role in French Revolution?

Answer

Women played a very important part in the French Revolution from its origin. The women considered that their participation in the revolution would force the government to pass the laws that would advance their lives. Their demands were 1) they wanted to enjoy the same rights as that of men. 2) right to vote in the political elections and hold the political offices.

The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was one of the famous women clubs which united French women.

7. Question

Read the para under the title 'The Reign of Terror' of page 168 and comment on it.

Answer

The reign of terror was in the period of 1793 to 1794. The Robespierre went after a policy that was intended to control and punish people. It was for about 11 months during the French Revolution. All those people who he feels were threat for republic were imprisoned, arrested and then tried by a revolutionary committee. If the court found them at fault then they were executed.

8. Question

Briefly explain the process of the unification of Germany.

Answer

In 1848, the middle class Germans attempted to unite the different regions of German union into a nation state under a selected parliament. But this noninterventionist initiative of nation building was introverted by the joint forces of the kingdom and big landlords of Prussia. Otto Van Bismarck, the chief minister of Prussia passed out the route of alliance with the assistance of the Prussian army and bureaucracy. Bismarck was influenced that the fusion of Germany could only be achieved by the princes, and not by the people. He wanted to achieve his plan by merging Prussia into Germany. In 1867, Bismarck became the chancellor of the North confederation.

Bismarck's main intention was to merge Germany and it was possible by three wars which were fought in a brief period of seven years. These wars were ended with the victory of Prussia which helped in finishing the process of German unification on 18th January 1871. The German confederation recognized the Prussian dominance in Europe.

9. Question

Locate England, France, Prussia, Spain, and Austria on the Map of Europe.

Answer

