

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Which socialist parties were formed in Germany, Britain and France?

Ans. (i) Germany — The Social Democratic Party (SDP)

(ii) Britain — Labour Party

(iii) France — Socialist Party.

Q.2. What was the socialist system?

Ans. Socialists were against private property and felt it to be the root cause of all social ills. They felt that though property provided employment, it gave personal gains to property owners, not to the one who contributed to make the property productive. Socialists wanted that landowners should pay attention to collective interest, rather than their own personal interests.

Q.3. Describe the visions of Robert Owen and Louis Blanc.

Ans. (i) Robert Owen: He wanted to form a cooperative community called 'New Harmony', in Indiana (US). He felt that the government should also support such cooperatives and encourage them.

He was a French politician, historian and a socialist, who favoured reforms.

(ii) Louis Blanc: He wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises. He suggested cooperatives in order to guarantee employment for the urban poor. He believed that cooperatives should be formed with the cooperation of the people and its profit should be divided according to the work done by the members.

Q.4. How were socialist parties formed in various parts of the world?

Ans. Workers in England and Germany began forming workers associations, for a better living and working conditions. In Germany, these associations worked closely with the 'Social Democratic Party' and helped it win the parliament seats. They set up funds to help members in times of distress. In 1905, socialists and trade unionists formed a 'Labour Party' in Britain and 'Socialist Party' in France.

Q.5. Who was 'father Gapon'? Narrate the events leading to the 'Bloody Sunday' incident and the 1905 Revolution.

Ans. Father Gapon was the leader of the procession of workers, who marched towards the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.

Events:

- When this procession of workers reached the Winter Palace, it was attacked by the police.
- Over a hundred workers were killed and about three hundred wounded.
- This incident known as the 'Bloody Sunday' started a series of events leading to the 1905 Revolution.
- Strikes took place, universities closed down and student bodies staged walkouts.
- Lawyers, doctors and engineers and other middle class workers formed unions and demanded a constituent assembly.

Q.6. What was the Duma? How far was it successful?

Ans. (i) Duma was an elected legislative body like the parliament having representatives of the third estate.

(ii) The Tsar dismissed the first Duma within 75 days and the re-elected Second Duma within three months. He did not want any restrictions or reductions in his powers. He changed the voting laws and packed the Third Duma with the conservative politicians. Liberals and revolutionaries were kept out.

Q.7. What was the impact of World War I on the Russian economy?

Ans. (i) Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia than any other European country.

(ii) By 1916, railway lines began to break down and all able-bodied men were called up to the war.

(iii) As a result, there were labour shortages and small workshops producing essential goods were shut down.

(iv) Since more ration was sent for the army, there was shortage of bread for the civilians. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common.

Q.8. How did the Mensheviks resist the protest of the Bolsheviks?

Ans. (i) In industries, committees were formed to question the industrialists about the way they ran the factories.

(ii) Trade unions were formed and soldiers' committees were formed in the army.

(iii) In June, about 500 Soviets sent representatives to an All Russian Congress of Soviets.

(iv) As the Provisional Government saw the grip of the Bolsheviks becoming stronger, they decided to take stern measures against the spreading discontent.

Q.9. What were the causes of the civil war between the Bolsheviks and the Russian army of the Non-Bolshevik socialists?

Ans. Causes of the civil war were:

(i) When Bolsheviks ordered land re-distribution, the Russian army began to break up.

(ii) Soldiers, mostly peasants, wished to go home for the redistribution and deserted.

(iii) Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising.

(iv) Their leaders moved to South Russia and organised troops to fight the Bolsheviks.

(v) These troops and Bolsheviks fought a civil war; and looting, banditry and famine became common.