

MODERN WORLD – I

L.No	Title of Lesson	SKILLS	Activity
3	Modern World–I	Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking Problem Solving, Self Awareness	Interacting with Information on Internet/Reference Books, stories, articles, etc.

Meaning

With the decline of feudalism, the restrictions on peasants become a thing of the past simultaneously, the period witnessed the rise of powerful merchant class, which financed discoveries of new lands. These, with other factors, brought about the Industrial revolution which led a sea change throughout the world. This was the beginning of the Modern Age.

Renaissance

- Renaissance is the awakening that encouraged thinking and reasoning in social and political fields and affected every aspect of life.
- Discovery of trade routes, brought goods that enriched the lives of Europeans.
- New ideas were generated in this period like humanism, rationalism and the spirit of inquiry.

Development of Science

- Renaissance scientists paved the way for observation and experimentation in all fields of knowledge.
- One of the most remarkable achievements of the Renaissance period in science was in the field of astronomy.

Reformation

- The Medieval Catholic Church came to be associated with superstitions and greed for money.
- It was in 1517AD that in the West the Christian world was divided into two sects, the Protestants and the Roman Catholics.

Discovery of New Lands

- The new Trade routes that were discovered changed the history of the world.
- Direct sea routes to South Asia and South East Asia were discovered.
- Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route to India via Cape of Good Hope and Columbus who had set out for India reached America both being discoveries for Europeans.
- The tremendous increase in trade and colonisation had a great impact on the enhancement of European Wealth.

Industrial Revolution

- The Industrial Revolution began in England from about 1750 AD.
- The new developments like the coming in of new machineries to improve production led to unequal classes – the rich and the poor.

Age of Revolutions

- There was a very strong dissatisfaction with political leadership and people started demanding more participation in the affairs of the State.

The Glorious Revolution

- The Glorious Revolution of 1688 occurred in England much before the Age of Revolutions and became a source of inspiration for the world. It was called the Glorious Revolution because no blood was shed to achieve its success.

American War of Independence

- In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act.
- On 16th December, 1773 some Americans disguised as Native Indians descended upon the three ships of East India Company and dumped the tea, being carried in them, into the sea. This came to be called the Boston Tea Party.
- This led to fights and finally to the 'Declaration of Independence' on July 1776 at a Congress at Philadelphia.

French Revolution

- In the 18th century, the French society was divided into three classes or estates.
- The first Estate was that of clergy or priests working in the Church.
- The second Estate of Nobility enjoyed all the luxuries and many privileges related to religion and the governance of the country.
- The Third Estate of Commoners such as peasantry, city workers and the middle class were heavily burdened with taxes.
- The Third Estate demanded equality in taxation and abolition of special privileges enjoyed by the first two estates. It declared itself a National Assembly and took over the sovereign power from the Emperor.
- As a result, France witnessed a complete change in the government, administration, military, society and culture.

Unification of Italy

- In the 18th Century, Italy was a collection of small States, each having its own monarch and traditions.
- After France became a republic, secret clubs favouring an Italian Republic were formed throughout Italy.

Unification of Germany

- After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, many Germans wanted an independent Germany. Germany was a confederation of 39 small states, led by Austria and Prussia.
- The King of Prussia, Kaiser William I, chose Bismarck as Prime Minister to unify Germany under the rule of Prussia, excluding Austria and France completely.

Socialist Movement and the Russian Revolution

- The Industrial Revolution had led to an unequal society. The industrial workers were poverty-stricken and lived in very bad conditions. In contrast, the industrialists were rich and lived in luxury.
- The workers got united and the idea of Socialism, which tries to establish equal society, began to take roots.
- The first country where the idea of socialism took deep roots was Russia leading to the Russian Revolution. This resulted in the establishment of the first socialist government of the world.

Evaluate Yourself

- Q. Define Feudalism. Give at least two features of feudalism.
 - Q. Describe the condition of the industrial workers which influenced the Russian Revolution.
 - Q. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 was a source of inspiration for the world. Justify this statement within 30 words.
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