

CLASS - IX HISTORY

1. What was the greater impact of the French-Revolution?

Ans. One of the most important historical event of the world was the French-Revolution in 1789. The impact of this Revolution spread for beyond France.

- i) Due to the French-Revolution, the Ancient Regime of France ended.
- ii) The Feudalism in France decline due to this revolution.
- iii) The ideals of French-Revolution — Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was brought forth into the world.
- iv) As an impact of this revolution nationalistic ideals and movements spread all over the world.
- v) As a result of the French Revolution, the democratic rights of the citizens were established. And the Sovereignty of the people was also established.

2. Why did the elite rebel against the King? What was the significance of this revolution?

Ans. In the pre-revolutionary social structure in France, apart from the clergy, the class that was identified as the beneficiaries was elite or aristocrat. As a second community or second estate, they enjoyed many socio-economic benefits in what was then France. But during the reign of King Louis XVI of Bourbon, first of all, the aristocracy revolted against the King. The cause of this revolt was purely economic.

(A) Financial Crisis :- Due to the luxury of the Bourbon dynasty, the absurdities, the erroneous policies, participation in the American War of independence, the French Treasury became vacant. King Louis XVI put pressure on the clergy and nobles to resolve this crisis. King ascribed land tax on them.

(B) Opposition to reform : The aristocracy became enraged when the finance ministers Turgot, Necker, Calonne and Brienne one by one imposed taxes *taille* (land tax) and *gabelle* (salt tax) on them on the advice of the King and abolished taxes on the common people like *taille* (land tax) and the *corvee* (labour tax). The demand for the taxation is solely controlled by the Estates-General, claiming the elites when the King ignored the demands of the aristocracy, he enacted his proposed reforms and the aristocracy declared rebellion against the King. Eventually the King bowed down and called 'Estates-General'. The clergy and bourgeoisie also joined the aristocratic revolt.

Significance :—

(1) Although the revolt began as a reactionary elite coup, it gradually took the form of a mass movement. In primary stage, the bourgeoisie was initially confronted with the elite, the dignity and foundation of the autocratic monarchy weakened when ordinary people joined the movement.

(2) The aristocracy opposed royal dictatorship in order to preserve their traditional rights when the King was forced to convene a session of the Estates-General. But in weakening the monarchy, they weakened the old system. So even though the elites won in the early stages, they did not realize the fact that the existence of their special rights depended on the existence of the monarchy. In the end this revolt of the aristocracy failed.