

HISTORY

CLASS - IX

CHAPTER : EUROPE IN THE 19TH CENTURY : CONFLICT OF MONARCHIAL AND NATIONALIST IDEAS

Q. What is Nationalism?

Ans. Nationalism is an ideal by which the people of a particular geographical region on which then can do welfare activities and be inspired to sacrifice themselves for the protection of that region.

Q. Why was the Viena Conference called the first International Conference?

Ans. The Viena Conference held in 1815 at Viena, the capital of Austria. In this conference maximum states of the world (except Turkey and the Pope of Rome) participated. Since there was no such international conference held before this, hence Viena Conference is considered to be the first International Conference.

Q. How did the Serfdom end in the history of Europe?

Ans. The serf tradition in western and central Europe came to an end in the mid-nineteenth century under the influence of the Industrial Revolution. This medieval barbaric practice was prevalent in Russia and its territories in eastern Europe. The serf class was the main stay of the autocratic, feudal society in Russia. They were the personal property of the owner and their condition was the same as that of slaves. Owners could buy, sell, and transfer as they wished, take out mortgages, gamble, engage in mining and war, and even be deported to Siberia. Serfs had to work on his owner's land and pay various taxes. In return he would get a small piece of land on which the landlords would never occupy. Hereditarily, they became socially and politically disenfranchised amidst extreme misery, oppression and poverty. In this situation the landlords frequently revolted against the dictatorial Tsarist regime and disturbed the Tsarist government. During the last ten years of the reign of Tsar Nicholas I (1845-55 A.D.) at least four hundred peasant revolts took place. Their employees were killed by serfs. At least 400 peasant revolts took place in the first six years of Tsar Alexander II's reign (1855-60 A.D.). These peasant revolts made the desire for the liberation of the serfs inevitable. Considering all the circumstances in this situation, the Tsar issued a directive in 1858 to liberate all the serf from the provinces of Lithuania. The landlords strongly opposed this. But the emancipation reform of 1861, 19th February that freed 23 million serfs and the beginning of the end for the landed aristocracy's monopoly of power. The decree ended the feudal obligations owed by serfs and allotted them land. The end of this medieval practice marked the beginning of the modern era in Russia. They qualify as free and independent citizens. So it is said that substantial increases in agricultural productivity, industrial output and peasants' nutrition in Imperial Russia as a result of the abolition of serfdom in 1861.

