

Q.1)

Poverty along with oppression prevalent in the ancient regime was responsible for the revolution in France. Do you agree?

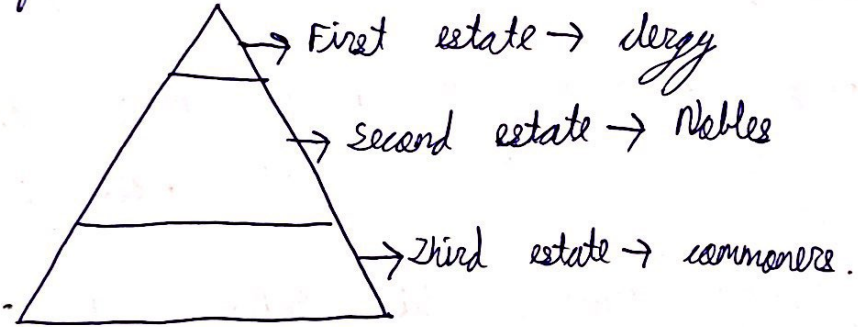
A.1)

French revolution:- The French revolution was a turning point in the history of mankind since it moved towards putting an end to the feudalism and monarchial absolutism. It gave birth to modern republicanism and gave the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Following were the causes responsible for french revolution:-

i) Social causes:-

i) Society was divided into three classes & this was referred to as estates.



It was rightly quoted "Nobles fight, the clergy pray and the people pray".

The third estate was further divided into:-

- a) Traders
- b) servants, barbers etc.
- c) Farmers.

ii) The people of first and second estate took the most important administrative decisions and they also occupied the top military positions.

iii) The first and the second estate people occupied nearly 40% of the land in the country and owing to large landholding they were quite wealthy. However even in clergy and noble class there were people who were poor & they

held the top class people responsible for their miserable lives!

iv) The traders in the society were extremely upset because they were wealthy and did efforts for self improvement and took entrepreneurial risks however they were not recognized in the society, soon after they started becoming more and more rich they began to clash with the nobles.

2) Political Causes:-

i) The king Louis XVI belonged to a dynasty which was known as the house of Bourbon, and they believed in political absolutism.

ii) The divine theory, which stated that the king was answerable only to the almighty.

iii) The king was married to an Austrian princess, and this angered the people even more, and she along with her corrupt ministers took some of the most vital decisions.

iv) The local administration had become highly corrupt and was not able to deliver the services successfully to the people. The local administration also did atrocities to the local population and even had illegal connections.

3) Economic Causes:-

i) France had almost reached the state of bankruptcy because it had aided America in war.

ii) In order to meet day to day expenditure it had to take extra tax from the traders and farmers, however they were not ready to pay.

iii) Even the crops and food items had become extremely costly since there was shortage of food crops.

Conclusion

i) It was seen that social, economic and political condition had become extremely miserable in France which ultimately led to the assassination of Louis XVI.

ii) It was seen that the king Louis XVI even though was a good person at heart but not a good leader and this ultimately led to some poor decisions which made the life of the people of France miserable and it also led to his death, this shows that in order to be a good king one should be a good leader first.

iii) The French revolution was an end to new beginning for the France and its people.

iv) The new ideas of liberty, freedom and equality are a part of every country's constitution today.