

cross the English Channel and crush England or he would destroy the commerce and empire of England. Napoleon was farsighted enough to understand that the backbone of England's power lay in her Empire, especially in the Indian Empire. Napoleon tried to destroy this empire of England. Napoleon understood that 'he who should conquer England would have Europe at his feet'. To an ambitious man like Napoleon, an expedition to the East was an alluring dream,

To Napoleon's ambition Europe was too small. He made an expedition to Egypt and worsted an Egyptian army in the Battle of the Pyramids. But the English admiral Nelson followed him to Egypt and destroyed his fleet in the Naval Battle of Abukir Bay. This destroyed the whole scheme of Napoleon and blocked his way back to Paris. After some time, Napoleon came to know that a second coalition had been formed against France and England, Russia and Austria had joined it. Hearing this, he undertook a very adventurous journey and came back to Paris after eluding the vigilance of Nelson.

The Consulate Form of Administration and Brilliant victories of Napoleon.

Coming back to France, Napoleon overthrew the Directory and established a new form of government known as the Consulate.

The new constitution gave the executive power the three Consuls and the first Consul was given the highest power. It need hardly be said that Napoleon became the first Consul. In outer form the Consulate form of Government was a democracy

Napoleon's plan to chastise England

Expedition to Egypt

Overthrow of the Directory

The Consulate

but in reality, it was a military government and all powers had been centralised in the hand of Napoleon.

The second coalition had been formed while Napoleon was away from France. While he was busy over the internal affairs, Russia had left the coalition. Napoleon took the field against Austria and with incredible swiftness crushed the forces of Austria in the fields of Marengo and Hohenlinden. Austria was forced to make peace and recognised the French right over Austrian Netherlands and the Rhine river as the eastern frontier of France.

After the defeat of Austria, only England was left. England suspected that neutral ships were carrying helps to the enemy port. So she wanted to make a search of the vessels of all nations in the open sea. Protests were made against this action of England but the protests were unavailing. So Russia and Denmark, in order to resist this action of

Armed Neutrality
against England

England by force, joined in an Armed Neutrality against England. But this Armed Neutrality was not very much effective and it did not last long. England attacked the Danish fleet and destroyed her men-of-war lying off the port of Copenhagen. Russia meanwhile withdrew from this Armed

Both England and
France tired out

Neutrality which thus came to an inglorious end. By this time both England and France had been tired out due to long fighting.

Napoleon was also eager for peace because incessant warfare had made it difficult to make any internal reform. The ideals of the French Revolution had not been translated into reality. When both the parties showed

Peace of Amiens

eagerness for peace, the Peace of Amiens was concluded in 1802. But the Peace of Amiens did not

bring about permanent peace. According to the terms of the peace, Malta was to be given back to France. But England delayed the delivery of Malta because they saw that Napoleon was making preparations of war. Over this issue war again broke out in 1804.

No sooner did the war break out than Napoleon captured Hanover, the property of the English kings. Napoleon next made up his mind to attack England. With this view, he gathered a huge fleet in the port of Boulogne in France. But Napoleon could not have the complete mastery of the English Channel for which he so earnestly wished. Napoleon's hope of attacking England was dashed to the ground when Nelson defeated and destroyed the combined French and Spanish fleet in the naval battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The defeat of France at Trafalgar gave new hope to the enemies of France and they organised the Third Coalition against her. Russia, Prussia, Austria, Sweden and England became parties to this coalition. But though Napoleon was defeated in sea warfare, in land he was supreme. He gave proof of his wonderful military genius by winning a series of battles. The forces of Austria were routed in the battle of Wolme (1804) and the combined forces of Austria and Russia were severely defeated in the Battle of Austerlitz (1805). In the same year Prussia was severely defeated in the Battle of Jena and a crushing defeat was inflicted on the Russian army in the field of Friedland in 1805. Europe looked with great astonishment at this amazing story of brilliant victories.

Napoleon's attempt to cross the English Channel and naval battle of Trafalgar

Third Coalition

Brilliant victories of Napoleon

These victories caused the break up of the Third Coalition and England remained the only enemy of France. Austria

Treaty of Tilsit concluded peace with France by the Treaty of Pressburg and Russia made peace by the

Treaty of Tilsit (1807). By the Treaty of Tilsit, Napoleon rose to the very pinnacle of power and glory. In fact, it marked the climax of Napoleon's power.

Olimax of Napoleon's power Excepting England, the whole of Europe had been defeated and humiliated. Napoleon

was the King of the French and the Emperor of Italy. His two brothers were kings of Holland and Naples. The Emperors of Austria and Prussia were at his mercy and by the Treaty of Tilsit the Emperor of Russia became his friend.

Continental System

But Napoleon's success could not be crowned with complete glory unless and until England was defeated. Napoleon had not been successful in destroying the empire of England. He had not been able

Continental System to crush the commerce of England to cross the Channel due to the supremacy of English navy. Now Napoleon perceived that trade and commerce was the

main source of strength of England. So he wanted to strike at the very root of the strength of England by destroying her commerce. He made a pact with the Tsar of Russia and issued from Berlin a series of decrees. These decrees declared the British Isles under blockade, proscribed trade with England and forbade the entry of British ships in the ports of France or that of any other allies. These decrees have earned fame in history as the famous "Continental System". The British Government retaliated by issuing an

Order-in-Council by which she forbade trade with France and her allies.

The success of the Continental System depended upon the strength of the French navy and the fact was that

The effect of Continental System England was supreme in waters. So her trade and commerce was not hampered. On the other hand, the people of Europe suffered very much because from England was supplied many of their basic necessities of life. Due to the Industrial Revolution, England became during this period the 'factory house' of the world. The price of these things went up when the Continental System was introduced. The Continental System was a blunder because it could not hurt the British commerce because her navy was stronger, and on the other hand it antagonized the people of Europe, because they had to buy things at higher prices. There was discontent among the princes and people everywhere in Europe.

Discontent everywhere Napoleon captured Portugal because she had refused to work according to the Continental System. Taking advantage of a quarrel between the king and

Capture of Spain and Portugal his son, he captured the throne of Spain and placed his elder brother Joseph in the throne. The Spaniards could not tolerate this national dishonour and rose in rebellion. The Spaniards were not alone in the field—they were helped by England. However did Napoleon's generals try, they could

The Peninsular Warfare not crush the rebellion. In Spain, Napoleon faced an enemy like of which he had not faced before—he was confronted with the resistance of a whole nation. Before this Napoleon had fought against

kings and generals and won victories. But he could not crush the opposition of a people. This war in Spain is known as the Peninsular Warfare. Much of Napoleon's power was spent here. The Peninsular Warfare like the Spanish ulcer destroyed much of the power of Napoleon. The Spanish ulcer ruined Napoleon.

The Russian Tsar Alexander I had promised to co-operate in the operation of Continental System. But soon he realised that by this, disastrous result would follow in the economic life of Russia. So, Russia withdrew from the Continental System. To chastise the Tsar, Napoleon invaded Russia with a vast army.

The Russian army adopted a novel tactic—they did not resist the French army but in stead of doing that they followed a scorched earth policy so that the French army did not get either food or shelter. Napoleon captured Moscow

but was forced to return. During the return journey, the fierce Russian winter and the Russian Cossack army created havoc in the French army. Only a fraction of the grand army with which Napoleon invaded Russia, came back. The Moscow expedition ruined the career of Napoleon.

The failure of the Moscow expedition again roused hope in the hearts of the enemies of France.

Prussia immediately declared war upon France and the Fourth Coalition was organised. Napoleon secured some initial success but at length he was defeated in

the Battle of Leipzig (1813). The battle continued for four days and the combined forces of European nations fought with the French army. For this, the battle of Leipzig is known as the Battle of

The Spanish ulcer

Moscow
expedition

Disastrous conse-
quence of the
expedition

Fourth Coalition

Battle of Leipzig

Nations. After one or two attempts, Napoleon abdicated from the throne of France and he was exiled at Elba.

After Napoleon's exile, the Powers of Europe met at Vienna to discuss the reconstruction of Europe. While the assembled diplomats of Europe were debating and quarreling, Napoleon escaped from Elba and reached Paris. Europe was again involved in war. The curtain over the revolutionary warfare was finally drawn when Napoleon was defeated at the hands of the English General Duke of Wellington in the battle of Waterloo (1815). The Prussian army had a fair share in bringing about the defeat of Napoleon. Napoleon again abdicated from power and surrendered to the Captain of an English ship. He was carried by the English to St. Hellena where he died six years later.

Battle of Waterloo

Napoleon's exile
and death

Career of Napoleon Bonaparte

Twenty years before the French Revolution broke out

Early life

Napoleon Bonaparte was born in the small Corsican town of Ajaccio, then under the control of France. Napoleon was born in a middle class family and he received his military training in France. During the regime of the National Convention, he displayed his skill by compelling the English to leave the port of Toulon. He saved France from further anarchy by firing cannon shots at the mob of Paris when they attacked the Convention. Thus

An astonishing
career

Became Emperor
of France

step by step he came to draw the attention of the Directors. In Italian campaigns, he showed what a great general he was. He gained from success to success and became the Dictator

of France after he had overthrown the Directory. The glory he secured for France made the French nation very much grateful and they created Napoleon the First Consul for life. After 1804, he became the Emperor of France. The Pope personally consecrated him. For a person who was born in a middle class family, it must be marked as the highwater mark of achievement—and it must be admitted that Napoleon's rise to power fully proved that career had been opened to talent. This was one of the aspirations of the French Revolution.

His Reforms

Napoleon Bonaparte did not remain long in the throne of France. The greater part of the brief period during which Napoleon had been in the throne of France had been passed in warfare; nevertheless, during this small period, he had kept an unmistakable stamp of his genius as statesman in various departments, *e. g.* in administration, in trade and commerce, in law and educational reforms and in social reforms, etc. Some leaders of the Revolution had already introduced some much-needed reforms. The National Convention had decreed the abolition of slavery from the French colonies, had given the right to the women to inherit the property. Important changes had been introduced in educational field and metric measure had been introduced. These reforms have been accepted by the civilized world in later days.

The scientific outlook which marked the spirit of these reforms during the days of the Revolution found fullest manifestation in the various reforms introduced by Napoleon. For a long time before and during the Revolution

France experienced no orderly government. The period had been marked by misrule, violence and finally by the Reign of Terror. Even during the Directory, this internal disorder had not been completely removed. Thus when Napoleon displayed great tact and generalship, the French nation, grown impatient of the long misrule and anarchy, accepted Napoleon. Napoleon felt this pulse of the French people. That is why he told "I found the Crown of France at my feet and I picked it up by my sword". Napoleon did not belie this hope of the French people. He had established order and introduced various measures for the material prosperity of the country.

Napoleon understood that the industry and trade were important for the economic prosperity of the country. He supplied inspiration and incentive to the industrialists and commercial people. He established a National Bank so that capital was never wanting for these causes. He introduced a reformed and changed coinage. These measures caused immense improvement in the economic life of France.

To bring about the legal equality which had been one of the battle-cries of the French Revolution, Napoleon codified the laws introduced in France before and during the Revolution. These codified laws have been known as 'Code Napoleon'. The characteristics of the Revolution was that it established legal equality of all people irrespective of rank, creed or birth. While he was a Consul, Napoleon had formulated, by the help of experts, laws regarding civil and criminal affairs. These civil and criminal codes

Long disorder and misrule made the French people weary.

Economic reforms

Legal reforms and the 'Code Napoleon'

made the administration of justice easy and simple. In later times, Code Napoleon had been introduced in different countries of Europe.

During the first stages of the Revolution, the State had come into conflict with the Catholic church. Church policy Napoleon decided the issue. Catholic creed became the national creed but the confiscated property of the church was not returned. The church was not allowed to levy religious taxes from the people and the priests of the churches secured the right to get salaries from the State.

In administrative affairs, the Departments and the Communes created during the Revolution were kept undisturbed. But Napoleon took away some of their powers and made these units of administration directly responsible to the central government. Administrative policy

Of the reforms of Napoleon, the reforms in the social and educational fields deserve a special mention. He brought the system of education within easy reach of the public. His activities propagated the education very widely. Educational reform

In 1808, the University of Paris was established and many primary and secondary educational institutions were set up on his support. He gave help and support to the improvement of Science and Culture. Within a short time, France became prominent in the field of scientific progress and culture. In road building, in the construction of harbours and houses and nearly in every respect, Napoleon supplied incentive for improvement.

Let us go back again to the career of Napoleon. After

he became emperor, he secured some astonishing victories over his enemies and at Tilsit he reached the climax. Thereafter his power began to decline. He met with reverses in Spain and in Russian campaigns and he failed in the Continental System. He was at length defeated at Leipzig and finally at Waterloo. He died in exile six years later.

Last days of
Napoleon

The Causes of Napoleon's Downfall

The causes of Napoleon's downfall were many and varied. But perhaps the greatest cause had been his high ambition. Napoleon cherished unlimited ambition. He did not know where to stop. He secured the mastery of France but he was not satisfied with it. He wanted to dominate the whole of Europe, if not more. He knew not the limits of his power. This inordinate ambition was mainly responsible for his downfall.

His inordinate
ambition

The second big cause of his fall was the enmity of England. England had always organised the Coalitions against France and safe in her sea-encircled home, she had successfully foiled every attempt of Napoleon either to destroy her empire and commerce or to cross the English Channel and crush her. England was as much superior in naval strength as was Napoleon in land. The superiority of the naval strength of England had rendered futile many of the attempts of Napoleon and brought about his downfall.

Enmity of
England and
her naval
superiority

The third big cause was that Napoleon had to face popular risings in Spain and Prussia. When Napoleon had

faced the kings and generals in face to face battles, he had been victorious. But he could not crush an enemy who avoided pitched battles and who withdrew before his march and came upon his army when least expected. This kind of warfare did enormous damage to his strength. The Spanish warfare ruined Napoleon to a considerable extent.

Popular rising
against France

There were other causes of his downfall such as the failure of the Continental System, the disastrous Moscōw expedition, quarrel with Pope which antagonised the Catholic Europe, long warfare which had exhausted France, etc. (Details of these causes have been discussed earlier.)

Other causes

An Estimate of Napoleon

Napoleon Bonaparte was undoubtedly one of the greatest military generals of all times and the most outstanding military leader of modern times. His name can be pronounced along with Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, Charlemagne and other great generals of old days. His military skill was astonishing and the way he defeated the great powers of Europe in battles evoked wonders in the minds of people of Europe. His process of arranging the army and putting them strategically on the advantage ensured victory and by this process 'he used to win a battle before it was actually fought'.

His greatness as
a military leader

But Napoleon's greatness was not limited only to this sphere. He was a great ruler and a great statesman. For his reforms, he would be remembered with respect by the French people. He introduced the uniform 'metric' system of

'He had codified
the Revolution'.

measurement for the prosperity of trade and commerce. He rescued France from the internal disorder which had been created on account of the Reign of Terror. He established legal equality in the country by codifying the existing laws known as 'Code Napoleon'. He made the principle of 'Career open to Talent' a reality and for bravery and other acts of distinctions established the order of "Blue Riband". By these activities, he translated into practice the ideals of the French Revolution. For this it is said that 'he had codified the Revolution'.

The French Revolution was responsible for an epoch-making change in every way in Europe. In the new age which the French Revolution had ushered in

Napoleon was a son of the Revolution.

the old order of society based on inequality of men was done away with. The rise of Napoleon had been possible due to the

Revolution. For this he had been called the 'child of the Revolution'. And as a good child inherits many qualities of his father, Napoleon translated into practice many of the

Empire of France was an extension of the Revolution.

ideals of the French Revolution. Legal equality, social equality, freedom from misrule and oppression, etc. for which the French people had risen in Revolution were

established in France by Napoleon. Napoleon brought nearly the whole of Europe under his control. Wherever the victorious French army had marched with him, he had established republics and sown in the minds of people the ideals of the French Revolution. For this action of Napoleon, the old social order broke down, and for this the Empire of Napoleon has been called the 'Extension of the Revolution'. If as a child, he had translated many of

the ideals of the Revolution, he destroyed one of the most cherished ideals of the French Revolution. He gave his people equality but not liberty. His government was not a democracy. It was a centralised administration where his power had been omnipotent and supreme. Moreover, he had destroyed the republican principle and converted France into an empire. For this, he is also called a "Destroyer of the Revolution".

Napoleon was a Destroyer of the Revolution.

But human as he was, he had his defects. His ambition caused his undoing. Though he had established centralised government, he had an eye for the welfare of his subjects. In educational, social and legal reform, he had displayed quite modern outlook that the State should come down and make the living of its subjects easy and prosperous. He was indeed *the last of the enlightened despots and the first of the modern statesmen*. In brilliance of success, in statescraft and in generalship Napoleon was undoubtedly a great personality of modern times.

Conclusion

Questions

1. Discuss the condition of France on the eve of the French Revolution.

(Louis XIV had centralised the monarchical power—French civilization was the model of Europe—the decay and darkness below the burning lamp of culture—repeated defeats—the condition of nobles—churchmen and people—weak character of Louis XV.)

2. Discuss the causes of the French Revolution.

(Many causes—Political causes—the weak but despotic monarchy—repeated defeats undermined the prestige and decried

the autocracy. Social causes—the three Estates—the first two Estates enjoyed all the powers and privileges but no obligation—the Third Estate had no right but all the obligations of the feudal order—highly corrupt clergy—oppressed peasantry—the Bourgeois. Economic causes—bankrupt French Finance; the French Philosophers and their writings—the American Revolution hastened the French Revolution.

3. Discuss the contribution of the French Philosophers in bringing about the French Revolution.

(The French Philosophers prepared French people mentally for the Revolution—their writings brought about a revolution in the minds of French people;—Montesque—his 'Persian letters' and the 'spirit of Law'—theory of separation of powers; Voltaire and his satires—advocated reorganisation of the State and society; Rousseau and his Social Contract theory became the cause of the Revolution;—Diderot and Alembert—the Encyclopaedists; the Physiocrats etc.)

4. Why did the Revolution first break out in France?

5. Discuss the demands of the Third Estate in the States General. Were they successful?

6. What was the importance of the destruction of the Bastille?

7. Discuss the salient features of the constitution adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

(Liberty-equality for all people—separation of Judiciary, Legislature and Executive—administrative subdivision—provision for the church—Civil Constitution of the Clergy.)

8. Discuss the activities of the Constituent Assembly and the Legislative Assembly.

(National Convention converted into Constituent Assembly—the framing of the new Constitution—its achievements.

Legislative Assembly—divided into several political groups—measures taken towards the church and Emigree nobles—the king's veto and subsequent withdrawal—rise of 10th August 1792—the Legislative Assembly suspended the king—ordered the election of a National Convention to finally decide the king's fate—dissolution of the Assembly.)

9. Discuss the European reaction of the happenings in France.

(The Padua Papers—the Declaration of Pilnitz—the war with Austria—war with Prussia—Declaration of Brunswick, etc.)

10. Trace the circumstances under whose pressure the Reign of Terror was evolved. Do you think that there was any justification of the Reign of Terror?

(The disruption of natural administration—the foreign invasions—crossing of the boundary of France by the enemies from all sides—internal danger—the peasant revolt of La Vindi—Royalist sympathy—National Convention created the Committee of Public Safety—the Revolutionary Tribunal—execution of thousands of men—a huge army by conscription ;—order restored at home—enemies defeated.

Justification of the Reign of Terror depended on the amount of success).

11. Discuss the war between Napoleonic France and the rest of Europe from 1795 to 1815.

(War against Sardinia—Sardinia defeated ; Italian campaign—Austria defeated ;—expedition to Egypt—victory in land—defeat at the hands of Nelson ;—The Second Coalition—Austria again defeated—Russia withdrew—Armed Neutrality—Peace of Amiens—war again broke out—Napoleon's attempt to cross the Channel—failure—Battle of Trafalgar ; Third Coalition organised—Napoleon's brilliant victories—Peace of Tilsit—Continental System—failure—Peninsular Warfare—much power spent

—Moscow expedition—disaster ; Fourth Coalition organised against France—Battle of Leipzig ; Napoleon exiled at Elba—return —Battle of Waterloo—end of the Napoleonic warfare.)

12. Discuss the career of Napoleon Bonaparte.

13. Discuss the reforms of Napoleon.

(Codification of laws—the Code Napoleon ; the metric measures ; the administrative reforms ; the Church Policy ; his educational reforms ; the nature of his government—he gave French people equality—threw careers open to talents—but no liberty—his government was a veiled absolutism—Son of the Revolution and Destroyer of the Revolution.)

14. Napoleon once said "I am a Son of the Revolution" ; it is also said of him that he destroyed the Revolution. How far are the above statements correct ?

15. Analyse the causes of Napoleon's downfall.

(His inordinate ambition—English enmity—superiority of England at sea—war in Spain and Portugal—Continental System —Moscow expedition—long warfare exhausted French people, etc.)

16. Make an estimate of the achievements of Napoleon Bonaparte. How far is it correct to say that he was "the last of the enlightened despots and the first of the modern statesmen."

17. Discuss the ideals of the French Revolution. How far is it correct to say that "Napoleon's empire was an extension of the Revolution" ?

18. Write short notes on :

(a) Lafayette ; (b) The Three Estates ; (c) Montesque ; (d) Voltaire ; (e) Rousseau and his Contract Social ; (f) Peninsular Warfare ; (g) Battle of Trafalgar ; (h) Continental System ; (i) Battle of Waterloo.

CHAPTER III

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Introduction

Physical labour had been a necessity for human beings from the very beginning of life. But man intelligently used natural forces or the beasts and made them work for him. The wind-mill, handloom, etc. are instances of this kind of forces. Mankind had been ever on the effort to diminish the amount of physical labour.

This effort of man was crowned with success when in the 18th century, some inventions were made in England which brought revolutionary changes in the process of production.

This change brought about by the use of machine in the place of manual labour has earned the name of 'Industrial Revolution'. The Industrial Revolution had ushered in epoch-making changes in the structure of human social outlook, in his culture and civilization. If the French Revolution had ushered in a new era in the mental world of men, the Industrial Revolution has none the less brilliant achievement of ushering in a new era in the economic aspect.

Industrial Revolution in England

During the reign of George III, some inventions were made both in the field of agriculture and industry. In industrial aspect these inventions took place in the cotton industry first. In 1738, Kay invented the "Flying Shuttle", in 1764 Hergreaves invented the "Spinning Jenny".

A little later Arkwright developed spinning by rollers actuated by water power. Samuel Crompton invented a machine which he named 'mule' in which was combined the principles of Crompton and Hargreaves. These inventions were responsible for the production of yarn in greater amount in less time and by lesser number of men. Cartwright in 1785 invented the powerloom which gave an enormous impetus to weaving. The improvement thus made in the cotton industry of England helped her to sell cotton goods at a reduced rate and in this way, she captured the cloth-market of the world.

Inventions in
cotton industry

The inventions in machine was followed by similar improvement in other industries. In 1769, James Watt invented the way to use the power of steam engine and in 1814, Stephenson made the railway locomotive move and steamers driven by steam engines were invented. Better means of communication, better roads and waterways revolutionised the system of communication.

Other inventions
like the steam
engine, the rail-
way locomotive,
etc.

There was improvement in the science of mining and the 'Safety Lamp' was devised to bring safety to the miners. The new process of manufacturing iron ushered in an age dominated by machineries made of iron and steel.

There is a special reason behind the beginning of Industrial Revolution first in England. The spirit of discovery had animated Europe and as a result, the nations of Europe established colonies and empires in all parts of the world. England had secured for her a vast empire and she became the greatest colonial power after the Seven Years'

Why Industrial
Revolution first
took place in
England ?

War. England had amassed a vast amount of capital by various ways from the colonies. In the field of production, England had been the leader of inventions. England had the greatest advantage for raw materials and market for finished products because she had a far flung empire. The English traders enjoyed more amount of freedom and the English government supported the traders in greater amount.

The Industrial Revolution first took place in England. It did not remain confined in England only, but from England it got spread to other countries of Europe.

It did not remain confined in England. With the occurrence of Industrial Revolution, economy of individual underwent radical change and this change also touched the social and political condition of mankind.

Effects of Industrial Revolution on England

Machine came to dominate the production and cottage industry was defeated in the competition with machine. The old means of production were completely changed. England could now manufacture larger amount of

Industrial Revolution and economic prosperity

materials in a very short time. This production could have very large amount of surplus in excess of the domestic needs.

So, there was a tremendous increase in the external trade. England became the factory house of the world and very large export brought enormous wealth and prosperity to the English industries as also to the English nation. The economic prosperity that came in the wake of Industrial Revolution enabled England to put up a successful fight against Revolutionary France and Napoleon. This economic prosperity was largely responsible for bringing about the downfall of Napoleon.