

WORLD HISTORY CHAPTERS COVERED

11. Congress of Vienna and Concert of Europe
12. Revolutions of 1830 and 1848
13. Unification of Italy and Germany
14. Industrial Revolution
15. Capitalism, Socialism and Marxism
16. Imperialism and Colonialism
17. Scramble for Africa
18. Meiji Restoration and the Rise of Japan
19. First World War
20. Russian Revolution

CHAPTER 11: CONGRESS OF VIENNA (1814–1815) AND THE CONCERT OF EUROPE

Introduction

The Congress of Vienna (1814–1815) was an international diplomatic conference held after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte. Its primary objective was to restore peace and stability in Europe by reorganizing territorial boundaries and preventing the rise of another dominant power like Napoléon.

The Congress sought to restore the Old Order and maintain the Balance of Power among European nations. It laid the foundation for the Concert of Europe, a system of collective diplomacy that maintained relative peace in Europe for several decades.

This chapter is important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, and State PSC examinations.

I. Background

Napoleon's military campaigns had disturbed the political map of Europe.

After his first abdication in 1814, European powers met at Vienna, the capital of Austria, to redraw the map of Europe.

Although Napoleon briefly returned during the Hundred Days, the Congress completed its work after his final defeat at Waterloo.

II. Major Participants

The four principal powers were:

- Austria
- Britain
- Russia
- Prussia

France was later included in the negotiations.

The principal representatives were:

Austria

Prince Klemens von Metternich

He was the chief architect of the Congress and championed conservatism.

Britain

Lord Castlereagh

He supported the Balance of Power.

Russia

Tsar Alexander I

Favoured expansion of Russian influence.

Prussia

Prince Hardenberg

Represented Prussian interests.

France

Charles Maurice de Talleyrand

Successfully ensured that France was treated as a major European power despite its recent defeat.

III. Objectives of the Congress

The Congress aimed to:

- Restore political stability.
- Prevent future revolutions.
- Restore legitimate monarchies.
- Maintain the Balance of Power.
- Prevent French aggression.
- Ensure collective security.

IV. Principles of the Congress

1. Principle of Legitimacy

This principle sought to restore rulers who had been removed by Napoleon.

For example:

- The Bourbon Dynasty was restored in France under Louis XVIII.

2. Balance of Power

No single nation should become powerful enough to dominate Europe.

Neighboring states were strengthened to check France.

Examples:

- Belgium and Holland were united to form the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- Prussia received territories along the Rhine.
- Austria gained control over northern Italy.
- Russia received most of Poland.

3. Compensation

Countries that fought against Napoleon were compensated with territories.

V. Territorial Changes

Some important changes included:

- France returned to its pre-revolutionary boundaries.
- Austria received Lombardy and Venetia.
- Prussia gained parts of Saxony and the Rhineland.
- Russia acquired most of Poland.
- Sweden received Norway.
- Switzerland was declared permanently neutral.

VI. The Holy Alliance (1815)

The Holy Alliance was formed by:

- Russia
- Austria
- Prussia

It was proposed by Tsar Alexander I.

Its aim was to preserve Christianity, monarchy, and the existing political order.

VII. Quadruple Alliance (1815)

Members:

- Britain
- Austria
- Russia
- Prussia

Purpose:

- Enforce the decisions of the Congress.
- Prevent another French aggression.
- Preserve peace in Europe.

France later joined, creating the Quintuple Alliance.

VIII. Concert of Europe

The Concert of Europe was an informal system of international cooperation among the great powers.

Major features:

- Periodic international conferences.
- Joint action against revolutions.
- Collective maintenance of peace.
- Preservation of the Balance of Power.

The system maintained relative peace in Europe until the Crimean War (1853–1856).

IX. Achievements

The Congress:

- Prevented a major European war for nearly four decades.
- Restored political stability.
- Maintained Balance of Power.

- Established modern diplomatic practices.

X. Criticism

The Congress:

- Ignored nationalism.
- Ignored liberalism.
- Restored unpopular monarchies.
- Suppressed democratic aspirations.

These weaknesses later led to the Revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

XI. Historical Importance

The Congress of Vienna remains one of the most successful diplomatic settlements in history. Although conservative in outlook, it ensured peace and stability in Europe for many years and introduced the practice of international conferences to resolve disputes.

Important Facts for Competitive Examinations

Topic Fact

Congress Vienna

Years 1814–1815

Architect Metternich

Principle Legitimacy

Principle Balance of Power

Bourbon Restoration Louis XVIII

Holy Alliance Russia, Austria, Prussia

Quadruple Alliance Britain, Austria, Russia, Prussia

Neutral Country Switzerland

Concert of Europe Collective Diplomacy

Previous Examination Focus Areas

Frequently asked topics include:

- Metternich
- Congress of Vienna
- Balance of Power
- Principle of Legitimacy
- Holy Alliance
- Quadruple Alliance
- Concert of Europe
- Talleyrand
- Castlereagh
- Switzerland's neutrality
- Restoration of the Bourbons

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The Congress of Vienna was held during _____.

- (A) 1789–1790
- (B) 1804–1805
- (C) 1814–1815
- (D) 1848–1849

2.

The Congress of Vienna met in the capital of _____.

- (A) France
- (B) Austria
- (C) Germany
- (D) Russia

3.

The chief architect of the Congress of Vienna was _____.

- (A) Talleyrand
- (B) Castlereagh
- (C) Metternich

(D) Napoleon

4.
The Principle of Legitimacy aimed to restore _____.

- (A) Republics
 - (B) Monarchies
 - (C) Democracies
 - (D) Colonies
-

5.
The Bourbon dynasty was restored in France under King _____.

- (A) Louis XVI
 - (B) Louis XVII
 - (C) Louis XVIII
 - (D) Charles X
-

6.
The Balance of Power sought to prevent the dominance of any _____ nation.

- (A) Asian
 - (B) European
 - (C) African
 - (D) American
-

7.
The Holy Alliance was proposed by Tsar _____.

- (A) Nicholas I
 - (B) Peter I
 - (C) Alexander I
 - (D) Alexander II
-

8.
The Holy Alliance consisted of Russia, Austria and _____.

- (A) France
 - (B) Britain
 - (C) Prussia
 - (D) Spain
-

9.
Britain, Austria, Russia and Prussia formed the _____ Alliance.

- (A) Triple
 - (B) Quadruple
 - (C) Holy
 - (D) Central
-

10.
Switzerland was declared permanently _____.

- (A) Independent
 - (B) Neutral
 - (C) Democratic
 - (D) Federal
-

11.
The representative of France at the Congress was _____.

- (A) Metternich
 - (B) Castlereagh
 - (C) Talleyrand
 - (D) Hardenberg
-

12.
The Concert of Europe aimed at maintaining _____ in Europe.

- (A) Colonies
- (B) Peace
- (C) Dictatorship

(D) Revolution

13.

The Congress ignored the growing force of _____.

- (A) Feudalism
- (B) Nationalism
- (C) Mercantilism
- (D) Colonialism

14.

The Congress of Vienna was convened after the defeat of _____.

- (A) Louis XVI
- (B) Napoleon
- (C) Charles X
- (D) Bismarck

15.

The Concert of Europe remained largely effective until the _____ War.

- (A) Franco-Prussian
- (B) Crimean
- (C) Seven Years'
- (D) Russo-Japanese

Answer Key

- 1 – C (1814–1815)
- 2 – B (Austria)
- 3 – C (Metternich)
- 4 – B (Monarchies)
- 5 – C (Louis XVIII)
- 6 – B (European)
- 7 – C (Alexander I)
- 8 – C (Prussia)
- 9 – B (Quadruple)
- 10 – B (Neutral)
- 11 – C (Talleyrand)
- 12 – B (Peace)
- 13 – B (Nationalism)
- 14 – B (Napoleon)
- 15 – B (Crimean)

CHAPTER 12: REVOLUTIONS OF 1830 AND 1848

Introduction

The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848 were major waves of political upheaval that swept across Europe during the nineteenth century. These revolutions challenged the conservative order established by the Congress of Vienna (1815) and promoted the ideals of liberalism, nationalism, constitutional government, democracy, and social justice.

Although many of these revolutions failed in the short term, they profoundly influenced the political development of Europe and paved the way for the unification of Italy and Germany, the expansion of constitutional governments, and the growth of nationalist movements.

This chapter is highly important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Background

After the Congress of Vienna, Europe was dominated by conservative monarchies led by Prince Metternich of Austria.

The governments attempted to:

- Suppress liberal ideas.
- Prevent nationalist movements.
- Restore absolute monarchies.
- Maintain the Balance of Power.

However, the spread of Enlightenment ideas and the impact of the French Revolution continued to inspire demands for political reforms.

II. Causes of the Revolutions

1. Liberalism

People demanded:

- Constitutional government.
- Freedom of speech.
- Freedom of the press.
- Representative institutions.
- Equality before law.

2. Nationalism

Many regions were divided among several rulers.

Nationalist movements demanded:

- National unity.
- Independence from foreign rule.
- Self-government.

3. Economic Distress

Europe experienced:

- Crop failures.
- Rising food prices.
- Industrial unemployment.
- Poverty.

Economic hardship intensified public dissatisfaction.

4. Opposition to Conservative Rule

The conservative policies of Metternich suppressed political freedoms, leading to growing resentment.

III. The July Revolution of 1830 (France)

After the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy, Charles X became King of France.

He pursued highly conservative policies and issued the July Ordinances (1830), which:

- Suspended freedom of the press.
- Dissolved the Chamber of Deputies.
- Restricted voting rights.

These measures provoked a popular uprising known as the July Revolution.

Charles X abdicated and fled France.

He was replaced by Louis Philippe, known as the "Citizen King."

The July Monarchy was established as a constitutional monarchy.

IV. Belgian Revolution (1830)

Following the Congress of Vienna, Belgium had been united with the Netherlands.

Religious, linguistic, and economic differences led to widespread discontent.

In 1830, Belgium declared its independence.

The Treaty of London (1839) recognized Belgium as an independent and permanently neutral state.

V. Polish Uprising (1830–1831)

Inspired by the French Revolution of 1830, Poland revolted against Russian rule.

The uprising was suppressed by Tsar Nicholas I.

Poland remained under Russian control.

VI. Revolutions of 1848

The year 1848 witnessed widespread revolutions across Europe and is often called the "Springtime of Nations."

Major countries affected included:

- France
- Austria
- Germany
- Italy
- Hungary

VII. Revolution of 1848 in France

King Louis Philippe lost popular support because of economic difficulties and demands for political reforms.

The revolution forced him to abdicate.

The Second French Republic was proclaimed.

Universal male suffrage was introduced.

Later, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (Napoleon III) became President and subsequently Emperor.

VIII. Revolutions in Austria

Vienna witnessed mass protests.

Prince Metternich resigned and fled England.

Although reforms were initially promised, the Austrian monarchy eventually regained control.

IX. Revolutions in Germany

The Frankfurt Parliament (1848) attempted to unite the German states under a constitutional monarchy.

King Frederick William IV of Prussia refused the imperial crown offered by the Parliament.

As a result, German unification was delayed until 1871.

X. Revolutions in Italy

Nationalists sought to free Italy from Austrian domination and unify the Italian states.

Although the revolutions failed initially, they inspired leaders such as:

- Giuseppe Mazzini
- Count Cavour
- Giuseppe Garibaldi

who later achieved Italian unification.

XI. Reasons for the Failure of the Revolutions

The revolutions largely failed because:

- Revolutionaries lacked unity.
- Liberals and workers had different objectives.
- Monarchies retained strong military support.
- Nationalist groups pursued conflicting goals.
- Conservative rulers recovered quickly.

XII. Significance

Although many revolutions failed immediately, they had lasting consequences:

- Decline of absolute monarchy.
- Growth of constitutional government.
- Expansion of democracy.
- Rise of nationalism.
- Strengthening of liberalism.
- Foundation for the unification of Germany and Italy.

Important Facts for Competitive Examinations

Topic Fact

July Revolution France (1830)

King overthrown Charles X

Citizen King Louis Philippe

Belgian Independence 1830

Treaty recognizing Belgium London (1839)

Springtime of Nations 1848

Austrian leader Metternich
German Assembly Frankfurt Parliament
German King Frederick William IV
Italian nationalist Mazzini

Previous Examination Focus Areas

Frequently asked topics include:

- Charles X
 - Louis Philippe
 - July Revolution
 - Belgian Independence
 - Treaty of London (1839)
 - Springtime of Nations
 - Metternich
 - Frankfurt Parliament
 - Frederick William IV
 - Mazzini
 - Causes of the Revolutions
 - Failure of the Revolutions
-

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The July Revolution took place in France in the year _____.

- (A) 1815
 - (B) 1830
 - (C) 1848
 - (D) 1871
-

2.

The King overthrown during the July Revolution was _____.

- (A) Louis XVI
 - (B) Louis XVIII
 - (C) Charles X
 - (D) Napoleon III
-

3.

Louis Philippe was popularly known as the _____ King.

- (A) Warrior
 - (B) Citizen
 - (C) Liberal
 - (D) People's
-

4.

Belgium declared its independence in _____.

- (A) 1815
 - (B) 1825
 - (C) 1830
 - (D) 1848
-

5.

Belgium was separated from the _____.

- (A) Spain
 - (B) Austria
 - (C) Netherlands
 - (D) France
-

6.

The Treaty recognizing Belgian independence was signed in _____.

- (A) Vienna
 - (B) Paris
 - (C) London
 - (D) Berlin
-

7.
The Revolutions of 1848 are popularly known as the _____ of Nations.

- (A) Dawn
 - (B) Springtime
 - (C) Brotherhood
 - (D) Unity
-

8.
The Austrian statesman who resigned during the 1848 Revolution was _____.

- (A) Bismarck
 - (B) Metternich
 - (C) Cavour
 - (D) Garibaldi
-

9.
The German national assembly met at _____.

- (A) Berlin
 - (B) Munich
 - (C) Frankfurt
 - (D) Vienna
-

10.
The imperial crown offered by the Frankfurt Parliament was refused by King _____.

- (A) William I
 - (B) Frederick William IV
 - (C) Louis Philippe
 - (D) Victor Emmanuel II
-

11.
The Revolutions of 1848 promoted the growth of _____.

- (A) Feudalism
 - (B) Nationalism
 - (C) Mercantilism
 - (D) Colonialism
-

12.
The Italian revolutionary leader associated with nationalism was _____.

- (A) Garibaldi
 - (B) Mazzini
 - (C) Cavour
 - (D) Victor Emmanuel II
-

13.
One major reason for the failure of the Revolutions of 1848 was the lack of _____ among the revolutionaries.

- (A) Weapons
 - (B) Unity
 - (C) Leaders
 - (D) Education
-

14.
The Second French Republic was established after the Revolution of _____.

- (A) 1789
 - (B) 1815
 - (C) 1830
 - (D) 1848
-

15.
The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848 laid the foundation for the unification of Italy and _____.
(A) Spain
(B) Germany
(C) Belgium
(D) Poland
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (1830)
- 2 – C (Charles X)
- 3 – B (Citizen)
- 4 – C (1830)
- 5 – C (Netherlands)
- 6 – C (London)
- 7 – B (Springtime)
- 8 – B (Metternich)
- 9 – C (Frankfurt)
- 10 – B (Frederick William IV)
- 11 – B (Nationalism)
- 12 – B (Mazzini)
- 13 – B (Unity)
- 14 – D (1848)
- 15 – B (Germany)

CHAPTER 13: UNIFICATION OF ITALY AND GERMANY

Introduction

The Unification of Italy and the Unification of Germany were two of the most significant political developments of the nineteenth century. These movements transformed Europe by replacing numerous small states with strong, unified nation-states.

The movements were inspired by the ideals of nationalism, which had spread across Europe after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars.

The unification of Italy was completed in 1870, while the unification of Germany was completed in 1871.

This chapter is one of the most frequently asked topics in SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

PART I – UNIFICATION OF ITALY

I. Italy Before Unification

Before unification, Italy was divided into several independent states.

The major states were:

- Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont
- Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
- Papal States
- Lombardy
- Venetia
- Parma
- Modena
- Tuscany

Many of these states were under Austrian influence.

The desire to unite these states gave rise to Italian nationalism.

II. Giuseppe Mazzini (1805–1872)

Mazzini is known as the Father of Italian Nationalism.

He believed that Italy should become:

- One nation
- Independent
- Republican

In 1831, he founded the secret society

Young Italy

Its motto was:

"God and the People."

Although his revolutionary attempts failed, Mazzini awakened national consciousness among Italians.

III. Count Camillo di Cavour (1810–1861)

Cavour was the Prime Minister of Sardinia-Piedmont.

He is regarded as the Architect of Italian Unification.

Unlike Mazzini, Cavour believed in diplomacy rather than revolution.

His important achievements included:

- Strengthening Sardinia economically.
- Modernizing the army.
- Forming alliances with France.
- Weakening Austrian influence.

IV. Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–1882)

Garibaldi was Italy's greatest military leader.

He organized the famous volunteer force known as the Red Shirts.

In 1860, he conquered the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Instead of becoming ruler himself, he handed over the conquered territories to Victor Emmanuel II, placing national unity above personal ambition.

V. Victor Emmanuel II

Victor Emmanuel II was the King of Sardinia-Piedmont.

After successive victories, he became the

First King of Unified Italy (1861).

VI. Final Stage of Italian Unification

Venetia

Acquired in 1866 after the Austro-Prussian War.

Rome

Annexed in 1870 after French troops withdrew during the Franco-Prussian War.

Rome became the capital of unified Italy.

Thus, Italian unification was completed in 1870.

PART II – UNIFICATION OF GERMANY

I. Germany Before Unification

Before unification, Germany consisted of 39 independent states created by the Congress of Vienna.

The most powerful among them were:

- Prussia
- Austria

Nationalists desired the political unification of all German-speaking people.

II. Otto von Bismarck (1815–1898)

Bismarck became the Prime Minister of Prussia in 1862.

He is known as the Architect of German Unification.

His policy was called

Blood and Iron

He believed that German unity would be achieved through:

- Military strength

- Diplomacy
- War

rather than speeches and resolutions.

III. Danish War (1864)

Prussia and Austria jointly defeated Denmark.

They obtained control over:

- Schleswig
- Holstein

This victory strengthened Prussia's position.

IV. Austro-Prussian War (1866)

Also called the
Seven Weeks' War.

Prussia decisively defeated Austria in the
Battle of Königgrätz (Sadowa).

Consequences:

- Austria was excluded from German affairs.
- Prussia became the dominant German state.
- North German Confederation was established.

V. Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871)

France declared war on Prussia.

The German states united against France.

Prussia achieved a decisive victory.

Emperor Napoleon III of France was captured.

This victory united all German states.

VI. Proclamation of the German Empire
On

18 January 1871

King William I of Prussia was proclaimed
German Emperor (Kaiser)
at the

Hall of Mirrors, Palace of Versailles.

This marked the birth of the German Empire.

Bismarck became its first Chancellor.

VII. Significance of the Unifications

Both Italy and Germany:

- Strengthened nationalism.
- Ended political fragmentation.
- Created powerful nation-states.
- Changed the Balance of Power in Europe.
- Contributed to rivalries that eventually led to the First World War.

Comparison: Italian and German Unification

Italy Germany

Father of Nationalism – Mazzini Architect – Bismarck

Architect – Cavour Policy – Blood and Iron

Military Leader – Garibaldi Military Leader – Moltke (Chief of Staff)

King – Victor Emmanuel II Kaiser – William I

Completed – 1870 Completed – 1871

Rome became capital Berlin became capital

Important Facts for Competitive Examinations

Topic Fact

Father of Italian Nationalism Mazzini

Young Italy 1831
Architect of Italian Unification Cavour
Red Shirts Garibaldi
First King of Italy Victor Emmanuel II
Italian Unification Completed 1870
Architect of German Unification Bismarck
Policy Blood and Iron
Danish War 1864
Austro-Prussian War 1866
Franco-Prussian War 1870–71
German Empire Proclaimed 18 January 1871
First German Emperor William I
First Chancellor Bismarck

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Young Italy
- Mazzini
- Cavour
- Garibaldi
- Red Shirts
- Victor Emmanuel II
- Blood and Iron
- Bismarck
- Danish War
- Austro-Prussian War
- Franco-Prussian War
- Hall of Mirrors
- William I
- German Empire (1871)

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The Father of Italian Nationalism was _____.

- (A) Cavour
- (B) Garibaldi
- (C) Mazzini
- (D) Victor Emmanuel II

2.

Mazzini founded the organization _____ in 1831.

- (A) Young Germany
- (B) Young Italy
- (C) Carbonari
- (D) Red Shirts

3.

The Architect of Italian Unification was _____.

- (A) Garibaldi
- (B) Victor Emmanuel II
- (C) Cavour
- (D) Mazzini

4.

The famous volunteer force led by Garibaldi was known as the _____.

- (A) Black Shirts

- (B) Red Shirts
 - (C) Green Shirts
 - (D) Blue Shirts
-

5.
The first King of unified Italy was _____.

- (A) Charles Albert
 - (B) Victor Emmanuel II
 - (C) Umberto I
 - (D) Mazzini
-

6.
Italian unification was completed in _____.

- (A) 1861
 - (B) 1866
 - (C) 1870
 - (D) 1871
-

7.
The Architect of German Unification was _____.

- (A) William I
 - (B) Moltke
 - (C) Bismarck
 - (D) Frederick William IV
-

8.
Bismarck's famous policy was known as _____.

- (A) Divine Right
 - (B) Blood and Iron
 - (C) Balance of Power
 - (D) Continental System
-

9.
The Danish War was fought in _____.

- (A) 1862
 - (B) 1864
 - (C) 1866
 - (D) 1870
-

10.
The Austro-Prussian War was fought in _____.

- (A) 1864
 - (B) 1865
 - (C) 1866
 - (D) 1871
-

11.
The Franco-Prussian War took place during _____.

- (A) 1861–62
 - (B) 1866–67
 - (C) 1870–71
 - (D) 1875–76
-

12.
The German Empire was proclaimed at the Palace of _____.

- (A) Vienna
- (B) Berlin
- (C) Versailles

(D) Munich

13.

William I was proclaimed German Emperor in _____.

- (A) 1866
- (B) 1870
- (C) 1871
- (D) 1875

14.

The first Chancellor of the German Empire was _____.

- (A) Moltke
- (B) William I
- (C) Bismarck
- (D) Frederick III

15.

The unification of Italy and Germany greatly strengthened _____ in Europe.

- (A) Feudalism
- (B) Nationalism
- (C) Mercantilism
- (D) Colonialism

Answer Key

- 1 – C (Mazzini)
- 2 – B (Young Italy)
- 3 – C (Cavour)
- 4 – B (Red Shirts)
- 5 – B (Victor Emmanuel II)
- 6 – C (1870)
- 7 – C (Bismarck)
- 8 – B (Blood and Iron)
- 9 – B (1864)
- 10 – C (1866)
- 11 – C (1870–71)
- 12 – C (Versailles)
- 13 – C (1871)
- 14 – C (Bismarck)
- 15 – B (Nationalism)

CHAPTER 14: INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution was one of the most significant events in world history. It marked the transition from manual production to machine-based manufacturing, fundamentally transforming industry, agriculture, transportation, communication, and society.

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain during the mid-18th century (around 1760) and later spread to Europe, North America, and other parts of the world.

It resulted in the rise of the factory system, capitalism, urbanization, and modern industrial society.

This chapter is one of the most important topics for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Meaning of the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution refers to the change from:

- Hand production to machine production.
- Cottage industries to factories.
- Human and animal power to steam power.
- Rural economy to industrial economy.

II. Why Did the Industrial Revolution Begin in Britain?

Britain became the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution due to several favourable conditions.

1. Availability of Natural Resources

Britain possessed abundant:

- Coal
- Iron ore

These were the essential raw materials for industries.

2. Agricultural Revolution

Improved farming techniques increased agricultural productivity.

This:

- Produced surplus food.
- Reduced the need for agricultural labour.
- Supplied workers to industries.

3. Capital

Britain accumulated large amounts of wealth through:

- Overseas trade.
- Colonial possessions.
- Banking.

This capital financed industries.

4. Colonial Markets

Britain possessed colonies across the world.

Colonies supplied:

- Raw materials.
- Markets for finished goods.

5. Political Stability

Britain enjoyed:

- Stable government.
- Secure property rights.
- Encouragement to entrepreneurs.

6. Scientific and Technological Progress

Continuous inventions promoted industrial growth.

III. Major Inventions

Textile Industry

John Kay

Invented the

Flying Shuttle (1733)

It increased weaving speed.

James Hargreaves

Invented the

Spinning Jenny (1764)

It enabled one worker to spin multiple threads simultaneously.

Richard Arkwright

Invented the

Water Frame (1769)

It used water power to spin stronger yarn.

He is often regarded as the Father of the Factory System.

Samuel Crompton

Invented the

Spinning Mule (1779)

It combined the advantages of the Spinning Jenny and Water Frame.

Edmund Cartwright

Invented the

Power Loom (1785)

It mechanized weaving.

IV. Steam Power

James Watt

James Watt improved the Steam Engine (1769).

His improvements made steam power practical for industries, mining, and transportation.

He is widely regarded as the Father of the Steam Engine.

The steam engine became the driving force of the Industrial Revolution.

V. Iron Industry

Henry Cort

Developed the Puddling and Rolling Process, improving iron production.

VI. Transportation Revolution

George Stephenson

Known as the Father of Railways.

Built the famous locomotive

Rocket (1829)

Railways revolutionized transport.

Robert Fulton

Developed the first commercially successful
Steamboat (1807).

John Loudon McAdam

Developed the

Macadam Road system.

It greatly improved road transport.

VII. Factory System

The Industrial Revolution introduced the Factory System.

Its characteristics were:

- Large-scale production.
- Division of labour.
- Machine production.
- Wage labour.
- Standardized products.

Factories replaced the old cottage industries.

VIII. Social Effects

Positive Effects

- Increased production.
 - Cheaper goods.
 - Better transportation.
 - Scientific progress.
 - Rise in living standards (over time).
 - Growth of international trade.
-

Negative Effects

- Child labour.
- Long working hours.

- Poor factory conditions.
- Urban overcrowding.
- Pollution.
- Exploitation of workers.

These conditions later encouraged the growth of Trade Unions and Labour Movements.

IX. Economic Effects

- Rise of Capitalism.
- Growth of banking.
- Expansion of world trade.
- Increase in exports.
- Industrial competition.

X. Political Effects

Industrialization encouraged:

- Imperialism.
- Colonial expansion.
- Nationalism.
- Labour legislation.

XI. Spread of the Industrial Revolution

After Britain, industrialization spread to:

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- United States
- Russia
- Japan

XII. Importance of the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution:

- Changed the economic structure of the world.
- Created modern industries.
- Improved communication and transport.
- Stimulated scientific research.
- Increased global trade.
- Prepared the foundation for modern economic development.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Birthplace	Great Britain
Beginning	Around 1760
Flying Shuttle	John Kay
Spinning Jenny	James Hargreaves
Water Frame	Richard Arkwright
Spinning Mule	Samuel Crompton
Power Loom	Edmund Cartwright
Steam Engine	James Watt
Rocket	George Stephenson
Steamboat	Robert Fulton
Macadam Roads	John McAdam
Factory System	Arkwright

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Why Britain became the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.
- James Watt and the Steam Engine.

- Textile inventions and their inventors.
 - George Stephenson and the Rocket.
 - Robert Fulton and the Steamboat.
 - Richard Arkwright and the Factory System.
 - Social and economic effects of industrialization.
 - Child labour and trade unions.
 - Spread of the Industrial Revolution.
-

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The Industrial Revolution first began in _____.

- (A) France
 - (B) Germany
 - (C) Great Britain
 - (D) United States
-

2.

The Industrial Revolution began around the year _____.

- (A) 1600
 - (B) 1700
 - (C) 1760
 - (D) 1850
-

3.

The Flying Shuttle was invented by _____.

- (A) James Watt
 - (B) John Kay
 - (C) Samuel Crompton
 - (D) Edmund Cartwright
-

4.

The Spinning Jenny was invented by _____.

- (A) James Hargreaves
 - (B) Richard Arkwright
 - (C) John Kay
 - (D) Henry Cort
-

5.

The Water Frame was invented by _____.

- (A) Samuel Crompton
 - (B) Richard Arkwright
 - (C) James Watt
 - (D) George Stephenson
-

6.

The Spinning Mule was invented by _____.

- (A) James Hargreaves
 - (B) Samuel Crompton
 - (C) John Kay
 - (D) Henry Cort
-

7.

The Power Loom was invented by _____.

- (A) Edmund Cartwright
- (B) George Stephenson
- (C) James Watt
- (D) Robert Fulton

-
8.
The improved Steam Engine is associated with _____.
(A) Henry Cort
(B) James Watt
(C) George Stephenson
(D) Richard Arkwright
-
9.
James Watt is popularly known as the Father of the _____.
(A) Factory System
(B) Steam Engine
(C) Railway
(D) Textile Industry
-
10.
The locomotive Rocket was built by _____.
(A) Robert Fulton
(B) George Stephenson
(C) James Watt
(D) John McAdam
-
11.
The first commercially successful steamboat was developed by _____.
(A) George Stephenson
(B) Robert Fulton
(C) Henry Cort
(D) Samuel Crompton
-
12.
The Macadam system is associated with the construction of _____.
(A) Railways
(B) Roads
(C) Canals
(D) Bridges
-
13.
Richard Arkwright is regarded as the Father of the _____.
(A) Steam Engine
(B) Factory System
(C) Railways
(D) Capitalism
-
14.
One important social problem created by the Industrial Revolution was _____ labour.
(A) Skilled
(B) Agricultural
(C) Child
(D) Domestic
-
15.
The Industrial Revolution encouraged the growth of _____.
(A) Feudalism
(B) Capitalism
(C) Mercantilism
(D) Tribalism
-

Answer Key

- 1 – C (Great Britain)
- 2 – C (1760)
- 3 – B (John Kay)
- 4 – A (James Hargreaves)
- 5 – B (Richard Arkwright)
- 6 – B (Samuel Crompton)
- 7 – A (Edmund Cartwright)
- 8 – B (James Watt)
- 9 – B (Steam Engine)
- 10 – B (George Stephenson)
- 11 – B (Robert Fulton)
- 12 – B (Roads)
- 13 – B (Factory System)
- 14 – C (Child)
- 15 – B (Capitalism)

CHAPTER 15: CAPITALISM, SOCIALISM AND MARXISM

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution brought unprecedented economic growth but also created serious social inequalities. The concentration of wealth in the hands of industrialists, poor working conditions, child labour, and low wages led to the emergence of new economic and political ideologies.

The three major ideologies that shaped the modern world are:

- Capitalism
- Socialism
- Marxism (Scientific Socialism)

I. Capitalism

Meaning

Capitalism is an economic system in which:

- The means of production are privately owned.
- Individuals are free to establish businesses.
- Prices are determined by demand and supply.
- Profit is the main motive of production.
- Competition encourages efficiency.

Capitalism became the dominant economic system after the Industrial Revolution.

II. Features of Capitalism

The important features are:

- Private ownership.
- Freedom of enterprise.
- Profit motive.
- Free market.
- Competition.
- Consumer sovereignty.
- Limited government intervention.

III. Adam Smith (1723–1790)

Adam Smith is regarded as the Father of Modern Economics.

His famous book is

The Wealth of Nations (1776).

He advocated:

- Free trade.
- Free competition.
- Division of labour.
- Limited government interference.

His economic philosophy became known as

Laissez-faire
meaning

"Let people do as they choose."

Adam Smith believed that the economy functions efficiently through the Invisible Hand, where individuals pursuing their own interests unintentionally benefit society.

IV. Merits of Capitalism

- Encourages innovation.
- Promotes competition.
- Increases production.
- Generates wealth.
- Efficient allocation of resources.
- Encourages entrepreneurship.

V. Demerits of Capitalism

- Economic inequality.
- Exploitation of workers.
- Monopoly.
- Unemployment.
- Cyclical economic crises.
- Concentration of wealth.

VI. Socialism

Meaning

Socialism advocates:

- Social ownership of the means of production.
- Economic equality.
- Government regulation of important industries.
- Welfare of society over private profit.

It developed as a reaction against the inequalities of capitalism.

VII. Utopian Socialists

Before Karl Marx, several thinkers proposed ideal societies based on cooperation.

Important Utopian Socialists include:

- Robert Owen
- Saint-Simon
- Charles Fourier

Robert Owen

A British industrialist and social reformer.

He:

- Improved factory conditions.
- Reduced working hours.
- Opposed child labour.
- Established cooperative communities.

Because their ideas relied mainly on moral persuasion rather than scientific analysis, they are known as Utopian Socialists.

VIII. Karl Marx (1818–1883)

Karl Marx was a German philosopher, economist, historian, and revolutionary thinker.

He is regarded as the

Father of Scientific Socialism.

Marx believed that history is driven by conflicts between different economic classes.

IX. Friedrich Engels (1820–1895)

Friedrich Engels was Marx's close associate and collaborator.

Together they wrote:

The Communist Manifesto (1848).

After Marx's death, Engels edited and published later volumes of Das Kapital.

X. The Communist Manifesto (1848)

Published in 1848.

Written by:

- Karl Marx
- Friedrich Engels

The Manifesto declared:

"Workers of the world, unite!"

It argued that workers everywhere shared common interests against capitalist exploitation.

XI. Das Kapital

Marx's greatest work.

Published:

- Volume I – 1867

It analyzes:

- Capitalism.
- Labour.
- Profit.
- Exploitation.
- Economic crises.

It remains one of the most influential works in political economy.

XII. Main Ideas of Marxism

Historical Materialism

Economic conditions determine the course of history.

Class Struggle

Society is divided into opposing classes.

Throughout history, conflict exists between:

- Rich and Poor.
- Owners and Workers.

Marx argued that class struggle is the driving force of historical change.

Surplus Value

Workers produce more value than they receive as wages.

The excess value retained by the capitalist is called

Surplus Value.

Marx regarded this as the basis of capitalist exploitation.

Dictatorship of the Proletariat

After a workers' revolution,
the working class would temporarily control the state.

Classless Society

Ultimately,
the state would disappear,
leading to

- Equality.
 - Common ownership.
 - Classless society.
 - Communism.
-

XIII. Differences Between Capitalism and Socialism

Capitalism Socialism

Private ownership Social/Public ownership

Profit motive Social welfare

Free market Government planning

Competition Cooperation

Limited government Greater government role

XIV. Influence of Marxism

Marxist ideas influenced:

- Russian Revolution (1917)
- Chinese Revolution (1949)
- Cuban Revolution (1959)
- Labour movements.
- Trade unions.
- Socialist political parties.

XV. Importance

The study of Capitalism and Marxism helps explain:

- Modern economic systems.
- Labour movements.
- Welfare states.
- Socialist governments.
- Global political conflicts during the Cold War.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Father of Economics Adam Smith

Wealth of Nations 1776

Invisible Hand Adam Smith

Laissez-faire Free market

Father of Scientific Socialism Karl Marx

Communist Manifesto 1848

Das Kapital 1867

Co-author Friedrich Engels

Utopian Socialist Robert Owen

Surplus Value Karl Marx

Class Struggle Marxism

Workers of the world, unite! Communist Manifesto

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Adam Smith
- The Wealth of Nations
- Laissez-faire
- Invisible Hand
- Robert Owen
- Karl Marx
- Friedrich Engels
- The Communist Manifesto
- Das Kapital
- Surplus Value
- Class Struggle
- Scientific Socialism

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The Father of Modern Economics is _____.

- (A) Karl Marx
- (B) Adam Smith
- (C) David Ricardo
- (D) J. S. Mill

2.

Adam Smith wrote The Wealth of Nations in _____.

- (A) 1776
 - (B) 1789
 - (C) 1848
 - (D) 1867
-

3.

The policy of minimum government interference in the economy is known as _____.

- (A) Mercantilism
 - (B) Laissez-faire
 - (C) Protectionism
 - (D) Socialism
-

4.

The concept of the "Invisible Hand" is associated with _____.

- (A) Robert Owen
 - (B) Karl Marx
 - (C) Adam Smith
 - (D) Engels
-

5.

Capitalism is primarily based on _____ ownership of the means of production.

- (A) Public
 - (B) Cooperative
 - (C) Private
 - (D) State
-

6.

The Father of Scientific Socialism is _____.

- (A) Friedrich Engels
 - (B) Karl Marx
 - (C) Robert Owen
 - (D) Lenin
-

7.

The Communist Manifesto was published in _____.

- (A) 1776
 - (B) 1815
 - (C) 1848
 - (D) 1867
-

8.

The Communist Manifesto was jointly written by Karl Marx and _____.

- (A) Lenin
 - (B) Trotsky
 - (C) Friedrich Engels
 - (D) Stalin
-

9.

Karl Marx's famous work Das Kapital was first published in _____.

- (A) 1848
 - (B) 1867
 - (C) 1871
 - (D) 1917
-

10.

According to Marx, history is driven by _____ struggle.

- (A) Religious
- (B) National
- (C) Class
- (D) Cultural

11.

The excess value retained by capitalists is known as _____.

- (A) Profit Tax
- (B) Surplus Value
- (C) Dividend
- (D) Interest

12.

The British social reformer associated with Utopian Socialism was _____.

- (A) Robert Owen
- (B) Saint-Simon
- (C) Fourier
- (D) Ricardo

13.

The slogan "Workers of the world, unite!" appears in the _____.

- (A) Wealth of Nations
- (B) Das Kapital
- (C) Communist Manifesto
- (D) Social Contract

14.

Socialism emphasizes _____ ownership of important means of production.

- (A) Private
- (B) Foreign
- (C) Social or Public
- (D) Individual

15.

Marxist ideas greatly influenced the _____ Revolution of 1917.

- (A) French
- (B) American
- (C) Russian
- (D) Chinese

Answer Key

- 1 – B (Adam Smith)
- 2 – A (1776)
- 3 – B (Laissez-faire)
- 4 – C (Adam Smith)
- 5 – C (Private)
- 6 – B (Karl Marx)
- 7 – C (1848)
- 8 – C (Friedrich Engels)
- 9 – B (1867)
- 10 – C (Class)
- 11 – B (Surplus Value)
- 12 – A (Robert Owen)
- 13 – C (Communist Manifesto)
- 14 – C (Social or Public)
- 15 – C (Russian)

CHAPTER 16: IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM

Introduction

Imperialism and Colonialism were among the most significant developments of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Powerful European nations established political and economic control over vast territories in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Although colonial expansion had begun during the Age of Geographical Discoveries, the period after 1870 witnessed New Imperialism, characterized by intense competition among European powers for colonies.

Imperialism profoundly influenced world politics, economics, culture, and international relations and became one of the major causes of the First World War.

This chapter is extremely important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Meaning of Imperialism

Imperialism is the policy by which a powerful country extends its political, economic, military, or cultural control over weaker territories.

Control may be exercised through:

- Direct political rule.
- Economic domination.
- Military occupation.
- Diplomatic influence.

Imperialism aims to increase the power and prestige of the imperial country.

II. Meaning of Colonialism

Colonialism refers to the establishment of colonies by one country in another territory and the exercise of direct political control over them.

The colonial power:

- Exploits natural resources.
- Controls administration.
- Establishes settlements.
- Introduces its own laws and institutions.

Thus, colonialism is one form of imperialism, involving direct political control.

III. Difference Between Imperialism and Colonialism

Imperialism Colonialism

Broad policy of extending influence Direct establishment of colonies

May not involve settlement Usually involves settlement and administration

Can be political or economic Mainly political and territorial control

Includes informal control Generally involves formal rule

IV. Old Imperialism and New Imperialism

Old Imperialism (15th–18th Centuries)

Main objectives:

- Discovery of sea routes.
- Trade.
- Spices.
- Precious metals.

Leading powers:

- Portugal
- Spain
- Netherlands

New Imperialism (After 1870)

Main objectives:

- Raw materials.
- Markets for manufactured goods.
- Investment opportunities.
- Strategic military bases.

- National prestige.

Leading powers:

- Britain
- France
- Germany
- Belgium
- Italy
- United States
- Japan

V. Causes of Imperialism

1. Economic Causes

Industrialization increased the demand for:

- Raw materials.
- New markets.
- Cheap labour.
- Investment opportunities.

Factories required continuous supplies of:

- Cotton
- Rubber
- Coal
- Copper
- Palm oil
- Jute
- Tea

2. Political Causes

European countries competed for:

- National prestige.
- Military strength.
- Strategic territories.

Possession of colonies became a symbol of national greatness.

3. Strategic Causes

Colonies provided:

- Naval bases.
- Coaling stations.
- Control of sea routes.

Example:

Britain occupied Egypt mainly to protect the Suez Canal, the shortest sea route to India.

4. Nationalism

Strong nationalist feelings encouraged countries to acquire overseas colonies.

Imperial expansion became a matter of national pride.

5. Missionary Activities

Christian missionaries established:

- Schools.
- Hospitals.
- Churches.

Many Europeans believed they had a duty to spread Christianity.

6. "White Man's Burden"

The phrase was popularized by the English writer

Rudyard Kipling.

It suggested that Europeans had a moral responsibility to "civilize" other peoples.

Today, historians generally view this idea as a justification for colonial domination rather than a genuine humanitarian mission.

7. Scientific and Technological Progress

New inventions made imperial expansion easier.

Examples:

- Steamships.
- Railways.
- Telegraph.
- Quinine (against malaria).
- Machine guns.

VI. Major Colonial Powers

Britain

The largest colonial empire.

It was often described as

"The Empire on which the Sun never sets."

Major colonies:

- India
- Canada
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Egypt
- South Africa
- Malaya

France

Major colonies included:

- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Morocco (protectorate)
- French West Africa
- French Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia)

Belgium

King Leopold II established personal control over the

Congo Free State.

The exploitation of the Congo became notorious for its brutality.

Germany

Entered imperial competition after 1871.

Acquired colonies in:

- German East Africa
- German South-West Africa
- Cameroon
- Togoland

Italy

Acquired:

- Eritrea
- Somaliland
- Libya

Italy's defeat by Ethiopia at the Battle of Adwa (1896) was a significant setback.

Portugal

Retained:

- Angola
- Mozambique
- Goa (until 1961)
- Macau (until 1999)

Netherlands

Controlled:

- Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)
-

VII. Effects of Imperialism

Positive Effects

- Development of transport.
 - Railways.
 - Modern ports.
 - Introduction of Western education.
 - Improved communication.
 - Modern administrative systems.
-

Negative Effects

- Economic exploitation.
 - Destruction of indigenous industries.
 - Cultural domination.
 - Political subjugation.
 - Forced labour.
 - Artificial political boundaries.
 - Racial discrimination.
-

VIII. Imperialism and World War I

Competition for colonies intensified rivalries among European powers.

These rivalries contributed significantly to the outbreak of the First World War (1914).

IX. Historical Importance

Imperialism reshaped the political map of the world.

It influenced:

- International trade.
- Global migration.
- Nationalist movements.
- Decolonization after the Second World War.

Many present-day political and economic issues have roots in the imperial era.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

New Imperialism After 1870

White Man's Burden Rudyard Kipling

Largest Colonial Empire Britain

Empire on which the Sun never sets Britain

Congo Leopold II (Belgium)

Dutch East Indies Indonesia

British Strategic Route Suez Canal

Italian Defeat Battle of Adwa (1896)

German Colonies East Africa, South-West Africa, Cameroon, Togoland

Portuguese Colonies Angola, Mozambique

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Difference between Imperialism and Colonialism.
- Old and New Imperialism.
- White Man's Burden.
- Rudyard Kipling.
- Britain's colonial empire.
- Leopold II and the Congo.

- Dutch East Indies.
- Suez Canal.
- Battle of Adwa.
- Economic causes of imperialism.
- Effects of colonialism.

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.
Imperialism refers to the policy of extending a nation's _____ over other territories.
(A) Agriculture
(B) Influence
(C) Religion
(D) Language
2.
The period of New Imperialism mainly began after _____.
(A) 1760
(B) 1815
(C) 1870
(D) 1914
3.
Colonialism generally involves direct _____ control over another territory.
(A) Political
(B) Religious
(C) Cultural
(D) Linguistic
4.
Industrialized countries sought colonies mainly for _____ materials.
(A) Luxury
(B) Precious
(C) Raw
(D) Building
5.
The phrase "White Man's Burden" is associated with _____.
(A) Charles Darwin
(B) Rudyard Kipling
(C) Cecil Rhodes
(D) David Livingstone
6.
The largest colonial empire in history belonged to _____.
(A) France
(B) Germany
(C) Britain
(D) Portugal
7.
Britain was often called the Empire on which the _____ never sets.
(A) Moon
(B) Sun
(C) Star
(D) Sky
- 8.

King Leopold II was associated with the _____ Free State.

- (A) Sudan
 - (B) Congo
 - (C) Nigeria
 - (D) Kenya
-

9.

The Dutch East Indies is the present-day country of _____.

- (A) Malaysia
 - (B) Indonesia
 - (C) Philippines
 - (D) Thailand
-

10.

Britain occupied Egypt mainly to safeguard the _____ Canal.

- (A) Panama
 - (B) Kiel
 - (C) Corinth
 - (D) Suez
-

11.

Italy suffered a major defeat at the Battle of _____ in 1896.

- (A) Sedan
 - (B) Waterloo
 - (C) Adwa
 - (D) Trafalgar
-

12.

The Battle of Adwa was fought against _____.

- (A) Egypt
 - (B) Ethiopia
 - (C) Sudan
 - (D) Libya
-

13.

The exploitation of the Congo Free State was carried out under King _____.

- (A) William II
 - (B) Leopold II
 - (C) George V
 - (D) Victor Emmanuel II
-

14.

Competition for colonies became one of the important causes of the _____ World War.

- (A) First
 - (B) Second
 - (C) Crimean
 - (D) Seven Years'
-

15.

The establishment of colonies by one country in another territory is called _____.

- (A) Mercantilism
 - (B) Nationalism
 - (C) Colonialism
 - (D) Liberalism
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (Influence)
- 2 – C (1870)

- 3 – A (Political)
- 4 – C (Raw)
- 5 – B (Rudyard Kipling)
- 6 – C (Britain)
- 7 – B (Sun)
- 8 – B (Congo)
- 9 – B (Indonesia)
- 10 – D (Suez)
- 11 – C (Adwa)
- 12 – B (Ethiopia)
- 13 – B (Leopold II)
- 14 – A (First)
- 15 – C (Colonialism)

CHAPTER 17: SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

Introduction

The Scramble for Africa refers to the rapid partition and colonization of Africa by European powers during the late nineteenth century, particularly between 1880 and 1914.

Before 1880, Europeans controlled only a small portion of the African continent, mainly along the coasts. Within a few decades, nearly the entire continent had been divided among European powers.

The Scramble for Africa was driven by economic interests, nationalism, strategic considerations, missionary activities, and scientific exploration. The partition was formalized by the Berlin Conference (1884–1885).

This chapter is highly important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Africa Before Colonization

Before European conquest, Africa consisted of numerous independent kingdoms, empires, and tribal societies.

Important African kingdoms included:

- Ethiopia
- Ashanti Kingdom
- Zulu Kingdom
- Buganda
- Sokoto Caliphate
- Kingdom of Kongo

European influence was initially confined mainly to coastal trading posts.

II. Causes of the Scramble for Africa

1. Industrial Revolution

European industries required:

- Cotton
- Rubber
- Copper
- Gold
- Diamonds
- Palm oil

Africa possessed abundant natural resources.

2. National Rivalry

European countries competed to acquire colonies as symbols of prestige and power.

The principal competitors were:

- Britain
- France
- Germany
- Belgium
- Portugal

- Italy

3. Missionary Activities

Missionaries established:

- Schools
- Churches
- Hospitals

Prominent missionaries included:

David Livingstone

who combined missionary work with geographical exploration.

4. Scientific Exploration

Explorers mapped the interior of Africa.

Important explorers included:

David Livingstone

- Scottish missionary and explorer.
- Explored Central and Southern Africa.
- Drew European attention to the African interior.

Henry Morton Stanley

- Welsh-American explorer.
- Explored the Congo Basin.
- Assisted King Leopold II in establishing control over the Congo.

5. Strategic Interests

Control of strategic locations such as:

- Suez Canal
- Cape of Good Hope
- River routes

was considered essential.

III. Berlin Conference (1884–1885)

The Berlin Conference was convened by German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck.

It was attended by representatives of 14 countries.

No African ruler was invited.

Objectives

- Prevent conflicts among European powers.
- Establish rules for colonization.
- Regulate trade in Africa.
- Recognize territorial claims.

Principle of Effective Occupation

A European power could claim a territory only if it exercised effective occupation and administration.

This principle accelerated the partition of Africa.

IV. Partition of Africa

After the Berlin Conference:

Britain acquired

- Egypt
- Sudan
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- Gold Coast (Ghana)
- South Africa
- Rhodesia (Zimbabwe and Zambia)

France acquired

- Algeria

- Tunisia
- French West Africa
- French Equatorial Africa
- Madagascar

France became the second-largest colonial power in Africa.

Belgium acquired

- Congo Free State

Later known as the Belgian Congo.

Germany acquired

- German East Africa (Tanzania)
- German South-West Africa (Namibia)
- Cameroon
- Togoland

Portugal retained

- Angola
- Mozambique

Italy acquired

- Eritrea
- Somaliland
- Libya (1911–1912)

Italy failed to conquer Ethiopia in 1896.

V. Ethiopia – The Exception

Ethiopia remained independent.

At the

Battle of Adwa (1896)

Emperor Menelik II defeated the Italian army.

This was one of the greatest victories of an African nation against European colonialism.

Ethiopia remained independent except for the brief Italian occupation (1936–1941).

VI. Liberia

Liberia also remained independent.

It had been established for freed African-American slaves with the support of the American Colonization Society.

Thus, Ethiopia and Liberia were the only African states that largely retained their independence during the Scramble for Africa.

VII. Cecil Rhodes

Cecil Rhodes was a British imperialist and businessman.

He strongly advocated British expansion in Africa.

He envisioned a continuous British territory
"from Cape to Cairo."

The territories of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) were named after him.

VIII. Fashoda Incident (1898)

The Fashoda Incident brought Britain and France to the brink of war.

It occurred in present-day Sudan.

Eventually, France withdrew, and Britain secured control.

The crisis encouraged better Anglo-French relations, culminating in the Entente Cordiale (1904).

IX. Boer Wars (1880–1881; 1899–1902)

The Boers were Dutch settlers in South Africa.

Britain fought two wars against them.
The Second Boer War (1899–1902) ended with British victory.
The Union of South Africa was established in 1910 under British rule.

X. Consequences of the Scramble for Africa

Political

- Loss of African independence.
- Artificial boundaries.
- Colonial administrations.

Economic

- Exploitation of minerals.
- Plantation agriculture.
- Forced labour.
- Development of railways and ports mainly for export.

Social

- Spread of Western education.
- Christian missionary activity.
- Cultural disruption.
- Racial discrimination.

Long-term Effects

- Rise of African nationalism.
- Independence movements after the Second World War.
- Border disputes continuing into the present.

XI. Historical Importance

The Scramble for Africa dramatically altered the continent's political and economic landscape.

Its consequences continue to influence:

- African politics.
- International relations.
- Ethnic conflicts.
- Economic development.

Understanding the Scramble for Africa is essential for explaining modern African history.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Berlin Conference 1884–1885

Organizer Otto von Bismarck

Effective Occupation Principle adopted at Berlin

Missionary David Livingstone

Explorer Henry Morton Stanley

Congo Leopold II

Cape to Cairo Cecil Rhodes

Independent African States Ethiopia and Liberia

Battle of Adwa 1896

Emperor of Ethiopia Menelik II

Fashoda Incident 1898

Boer Wars South Africa

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Berlin Conference (1884–85)
- Otto von Bismarck
- Principle of Effective Occupation

- David Livingstone
- Henry Morton Stanley
- Cecil Rhodes
- Cape to Cairo
- Menelik II
- Battle of Adwa
- Ethiopia and Liberia
- Fashoda Incident
- Boer Wars

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The Scramble for Africa mainly took place between ____.

- (A) 1700–1750
- (B) 1750–1800
- (C) 1880–1914
- (D) 1914–1945

2.

The Berlin Conference was held during ____.

- (A) 1814–1815
- (B) 1848–1849
- (C) 1884–1885
- (D) 1919–1920

3.

The Berlin Conference was convened by ____.

- (A) Napoleon III
- (B) Otto von Bismarck
- (C) Kaiser William II
- (D) Cecil Rhodes

4.

The Berlin Conference adopted the Principle of Effective ____.

- (A) Trade
- (B) Navigation
- (C) Occupation
- (D) Colonization

5.

The Scottish missionary associated with African exploration was ____.

- (A) Stanley
- (B) Livingstone
- (C) Rhodes
- (D) Cook

6.

Henry Morton Stanley explored the ____ Basin.

- (A) Nile
- (B) Congo
- (C) Niger
- (D) Zambezi

7.

King Leopold II established control over the ____ Free State.

- (A) Sudan
- (B) Nigeria

- (C) Congo
 - (D) Kenya
-

8.
The slogan "Cape to Cairo" is associated with _____.
(A) Livingstone
(B) Rhodes
(C) Stanley
(D) Menelik II

9.
The Battle of Adwa was fought in _____.
(A) 1885
(B) 1896
(C) 1898
(D) 1902

10.
The Ethiopian ruler who defeated Italy at Adwa was _____.
(A) Haile Selassie
(B) Menelik II
(C) Tewodros II
(D) Yohannes IV

11.
The Fashoda Incident occurred in present-day _____.
(A) Egypt
(B) Sudan
(C) Kenya
(D) Ethiopia

12.
The Boer Wars were fought in _____.
(A) Algeria
(B) South Africa
(C) Nigeria
(D) Libya

13.
The two African countries that largely remained independent during the Scramble for Africa were Ethiopia and _____.
(A) Egypt
(B) Liberia
(C) Morocco
(D) Tunisia

14.
France and Britain nearly went to war during the _____ Incident.
(A) Agadir
(B) Sarajevo
(C) Fashoda
(D) Tangier

15.
The Berlin Conference was attended by representatives of _____ countries.
(A) 10
(B) 12
(C) 14

(D) 16

Answer Key

- 1 – C (1880–1914)
- 2 – C (1884–1885)
- 3 – B (Otto von Bismarck)
- 4 – C (Occupation)
- 5 – B (Livingstone)
- 6 – B (Congo)
- 7 – C (Congo)
- 8 – B (Cecil Rhodes)
- 9 – B (1896)
- 10 – B (Menelik II)
- 11 – B (Sudan)
- 12 – B (South Africa)
- 13 – B (Liberia)
- 14 – C (Fashoda)
- 15 – C (14)

CHAPTER 18: MEIJI RESTORATION AND THE RISE OF JAPAN

Introduction

The Meiji Restoration (1868) was one of the most remarkable political and economic transformations in modern history. It ended the rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate, restored political authority to the Emperor Meiji, and rapidly transformed Japan from a feudal society into a modern industrial and military power.

Within a few decades, Japan emerged as the first Asian nation to industrialize successfully and became a major world power by defeating both China (1895) and Russia (1905).

This chapter is of great importance for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Japan Before the Meiji Restoration

Before 1868, Japan was ruled by the Tokugawa Shogunate, established by Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1603.

Features of the Tokugawa Rule

- The Emperor remained the nominal head of state.
- The Shogun exercised real political power.
- Japan followed a feudal system.
- Society was divided into:
 - o Samurai
 - o Farmers
 - o Artisans
 - o Merchants
- The country adopted a policy of isolation (Sakoku), restricting foreign trade and contact.

II. Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States arrived in Japan with a naval fleet. He demanded that Japan open its ports to foreign trade.

As a result, Japan signed the Treaty of Kanagawa (1854) which:

- Opened selected Japanese ports to American ships.
- Ended Japan's long policy of isolation.
- Increased Western influence in Japan.

The unequal treaties exposed the weakness of the Tokugawa government and strengthened demands for political reform.

III. Meiji Restoration (1868)

In 1868, the Tokugawa Shogunate was overthrown.

Political authority was restored to Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito).
This event is known as the Meiji Restoration.
The principal objective was:
"A Rich Country and a Strong Army."
(Fukoku Kyōhei)

IV. Political Reforms

The Meiji government introduced several important political reforms.

Abolition of Feudalism

In 1871, the feudal domains (Han) were abolished.

They were replaced by prefectures directly controlled by the central government.

Centralized Administration

A strong central government was established.

Power shifted from local feudal lords (Daimyo) to the national government.

Constitutional Government

The

Meiji Constitution

was promulgated in 1889.

Important features:

- Constitutional monarchy.
 - Emperor remained the sovereign.
 - Bicameral legislature (Imperial Diet).
 - Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.
 - Limited voting rights.
-

V. Social Reforms

End of Samurai Privileges

The hereditary privileges of the Samurai were abolished.

Former Samurai entered:

- Government service.
 - Business.
 - Education.
 - Military.
-

Equality Before Law

Feudal distinctions were gradually removed.

All citizens became subject to the same legal system.

VI. Educational Reforms

Education became compulsory.

The government established:

- Primary schools.
- Secondary schools.
- Universities.
- Technical institutions.

Students were sent to Europe and America to study modern science and technology.

Education played a crucial role in Japan's modernization.

VII. Economic Reforms

The government promoted rapid industrialization.

Major industries included:

- Textiles.
- Shipbuilding.
- Steel.

- Machinery.

Modern banking institutions were established.

Railways, telegraphs, and modern ports were developed.

Later, many government industries were sold to private business families known as Zaibatsu, such as:

- Mitsubishi
- Mitsui
- Sumitomo
- Yasuda

VIII. Military Reforms

Japan introduced:

- Universal military conscription (1873).
- Modern army based on the Prussian model.
- Modern navy based on the British model.

The Samurai monopoly over military service ended.

Japan soon developed one of the strongest military forces in Asia.

IX. Foreign Policy

The modernized military enabled Japan to expand its influence in East Asia.

First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895)

Caused mainly by rivalry over Korea.

Japan decisively defeated China.

Treaty of Shimonoseki (1895)

China recognized the independence of Korea and ceded:

- Taiwan (Formosa)
- Pescadores Islands

Japan emerged as the leading power in East Asia.

Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905)

Japan and Russia fought over influence in:

- Korea
- Manchuria

Japan won several decisive victories.

Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)

Mediated by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.

Japan became the first Asian country in modern history to defeat a major European power.

X. Importance of the Meiji Restoration

The Meiji Restoration:

- Ended feudalism.
- Modernized administration.
- Industrialized Japan.
- Strengthened the military.
- Introduced constitutional government.
- Expanded education.
- Transformed Japan into a world power.

It became a model of successful modernization for many Asian countries.

XI. Historical Significance

The rapid modernization of Japan changed the balance of power in Asia.

Japan's success encouraged nationalist movements in several Asian countries and demonstrated that an Asian nation could modernize without becoming a Western colony.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Tokugawa Shogunate 1603–1868

Founder Tokugawa Ieyasu

Commodore Perry 1853

Treaty of Kanagawa 1854

Meiji Restoration 1868

Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito)

Feudal Domains Abolished 1871

Military Conscription 1873

Meiji Constitution 1889

Parliament Imperial Diet

Sino-Japanese War 1894–95

Treaty Shimonoseki

Russo-Japanese War 1904–05

Treaty Portsmouth

Zaibatsu Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Sumitomo, Yasuda

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Tokugawa Shogunate
- Commodore Matthew Perry
- Treaty of Kanagawa
- Meiji Restoration (1868)
- Emperor Meiji
- Meiji Constitution (1889)
- Imperial Diet
- Abolition of feudalism
- Zaibatsu
- Sino-Japanese War
- Treaty of Shimonoseki
- Russo-Japanese War
- Treaty of Portsmouth
- Theodore Roosevelt's mediation

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

Before the Meiji Restoration, Japan was ruled by the _____ Shogunate.

- (A) Ashikaga
- (B) Tokugawa
- (C) Kamakura
- (D) Fujiwara

2.

The Tokugawa Shogunate was established in _____.

- (A) 1543
- (B) 1603
- (C) 1688
- (D) 1868

3.

The American naval officer who opened Japan to foreign trade was Commodore _____.

- (A) Perry
- (B) Dewey
- (C) Farragut
- (D) Nimitz

4.

The Treaty of Kanagawa was signed in _____.

- (A) 1853
 - (B) 1854
 - (C) 1868
 - (D) 1889
-

5.

The Meiji Restoration took place in _____.

- (A) 1854
 - (B) 1868
 - (C) 1871
 - (D) 1889
-

6.

The Meiji Restoration restored power to Emperor _____.

- (A) Hirohito
 - (B) Akihito
 - (C) Meiji
 - (D) Taisho
-

7.

The feudal domains abolished in 1871 were known as _____.

- (A) Daimyo
 - (B) Han
 - (C) Samurai
 - (D) Shinto
-

8.

The Meiji Constitution was promulgated in _____.

- (A) 1868
 - (B) 1871
 - (C) 1889
 - (D) 1905
-

9.

The Japanese Parliament established under the Meiji Constitution was called the _____.

- (A) Diet
 - (B) Duma
 - (C) Reichstag
 - (D) Congress
-

10.

Japan defeated China in the _____ War.

- (A) Russo-Japanese
 - (B) Sino-Japanese
 - (C) Opium
 - (D) Crimean
-

11.

The Treaty ending the First Sino-Japanese War was the Treaty of _____.

- (A) Portsmouth
 - (B) Versailles
 - (C) Shimonoseki
 - (D) Kanagawa
-

12.

Japan defeated _____ in the Russo-Japanese War.

- (A) Britain

- (B) France
 - (C) Russia
 - (D) Germany
-

13.

The Treaty ending the Russo-Japanese War was the Treaty of _____.

- (A) Portsmouth
 - (B) Paris
 - (C) Vienna
 - (D) Tientsin
-

14.

Large Japanese industrial business houses were known as _____.

- (A) Guilds
 - (B) Zaibatsu
 - (C) Cartels
 - (D) Trusts
-

15.

The Meiji Restoration transformed Japan into a modern _____ power.

- (A) Agricultural
 - (B) Feudal
 - (C) Industrial and Military
 - (D) Colonial Dependency
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (Tokugawa)
- 2 – B (1603)
- 3 – A (Perry)
- 4 – B (1854)
- 5 – B (1868)
- 6 – C (Meiji)
- 7 – B (Han)
- 8 – C (1889)
- 9 – A (Diet)
- 10 – B (Sino-Japanese)
- 11 – C (Shimonoseki)
- 12 – C (Russia)
- 13 – A (Portsmouth)
- 14 – B (Zaibatsu)
- 15 – C (Industrial and Military)

CHAPTER 19: FIRST WORLD WAR (1914–1918)

Introduction

The First World War (1914–1918), also known as the Great War, was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. It involved the major powers of Europe and later expanded into a global war involving countries from Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania.

The war was fought primarily between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers. It resulted in the collapse of several empires, redrew the political map of Europe, and laid the foundation for the Second World War.

The First World War is one of the highest-weightage topics in SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Meaning of the First World War

The First World War was a global military conflict fought between 1914 and 1918 involving over 30 nations.

It was called the Great War because of its unprecedented scale and destruction.

II. Causes of the First World War

The causes of the war are commonly remembered by the acronym MAIN:

- M – Militarism
- A – Alliance System
- I – Imperialism
- N – Nationalism

1. Militarism

European countries expanded their armies and navies.

Examples:

- Britain and Germany competed in naval armaments.
- Germany strengthened its army.
- France and Russia also increased military preparedness.

The arms race increased international tension.

2. Alliance System

Europe became divided into two rival military alliances.

Triple Alliance (1882)

Members:

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy

(Italy left the alliance in 1915 and joined the Allied Powers.)

Triple Entente (1907)

Members:

- Britain
- France
- Russia

The alliance system transformed a regional conflict into a world war.

3. Imperialism

Competition for colonies intensified rivalry among European powers.

Major colonial competitors included:

- Britain
- France
- Germany

Colonial disputes increased mutual suspicion.

4. Nationalism

Nationalist movements created political instability.

Examples:

- French desire to recover Alsace-Lorraine from Germany.
- Serbian nationalism in the Balkans.
- Rivalry between Austria-Hungary and Serbia.

III. Immediate Cause

The immediate cause was the

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

He was assassinated on

28 June 1914

at

Sarajevo (Bosnia)

by

Gavrilo Princip,

a Bosnian Serb nationalist associated with the group Young Bosnia.

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia and declared war on 28 July 1914, triggering the alliance system.

IV. Major Powers

Central Powers

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Ottoman Empire
- Bulgaria

Allied Powers

Initially:

- Britain
- France
- Russia

Later joined by:

- Italy (1915)
- Japan (1914)
- United States (1917)
- Romania
- Greece
- Others

V. Important Fronts

Western Front

Mainly between:

- Germany
- France
- Britain

Characterized by:

- Trench warfare.
- Heavy casualties.
- Little territorial gain.

Eastern Front

Mainly between:

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Russia

The front was more mobile than the Western Front.

Middle Eastern Front

Fought mainly against the Ottoman Empire.

Campaigns included:

- Gallipoli
- Mesopotamia
- Palestine

VI. Important Battles

First Battle of the Marne (1914)

France and Britain stopped the German advance toward Paris.
This prevented a quick German victory.

Battle of Verdun (1916)

- Germany vs France.
- One of the longest battles.
- Lasted about ten months.
- Symbolized French determination.

Battle of the Somme (1916)

- Britain and France vs Germany.
- One of the bloodiest battles in history.
- Tanks were used on a large scale for the first time.

Battle of Jutland (1916)

Largest naval battle of the war.

Fought between:

- Britain
- Germany

VII. New Weapons Used

The First World War witnessed the introduction of modern weapons such as:

- Machine guns.
- Tanks.
- Poison gas.
- Submarines (U-boats).
- Aircraft.
- Heavy artillery.

These weapons greatly increased the scale of destruction.

VIII. Entry of the United States (1917)

The United States entered the war in April 1917.

Reasons

- Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare.
- The sinking of civilian and merchant ships.
- The Zimmermann Telegram, in which Germany encouraged Mexico to join the war against the United States.

American troops and resources strengthened the Allied Powers.

IX. Russian Revolution and Withdrawal

In 1917, the Russian Revolution overthrew the Tsarist government.

The new Bolshevik government under Vladimir Lenin wanted peace.

Russia signed the

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)

with Germany and withdrew from the war.

X. End of the War

Germany launched its final offensive in 1918, but it failed.

The Allied counter-offensive forced Germany to seek peace.

The war ended with the

Armistice of 11 November 1918

which came into effect at 11 a.m. ("the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month").

XI. Consequences of the First World War

Political

The war led to the collapse of four major empires:

- German Empire
- Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Ottoman Empire
- Russian Empire

New nations emerged, including:

- Poland
- Czechoslovakia
- Yugoslavia
- Finland
- Estonia
- Latvia

- Lithuania

Economic

- Massive destruction of industries.
- Huge financial losses.
- Heavy war debts.
- Inflation in many countries.

Social

- Millions of soldiers and civilians died.
- Large-scale displacement of populations.
- Greater participation of women in the workforce.
- Social and political reforms in many countries.

International

- Treaty of Versailles (1919).
- Formation of the League of Nations (1920).
- Rise of nationalism in colonies.
- Conditions that contributed to the rise of Fascism and Nazism.

XII. Historical Importance

The First World War marked the end of the old European order.

It:

- Changed international politics.
- Weakened European dominance.
- Strengthened the United States.
- Encouraged anti-colonial movements.
- Prepared the ground for the Second World War.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Duration 1914–1918

Immediate Cause Assassination of Franz Ferdinand

Place of Assassination Sarajevo

Assassin Gavrilo Princip

Triple Alliance Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy

Triple Entente Britain, France, Russia

Italy joined Allies 1915

U.S. entered War 1917

Russian Withdrawal Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)

Armistice 11 November 1918

Longest Battle Verdun

Largest Naval Battle Jutland

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Causes of the First World War (MAIN)
- Triple Alliance and Triple Entente
- Sarajevo assassination
- Gavrilo Princip
- Franz Ferdinand
- Western Front and trench warfare
- Battle of Verdun
- Battle of the Somme
- Battle of Jutland
- Entry of the United States
- Zimmermann Telegram

- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- Armistice (11 November 1918)
- Collapse of the four empires

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The First World War began in the year _____.

- (A) 1912
- (B) 1914
- (C) 1916
- (D) 1918

2.

The immediate cause of the First World War was the assassination of Archduke _____.

- (A) Wilhelm
- (B) Franz Ferdinand
- (C) Nicholas
- (D) Edward

3.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated at _____.

- (A) Vienna
- (B) Belgrade
- (C) Sarajevo
- (D) Prague

4.

The assassin of Franz Ferdinand was _____.

- (A) Otto von Bismarck
- (B) Gavrilo Princip
- (C) Benito Mussolini
- (D) Vladimir Lenin

5.

The Triple Alliance consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and _____.

- (A) Russia
- (B) France
- (C) Italy
- (D) Britain

6.

The Triple Entente consisted of Britain, France, and _____.

- (A) Germany
- (B) Russia
- (C) Italy
- (D) Japan

7.

The acronym MAIN includes Militarism, Alliance System, Imperialism, and _____.

- (A) Neutrality
- (B) Nationalism
- (C) Naval Power
- (D) Negotiation

8.

The longest battle of the First World War was the Battle of _____.

- (A) Waterloo

- (B) Verdun
 - (C) Sedan
 - (D) Ypres
-

9.
The largest naval battle of the First World War was the Battle of _____.

- (A) Trafalgar
 - (B) Midway
 - (C) Jutland
 - (D) Tsushima
-

10.
The United States entered the First World War in _____.

- (A) 1915
 - (B) 1916
 - (C) 1917
 - (D) 1918
-

11.
Russia withdrew from the war by signing the Treaty of _____.

- (A) Versailles
 - (B) Brest-Litovsk
 - (C) Trianon
 - (D) Sèvres
-

12.
The First World War ended with the Armistice of _____.

- (A) 28 June 1919
 - (B) 11 November 1918
 - (C) 10 January 1920
 - (D) 28 July 1914
-

13.
The Battle of the Somme is notable for the large-scale use of _____.

- (A) Aircraft carriers
 - (B) Tanks
 - (C) Missiles
 - (D) Radar
-

14.
The German policy that helped bring the United States into the war was unrestricted _____ warfare.

- (A) Aerial
 - (B) Trench
 - (C) Submarine
 - (D) Chemical
-

15.
One major international organization established after the First World War was the _____ of Nations.

- (A) Union
 - (B) Assembly
 - (C) League
 - (D) Council
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (1914)
- 2 – B (Franz Ferdinand)

- 3 – C (Sarajevo)
- 4 – B (Gavrilo Princip)
- 5 – C (Italy)
- 6 – B (Russia)
- 7 – B (Nationalism)
- 8 – B (Verdun)
- 9 – C (Jutland)
- 10 – C (1917)
- 11 – B (Brest-Litovsk)
- 12 – B (11 November 1918)
- 13 – B (Tanks)
- 14 – C (Submarine)
- 15 – C (League)

CHAPTER 20: RUSSIAN REVOLUTION (1917)

Introduction

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was one of the most significant events in modern world history. It ended the rule of the Romanov Dynasty, overthrew the Tsarist autocracy, and established the world's first socialist state under the Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin.

The revolution occurred in two phases:

- February Revolution (March 1917 according to the Gregorian Calendar)
- October Revolution (November 1917 according to the Gregorian Calendar)

The Russian Revolution profoundly influenced world politics, inspired socialist movements across the globe, and eventually led to the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

This chapter is one of the most important topics for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Background

Before 1917, Russia was ruled by the Romanov Dynasty, which had governed since 1613. The ruler of Russia was known as the Tsar (Czar).

The last Tsar was

Nicholas II

who ruled from 1894 to 1917.

Russia was largely:

- Agricultural.
- Economically backward compared to Western Europe.
- Ruled by an absolute monarchy.

II. Causes of the Russian Revolution

1. Autocratic Rule

Tsar Nicholas II exercised absolute power.

There was:

- No responsible government.
- Limited civil liberties.
- Suppression of political opposition.

Public dissatisfaction steadily increased.

2. Social Inequality

Russian society was sharply divided.

Major groups included:

- Nobility.
- Clergy.
- Middle class.
- Peasants.
- Industrial workers.

Most peasants were poor and owned little land.

Industrial workers faced:

- Low wages.
 - Long working hours.
 - Unsafe working conditions.
-

3. Economic Problems

Russia experienced:

- Slow industrial development.
- Poverty.
- Inflation.
- Food shortages.

These hardships intensified during the First World War.

4. Defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905)

Russia suffered a humiliating defeat against Japan.

The defeat exposed the weakness of the Tsarist government and increased demands for reform.

5. Bloody Sunday (1905)

On 22 January 1905, peaceful demonstrators led by Father Georgy Gapon marched to the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to present a petition to the Tsar.

Government troops fired upon the crowd, killing and wounding many protesters.

This event became known as Bloody Sunday.

It triggered the Revolution of 1905, after which Tsar Nicholas II issued the October Manifesto, promising a representative assembly (the Duma). However, the Tsar retained substantial powers, and dissatisfaction persisted.

6. Impact of the First World War

Russia suffered:

- Heavy military defeats.
- Millions of casualties.
- Food shortages.
- Economic collapse.

Public confidence in the Tsar declined rapidly.

III. Political Parties

Bolsheviks

Leader:

Vladimir Lenin

Beliefs:

- Immediate socialist revolution.
- Rule by the working class.
- Strong, disciplined revolutionary party.

Mensheviks

Leader:

Julius Martov

Beliefs:

- Gradual reforms.
- Broad-based political participation.
- Cooperation with liberal groups.

IV. February Revolution (1917)

The revolution began in Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg).

Workers went on strike.

Soldiers refused to fire on demonstrators and many joined them.

As unrest spread:

Tsar Nicholas II abdicated on

15 March 1917 (Gregorian Calendar).

This ended more than 300 years of Romanov rule.

A Provisional Government was established.

V. The Provisional Government

Initially headed by Prince Georgy Lvov, and later by Alexander Kerensky.

Major problems:

- Continued Russia's participation in the First World War.
- Failed to redistribute land.

- Could not solve food shortages.
- Lost public support.

VI. Lenin's Return and the April Theses

Lenin returned to Russia in April 1917.

He presented the

April Theses

Major demands:

- "Peace"
- "Land"
- "Bread"
- "All Power to the Soviets"

He opposed the Provisional Government and called for a socialist revolution.

VII. October Revolution (1917)

On 7 November 1917 (Gregorian Calendar), the Bolsheviks seized power in Petrograd.

They occupied:

- Government buildings.
- Railway stations.
- Communication centres.
- The Winter Palace.

The Provisional Government was overthrown.

Lenin became the head of the new Bolshevik government.

VIII. Decrees of the Bolshevik Government

The new government introduced several important measures:

Decree on Peace

Called for negotiations to end the war.

Decree on Land

Land owned by landlords, the Church, and the Crown was confiscated and redistributed among peasants.

Nationalization

Banks and major industries were brought under state control.

IX. Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)

Russia signed the

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

with Germany on 3 March 1918.

Russia withdrew from the First World War but ceded large territories.

X. Russian Civil War (1918–1921)

The Civil War was fought between:

Reds

- Bolsheviks.
- Led by Lenin.
- Red Army organized by Leon Trotsky.

Whites

- Monarchists.
- Liberals.
- Anti-Bolshevik forces.
- Supported by several foreign countries.

The Reds emerged victorious.

XI. War Communism

During the Civil War, the Bolshevik government introduced

War Communism.

Features:

- Nationalization of industries.
- Forced grain requisition.
- Strict government control of production.
- Rationing of food.

Although it helped sustain the war effort, it caused severe economic hardship.

XII. New Economic Policy (NEP)

In 1921, Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP).

Main features:

- Limited private trade.
- Small private businesses permitted.
- Farmers allowed to sell surplus produce after paying taxes.
- Government retained control of major industries, banks, and foreign trade.

The NEP helped revive the Russian economy.

XIII. Formation of the USSR

On
30 December 1922
the

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
was formally established.

The founding republics were:

- Russia
- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Transcaucasian Federation

XIV. Importance of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution:

- Ended Tsarist autocracy.
- Established the world's first socialist state.
- Inspired communist movements worldwide.
- Influenced anti-colonial struggles.
- Shaped twentieth-century international politics.

XV. Historical Significance

The Russian Revolution transformed Russia into the Soviet Union, which later became one of the two superpowers after the Second World War.

Its ideological influence shaped global politics for much of the twentieth century.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Last Tsar Nicholas II

Bloody Sunday 22 January 1905

Father Gapon Led Bloody Sunday march

Bolshevik Leader Vladimir Lenin

Menshevik Leader Julius Martov

April Theses 1917

Bolshevik Slogan Peace, Land, Bread

October Revolution 7 November 1917 (Gregorian Calendar)

Treaty Brest-Litovsk (1918)

Red Army Leon Trotsky

War Communism 1918–1921

New Economic Policy 1921

USSR Formed 30 December 1922

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Causes of the Russian Revolution
- Bloody Sunday (1905)
- Tsar Nicholas II
- Bolsheviks and Mensheviks
- Vladimir Lenin
- Julius Martov
- April Theses

- Peace, Land, Bread
- October Revolution
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- Leon Trotsky
- War Communism
- New Economic Policy (NEP)
- Formation of the USSR

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The last Tsar of Russia was _____.

- (A) Alexander II
- (B) Nicholas II
- (C) Peter the Great
- (D) Alexander III

2.

The Romanov Dynasty ruled Russia from _____.

- (A) 1543
- (B) 1613
- (C) 1707
- (D) 1815

3.

The incident known as Bloody Sunday occurred in _____.

- (A) 1900
- (B) 1905
- (C) 1914
- (D) 1917

4.

Bloody Sunday took place in the city of _____.

- (A) Moscow
- (B) Petrograd
- (C) St. Petersburg
- (D) Kiev

5.

The leader of the Bolsheviks was _____.

- (A) Joseph Stalin
- (B) Leon Trotsky
- (C) Vladimir Lenin
- (D) Julius Martov

6.

The leader of the Mensheviks was _____.

- (A) Vladimir Lenin
- (B) Julius Martov
- (C) Kerensky
- (D) Bukharin

7.

The February Revolution led to the abdication of Tsar _____.

- (A) Alexander II
- (B) Nicholas II
- (C) Peter III
- (D) Paul I

8.

The Provisional Government was later headed by _____.

- (A) Georgy Zhukov
- (B) Alexander Kerensky

- (C) Leon Trotsky
(D) Joseph Stalin
-

9.
Lenin presented the _____ Theses in 1917.

- (A) March
(B) April
(C) July
(D) October
-

10.
The slogan "Peace, Land, Bread" is associated with _____.

- (A) Stalin
(B) Lenin
(C) Trotsky
(D) Martov
-

11.
Russia withdrew from the First World War by signing the Treaty of _____.

- (A) Versailles
(B) Brest-Litovsk
(C) Trianon
(D) Sèvres
-

12.
The Red Army was organized by _____.

- (A) Stalin
(B) Trotsky
(C) Lenin
(D) Kerensky
-

13.
The New Economic Policy (NEP) was introduced in _____.

- (A) 1918
(B) 1919
(C) 1921
(D) 1924
-

14.
The USSR was formally established in _____.

- (A) 1918
(B) 1920
(C) 1922
(D) 1924
-

15.
The world's first socialist state was established after the _____ Revolution.

- (A) French
(B) American
(C) Russian
(D) Chinese
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (Nicholas II)
2 – B (1613)
3 – B (1905)
4 – C (St. Petersburg)
5 – C (Vladimir Lenin)
6 – B (Julius Martov)
7 – B (Nicholas II)
8 – B (Alexander Kerensky)
9 – B (April)
10 – B (Lenin)

- 11 – B (Brest-Litovsk)
- 12 – B (Leon Trotsky)
- 13 – C (1921)
- 14 – C (1922)
- 15 – C (Russian)

