

**SOCIAL
HISTORY OF
ENGLAND
18K1EAE1**

The Early History of England

Introduction

The early history of England is essentially the history of its invaders. The Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons & the Normans were a few of the more important conquerors of England. The Iberians were the earliest inhabitants of England. They came from Spain. Then came the Celts from Central Europe around 600 B.C. in two or three distinct waves. Next to come were the Romans. They ruled Britain up to 410 A.D. The Anglo-Saxon and Danish conquests followed in quick succession. The Normans infiltrated into England in 1066 by winning the battle of Hastings. Thus, many races went into the making of the English people.

The most important of the changes was the break-up of the feudal system. Society was slowly changing from slavery to individualistic. All were legally (lawfully) free. Cash replaced rights. This broke the feudal world and freed capital, labour and personal enterprise (commercial business). This resulted in a rich and varied life in town and village. This increased the possibilities to trade and manufacture and agriculture.

The system of cultivation began from the Anglo-Saxons. It continued till the system of modern enclosure. This democratic peasant cultivation was forcibly replaced by the feudal power. It was in rapid (fast) and painful progress. From 12th to 14th century, the feudal lords were in a strong position. But the Black Death (1348-1349) came to speed the change. It is a sort of an epidemic. Nearly a third of the population died. Some villages were fully wiped out. It attacked the young more than the old and the weak. Instead of hunger for land, there was a shortage of labourers. Free labourers demanded more wages. To meet the situation, the landlords followed two methods. One was to give up agriculture and take up sheep farming. The other was the Stock and Land League System.

The church was certainly corrupt. The clergy themselves were critics of the Roman Church. Administrative and legislative reform was needed. People never saw the Bible in English. There were no family prayers and Bible reading, but religion and the language of religion surrounded his life. The main idea of the Middle Ages was the unity. The Christendom under Pope and the King. With the rise of Nation States in England, France, Spain and Portugal, the Emperor lost power. Europe became a continent of nations competing with one another for power and riches. A proud national spirit was born.

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The Roman Church was losing its power. Renaissance created a spirit of enquiry The Reformation had put an end to the spiritual authority of the Pope. Thus the powerful

institution Church was losing its power and prestige from the 16th century. At the end of the 15th century .Feudalism also declined. There was a Civil War between York & Lancaster called the War of the Roses. The Duke of York, a descendant of Edward claimed the English throne. The York had the symbol of White Rose and the Lancastrians, Red Rose. The Civil War was fought nearly 33 years between 1455 and 1488. People were tired of war. They wanted a strong government to establish law and order. So they allowed the Tudors to have full authority Tudors were wise rulers and followed a policy in the best interest of the people. They maintained Parliamentary institutions but made them obedient to themselves.

By the end of the Middle Ages individualism, materialism and enterprise became the three main features of the modern civilisation.

SHORT QUESTIONS:

1. Anglo Saxon rule in England?
2. Name the period of the Black Death
3. When was the Peasant's Revolt?
4. How many years the War of the Roses was fought?
5. What were the three main features of the modern civilisation?

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UNIT-I

RENAISSANCE

Renaissance is a French word meaning “**rebirth**”. It refers to a period in European civilization that was marked by a revival of classical learning and wisdom. It was a period in European history marking the transition from the Middle Ages to Modernity and covering the 15th and 16th centuries.

During Middle ages, the study of **Theology** was given more importance because the society was believed to be full of evil temptations. So they pray to God in order to save their souls. On the other hand, Renaissance thinkers believed that the peoples owed responsibility to the society which might be seen as a civilising agency. Thus the study of theology was replaced by the study of **Humanity**. Renaissance men spent their time in studying the achievements of different cultures particularly ancient Greece and Rome.

Revolution in the Field of Arts:

There was artificiality in the paintings of medieval artists whereas renaissance artists focused natural beauty. **Petrarch and Boccaccio** are the first renaissance humanists who have recovered, studied and imitated the ancient writings and whose poems and stories limelighted human feelings. The focus of renaissance art was on realism. The late **1400s and early 1500s** have seen three personalities whose lifelike paintings achieved greatness- **Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci**. Slowly renaissance spread from Italy to the European countries.

Impact of Renaissance in Politics:

The **House of Tudors** ruled between 1485 and 1603 were the important patrons of the Renaissance.

Reign of Henry VII

The wide influence of Italian humanists have been seen in this period. During which study of Greek and Roman literature became a fashionable one in England. English scholars have translated the writings of Greek and Latin philosophers and scientists. Thus many got familiar with the works of classical authors like **Aristotle** which promoted the growth of Universities-**Oxford and Cambridge** but without having any proper building.

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Grocyn and Linacre taught Greek at Oxford and **Colet** lectured on the Greek Testament. **William Lily** whose Latin grammar book was continued to be the standard text book for the next 200 years. On the other hand **Erasmus**, the great scholar taught at Cambridge. The book **Utopia** by Thomas More described the ideal land. It was Earl of **Surrey and Thomas Wyatt**, the land has enjoyed the Sonnet form of poetry. Thus the tradition was renewed again by the great masters like **Spencer, Sidney and Shakespeare**.

In the field of science also modernity ventured its innovations such as **John Gutenberg's** Printing Press, Mariners compass and Telescope. **Nicolas Copernicus** put a stoppage to the medieval notions about the Universe. It was proven that the Sun was the centre around which the earth and other planets revolved. Thus the study of astronomy was encouraged.

Next the geographical discoveries such as **Columbus** discovery of America, **Vascoda Gama's** sea route to India and **Megellan's** sailing around the world made a tremendous progress in the history of the world. Renaissance promoted the spirit of enquiry amidst the society especially in the field of religion. The submissive attitude of blindly accepting the authority of catholic church was replaced by an enquiring generation. It was **Luther** the German monk whose total rejection of church authority of Rome resulted in the religious revolution in Europe known as the Reformation.

English land came across tremendous changes in the field of economy. Population explosion resulted in the expansion of old villages and towns. **Coal, tin and iron** were produced abundantly. Trade and commerce was developed due to the discovery of new sea routes. Thus it is concluded that Renaissance men had lived life to the full by enjoying sports and activities such as hunting, snarling, trapping and poaching. They have frequently visited theaters too. 'To Drink Life to the Lees' was the motto of the Renaissance men which meant live life to the fullest.

SHORT QUESTIONS:

1. What is meant by Renaissance?
2. Name some Renaissance painters?
3. What was Michael Angelo known for?
4. What was Harvey's contribution in the filed of medicine?
5. What was the motto of Renaissance?

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REFORMATION

The religious movement that led to **Protestantism** is known as Reformation. The people of Europe have seen tremendous changes in the social, political and economical life of the country. This revolution had made an impact upon the church of Rome and the history of English society-1500 to the present.

It was **Martin Luther** who first fought against the practise of Roman Catholic church which had a faith that the religion was founded by Jesus Christ and also believed that the Pope, the successor of St.Peter was the symbol of holiness whose principles include, **Eucharist, Purgatory and Indulgence**. Thus he was revolted against the weaknesses and corruptions of the church officials. His '95 theses' comprised of 95 points of attacking the abuse to the church door at **Wittenberg**. Thus Lutheranism became popular which arose large protestant churches and smaller protestant religious groups. Important one among them was Calvinism by **John Calvin** of France who had a false belief over the final authority in the state was community ruled by Presbyters. Calvin's followers were known as Presbyterians and Puritans. Excepting Germany, no powerful state wished to practice Lutheranism but England which resulted in paramount importance all over Europe. English scholars could show only a little progress in reforming the task

REIGN OF HENRY VIII

Cardinal Wolsey, the chief minister was in a position to start the action in England. Instead of attacking pope's principle, Wolsey wrote a book. Thus he was titled as '**Defender of the Faith**'. There was a quarrel between the pope and the ruler whose personal desire over divorcing his wife **Catherine of Aragon** in order to marry his beloved **Anne Boleyn**. But Pope **Clemen VII** refused to annul their relationship. Instead he had ordered the case to be tried in the court but was adjourned due to lack of proper reasons. The enraged king summoned the **Reformation Parliament** with the motive of carrying out his policy towards the church and got secretly married his beloved. Many decisions have been taken to curb the pope's power. All his attacks aimed to destroy papal power in England and not of Roman Catholic doctrine. Also he insisted his subjects to observe it strictly.

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The Parliament has passed two important acts. The **Act of Succession** declared that the children born of Henry and Anne Boleyn were heirs to the throne. The **Act of Supremacy** stated that the King was the supreme head of church of England and the Englishmen were instructed to refer **pope** as the Bishop of Rome. In the early 16th century, orders were prevailed to close most of the smaller monasteries and whose property was greater than that of the King, was taken over by the crown. It resulted in the disappearance of monks and nuns. With the aid of Thomas Cromwell, Henry easily have plundered the monasteries.

The parliament also had passed the **statue of the 6 articles** in 1539. According to which people were forced to worship and believe over **Catholicism**. If not would be severely punished. Thus protestants called this as “**Whip with 6 strings**”

Reign of Edward VI

Church of England became compulsorily protestants. Henry’s restraints were removed. **English Bible** was introduced which made Protestantism to be strongly seated in England whereas,Catholicism was strictly prohibited.

On the other hand, the **Act of Uniformity** was passed. By which common prayer book was introduced in England and was made compulsory. Priests were permitted to marry. The radical Protestantism in England created a big history.

QUEEN MARY ON THE THRONE

Once again the state has swing back to the Catholic religion. Mary, the daughter of **Catherine of Aragon** revoked the Acts of Uniformity and Supremacy and reintroduced Catholicism with a vengeance. She gave the people a choice to either ‘**turn or burn**’.Mary’s ‘**holy bonfires**’ at one hand filled the people’s hearts with a new passion. On the other hand **Latimer**’s last words inspired many English hearts.all these prepared the way for the religious compromise. Thus Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne.

REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

Within a short span of hardly 30 years the country had experienced three religious settlements:

1. The Anglo-Catholicism of Henry
2. The Radical Protestants of Edward

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3.The Return to Roman Catholicism under Mary.

Religion was a vital question when Elizabeth ascended the throne. She chose **Protestantism** and brought about the Anglican settlement. Also restored the 2 Acts.

1. **Act of Supremacy**-Queen called herself as “supreme Governor” and not the “supreme Head” of the church.

2. **Act of Uniformity** - Modified prayer book was introduced all over the nation. The Queen made the transition to Protestantism with relative ease. Thus Anglicanism became the national religion of England. Elizabeth’s church was attacked by a sect of Puritans. They were considered as English Protestants who had fled England during Queen Mary’s reign, who lived in a continent were strongly influenced by **John Calvin**, were returned to England during this period. They never get compensated by Elizabeth’s church. Thus she was very much irritated and appointed John **Whitgift** as archbishop of Canterbury to look into it. He in turn hated puritans and silenced them through imprisonment and execution.

SHORT QUESTIONS:

1. What is meant by Reformation?
2. Why was Sir Thomas more beheaded?
3. Why did Henry VIII dissolves the monasteries?
4. Name any two Acts passed by Reformation parliament of Henry VIII.
5. Why was Mary called “Bloody Mary”?

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THE STUART AGE(1603-1714 A.D.)

JAMES I

The Career and Achievement of James I (1603-1625)

James's familial background

At first James was king of Scotland. He was the great-grandson of Margaret, the daughter of King Henry VII of England. After the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603, James ascended the English throne as James I. He was the first Stuart king of England. His enthronement brought about the union of England and Scotland. He assumed the title of the King of Great Britain.

James was a staunch believer in the Divine Right theory of Kingship. According to this theory the king was a nominee of God. As such he was responsible only to God. Parliament had no right to question him. He expressed his views in a book called The True Law of Monarchies. His uncompromising stand brought him into conflict with Parliament. He summoned Parliament four times but no Unanimity was reached.

James's first Parliament (1604-1611)

James's first Parliament met in 1604 and lasted for seven years. It discussed the powers and limitations of Parliament vis-à-vis the King. Parliament objected to what they thought was James's Catholics. (But the Catholics were not quite happy about James's attitude to them.) Parliament granted Tonnage and Poundage to James. At the same time it objected to James's levying additional taxes called 'Impositions'. It also objected to James's granting of monopolies to trading companies. Parliament flatly refused to finance James unless he redressed their grievances. In short, Parliament tried to puppet him. James got angry and dissolved Parliament in 1611.

The Second or Addled Parliament (1614)

James convened the second parliament, hoping it would meet his financial needs. But Parliament was firm that it would grant supplies only if its grievances were redressed. The irate king dissolved Parliament closed without transacting any business, it came to be called Addled Parliament.

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The Third Parliament (1621-22)

The third Parliament revived the practice of 'Impeachment'. The House of Commons Lord Chancellor Bacon of having received bribes from litigants in his capacity as Judge. He was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment and was also fined heavily. Next, Parliament pressurized James to marry off his son to a Protestant and not to the Catholic princess of Spain. James remonstrated that Parliament had no right to interfere in such matters. He tore off Parliament's protest form the Statute book and dissolved Parliament.

The Fourth Parliament (1624-25)

The fourth Parliament impeached the Earl of Middlesex, Lord High Treasurer, for misappropriating public funds. It also disallowed the king's granting of monopolies to his favourites. The fourth Parliament came to an end with the death of James on March 27, 1625. On the whole, Parliament curbed the king by exercising its right to impeach and obstruct his monopolies. Three important events took place during the reign of James I. They were i) Hampton Court Conference, (1604) (ii) the Gunpowder Plot (1605). And (iii) a new translation of the Bible called the Authorized Version (1611)

Hampton Court Conference (1604)

When James I ascended the throne, Puritan clergymen presented a petition to him. It was signed by a hundred clergymen and so was called Millenary Petition. The petitioners asked for some toleration of Puritan practices. They did not like to use surplice and declare their belief in the Prayer Book. James called a conference of clergy at Hampton Court (1604) to consider these matters and also to clarify his stand.

The Puritans expected many concessions. But James feared that the spread of Puritanism would finally spread democracy and turn the people against him. So he said categorically at the conference that encouraging Presbyterianism was like encouraging the devil. 'Then Jack, Tom, Will and Dick shall censure me, and my council...No bishop, no king'. He threatened to exile supporters of Presbyterianism. This strong admonition depressed the Puritans. Many of them took refuge in Holland and sailed in the Mayflower to America.

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The Gunpowder Plot, 1605

James's mother, Mary Stuart, was pious Catholic. So the English Catholics thought that James would favour them. They were sadly disappointed. For, the king was alarmed at the growing power of the Catholics in England. To safeguard his position, he ordered the Catholic priests to quit England (1604). Many Catholics were incensed by the King's anti-Catholic decision. They were ready to rebel. It was at this time that Robert Catesby hatched a plot to blow up Parliament when it was in session, by using gunpowder. He expected that James and his ministers would get killed. Catesby planned to capture power in the resulting confusion.

But one of the conspirators leaked out the information. On the day before the meeting of Parliament, the cellar of the House of Lords was visited. Guy Fawkes was discovered keeping watch over barrels of gunpowder. He and all the other plotters were captured and killed. The discovery of the Gunpowder plot led to the passing of a far more stringent law against the Catholics in 1606.

King James's Version of the Bible (1611)

The conference of Puritans held at Hampton Court in 1604 impressed on King James I the need for a standard English Bible. James ordered the project of translating the Bible from Latin and Greek into English. He appointed forty-seven scholars for the task. They were divided into six companies. Each company translated a certain portion of the Bible. The task was begun in 1607 and completed in 1611. The outcome is the Authorized Version or King James's Version of the Bible.

The unity of the Authorized Version

In spite of the diversity of its sources, the Authorized version has a remarkable unity of spirit. From cover to cover, it breathes the belief in the Divine Spirit. It has the strength of Tyndale's Bible and the beautiful rhythms of Coverdale's version.

The expository portions of the Authorized Version

The expository portions of the Authorized version contain exhortation, information and advice. They include the Book of Deuteronomy and the Pauline Epistles. They are characterized by clearness, dignity and precision.

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The narrative portions of the Authorized Version

The narrative portions include the Pentateuch in the Old Testament and the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. The Old Testament is harsh whereas the new Testament has a liberal tone.

The lyrical portions of the Authorized Version

The Psalms, the Song of Solomon and the Book of Job constitute the lyrical portions of the Authorized Version. The strong emotional nature of Jews is expressed in these portions. The English translators preserved the Jewish rhythms, and at the same time added to it the soar and swing of ecstatic English prose. The images in the lyrical portions are associated with simple elemental things such as the heavens, the running water and the congregations of beasts. For example, in the Book of Psalms, the soul is described as panting after God just as the hart pants after water brooks.

The Influence of the Authorized Version

The Authorized Version has been a potent influence in English literature. Many Biblical expressions are used in day-to-day life. 'The eleventh hour', 'a thorn in the flesh', 'a good Samaritan', 'sweat of the brow'-these are some commonly used Biblical expressions. Writers as varied as Bunyan, Ruskin, Milton and Tennyson have been influenced by the Bible.

Short questions:

1. What is the essence of the Divine Right theory of kingship?
2. How many times did James I summon Parliament?
3. Why did Hampton Court Conference fail?
4. Who organized the Gunpowder Plot?
5. What part did Guy Fawkes play in the Gunpowder plot?

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Puritanism

The religious movement, Puritanism began in 1500's in England. They were called 'Puritans' because they wanted to purify the rituals of the established church. They wanted a more personal form of prayer. Simplicity, purity and order, were stressed in dressing, conversation or eating or amusement. A new idea of equality before God arose. They patterned their lives on the teachings of John Wycliffe and John Calvin. They wished to shape their lives on the Bible.

Puritanism affected politics as well. During Queen Elizabeth's time, some Puritans got elected to Parliament. They gave her some trouble but she held them under check. The Puritans presented a petition to King James I to do away with the bishop's rule. The King drove away the Puritans. When Charles I came to the throne, the Parliament was divided and powerless. So the effective rule came to the army under the leadership of Oliver Cromwell. The religious problems came to an end when Cromwell became the Lord Protector. In 1660, Puritans rule came to an end with the restoration of Charles II.

In the beginning, Puritanism was reasonable. But when they became rulers, the Puritan spirit became stern. All the theatres were closed. There were no sports or dancing allowed. Soldiers checked whether people followed Sabbath or fasting. This harsh treatment made people hate Puritanism. The Puritan contribution to literature was great. Milton wrote the greatest epics, Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained, The greatest allegorical prose work was John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress.

The Puritans rule was rightly described the "Rule of Saints. But excess of austerity made people fed of serious life. When Charles II was restored, the Puritans were executed and many fled to America. However the Puritans rule influenced the life of Englishmen in the study of Bible and in following Sabbath strictly.

SHORT QUESTIONS:

1. What is meant by Puritanism?
2. Name any two religious reforms.
3. When the Puritanism rule came to an end?
4. Mention the greatest epics written by Milton?
5. Name the greatest allegorical prose work written by John Bunyan?

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UNIT -II

Social Conditions in Queen Anne's England

Introduction :

Queen Anne, the second daughter of James II ascended the English throne in 1702 after the death of William III. She ruled England from 1702 to 1714.

The political background:

Her greatest achievement was the union of England and Scotland. By the acceptance of English Parliament in 1707, England and Scotland were united and called Great Britain. The English Parliament and the English Monarch were common to both the countries. There was an acute schism between the Tories and the Whigs in Anne's Parliament. The Parliament that she summoned two days before her death was attended by a large number of Whigs. They decided to bring George, the Elector of Hanover to England to be crowned king.

Peace and prosperity in Anne's England:

Her rule was the golden age in the history of England. Her period was prosperous. It was a healthy national life. During her time, town and country, agriculture, industry and commerce were parts of a single economic system. The prosperity was due to good harvest and cheap food. Due to improvements in agriculture, more wheat was grown, Rye, barley, oats became next in importance. There was a great exchange of products among the districts. A cattle farming was also in progress.

Social hierarchy in Anne's England:

The Dukes were very rich. They lived like princesses. The squires found it difficult to lead a contented life. The Yeomen were more in number than the squires. The tenant farmers were less in number. The difference between freeholders and the tenants was political. The freeholders had the right to vote & the tenant had no right to vote.

Education in Anne's England :

The value of education was not yet understood. A gentleman was satisfied in spending one percent of his income for his children's education. There were only a few public schools. The aristocrats patronized the public schools. The sons of the squires, yeomen & shopkeepers went to grammar school, punishment was of severe type. Flogging was in practice to maintain discipline. Women's education too was neglected. There were no schools for girls.

Voices in Anne's England:

Drinking, Gambling and drinking were very common in Anne's England. Entertainment in Anne's England.

Sports were played as relaxation. Football, cock fighting, horse race and angling, shooting and snaring birds were popular sports and pastime of the people. Coal-making were the important industries. Coffee-drinking is common among the rich. There were nearly 500 coffee houses in London. The clergymen, literary men and other groups had separate coffee houses, they met there and discussed religion.

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Religion in Anne's England:

The religious life was peaceful. Charity houses were found to educate the poor children. The Bible and the prayer books were made available even in the villages.

Conclusion :

At one stage she was sick. So she kept the court very rarely. Patronage was sought in the parliament and with Ministers. So the importance of the court declined.

Short Question

1. When Queen Anne ruled England?
2. What were the social hierarchies of Queen Anne's Age?
3. What were the two important industries in Queen Anne's time?
4. Who were the Yeomen?
5. What was the reason for the decline of the Queen Anne?

COFFEE - HOUSE LIFE IN LONDON

Introduction

Coffee was probably introduced from Abyssinia into the Arabian peninsula towards the end of the fifteenth century. Coffee drinking became common among the Arabians and soon spread to Europe where coffee houses became popular in the seventeenth century. During the reign of Queen Anne, the coffee house was the centre of social life in the city. In London alone there were as many as five hundred coffee houses.

Important Coffee Houses:

People of different political creeds, religious beliefs and professions had their separate coffee houses. Thus Tories went to their favorite "Cocoa Tree Chocolate House" and the Whigs to St. James's Coffee House. No doubt politics was discussed with extraordinary heat and energy by the partisans who gathered in these places.

Will's Coffee House was the much celebrated coffee house for the literary men. Obviously literary topics like poetic justice or the three classical unities were discussed at their meetings. During 1685 the most esteemed literary genius who visited this coffee house was John Dryden. He was a famous literary figure in that time.

Smoking was common in all the coffee houses and particularly at Will's. Another coffee house which was something like a rival to Will's was Button's Coffee House. It was called so because it was founded by one Mr. Button, an old servant of Joseph Addison. Chief among them were Dryden, Addison, Richard Steele and Alexander Pope. The Grecian Coffee House which stood in Essex Street near the Strand was patronized by scholars and critics.

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Doctor's coffee House :

The doctors of the city had their own favourite coffee - houses. Dr. John Radcliffe, the doctor with the largest practice in England towards the end of the restoration period, used to come to the coffee - house named Garraway's.

Religious coffee Houses:

The clergy had their own favourite coffee - house Known as Trudy's. There were separate coffee -house for Roman Catholics, puritans and Jews. A very remarkable things about the puritan coffee - house was that swearing was totally banned there.

Conclusion :

Coffee houses played a prominent part in promoting social life in the country the Coffee houses where centres of free discussion an all all things under heaven particularly politics and religion Danby's administration friend to close the entire coffee houses during French evolution all the coffee house are are closed it was only after the napoleonic that the the political climate become favourable for their revival.

Short Questions

- 1.How many coffee house in London?
- 2.Name the whig's coffee House?
- 3.What is the favourite resort of the literary men?
- 4.Name the clergy's coffee House?

The Agrarian Revolution

Essay

Introduction:

The term "Agrarian Revolution" implies the great changes that took place in the agricultural methods of England during the second half of the seven teeth century and the first half of the 18th century this development is called Agrarian or Agricultural revolution (Causes of the Agrarian Revolution).

1. Open field system was wasteful every year one of the three fields was not cultivated.
2. The world system of distribution of land was waste of time. 3.confirmiting to the customs of the village mad experiments in new method impossible.
4. Population was increasing and more food was heeded.
5. Landlords were willing to follow the improved methods.

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The Enclosure movement:

In the eighteenth century there was a tremendous improvement in the methods of agriculture. In 1793 the board of agriculture was set up in the course of the next fifty years many enclosure acts were passed affecting 5 ½ million acres of land this agrarian Revolution no doubt resulted in a more efficient agriculture at the same time it brought about the the extinction of yeomen free holders and transformed villages in to Agricultural labourers

The agricultural improvements affected by Jethro Tull

Tull was the inventor of a drill for sowing seeds he did much important experimental work in connection with the depth to which seeds should be Sown and the the amount which should be sown per acre. He also emphasized the necessity of careful selection of seed if good crops were to be obtained.

Charles Townshend of Norfolk introduced four course rotations of turnips, Barley, cloves and rye -grass and wheat their prevented unproductive fallow. It enabled to carry more stock to the lands. This led to better crops.

Comas Coke was the first to use bones as oil cakes. It helped to fatten the cattle.

Robert bake well Made a revolution in stock breeding. sheep was valued only for their wool the production of mutton was secondary bake well turned his attention to the production of meat.

George II was affectionately called Farmer George he established a model farm at Windsor.

Results of the Agrarian revolution:

The Agrarian Revolution produced harmless as Wells as harmful results It lead to a tremendous increase in the yield of food milk meat and wool the latest techniques of cultivation where emulated all over Europe the harm done by the agrarian revolution was that the enclosure of feels resulted in the evolution of small farmers. They had to sell their small strips to the wealthy owners of large stretches of land.

Short Question

1. Define the term "Agrarian Revolution "
2. What was introduced in Agrarian Revolution?
3. Who made Revolution in stock breeding?
4. Why was George II called Farmer George?
5. What was the effect of Enclosure system?

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Industrial Revolution

Introduction:

The Rapid development of industry that occurred in Britain in the late 18th and 19th centuries, brought about by the introduction of machinery. it was characterized by the use of steam power the growth of factories, and the mass production of manufactured goods.

Causes of industrial revolution:

1. The availability of labourers at cheap rate to work in factories.
2. The availability of capital for starting necessary in infrastructural facilities.
3. The absence of War and the existence of peace in internal matters
4. The availability of cheap raw materials such as cotton and coal in England
5. The nearness of coal and iron mines to the industrial sites

6. The growth of Adam Smith's philosophy of laissez faire or free trade which gave a free hand to traders and manufactures.

7. The network of England's colonies which supplied raw materials cheaply to England and at the same time bought finished goods readily from England- These factors led to the

Revolution in the Cotton Industry:

During the industrial revolution, that was changed in textile coal and iron industries and means of transport. Many inventions brought a change in the Textile Industry

John Lay invented flying shuttle in 1733.

James Hargreaves invented spinning jenny which speeded up the making of yarn.

Richard arkwright invented water frame to produced from strong yarn.

Samuel Crompton combined Jenny and water frame in his 'mule' It prevented the breaking of Yarn.

Edmund Cartwright's power loom.

Loom increased the speed of weaving.

Revolution in the coal and iron industries :

During the revolution there was sign increased use of iron in 1779 the world's first iron Bridge was made over Rivers Severn. Coal mines were found Coal was applied for the melting of iron.

In the early 19th century, there was a great development in Iron and coal industry. Trade was done in South Wales, South Yorkshine and Tyneside, where Coal and iron were found together Newcomen invented stream engine to pump water out of coalmines. In 1763, James Watt perfected the stream engine.

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Revolution in transport:

There was a revolution in means of transport too. The main maintenance of highroads was given to the church they were in very bad condition during Industrial Revolution goods were produced in large scale so the need to transport to cities and sea ports arose after 1750 hundreds of roads acts were passed. Many turnpike trustees were formed. Telford made many miles of good roads. Hence, many large towns were connected by coaches. In 1815, MacAdam taught the art of draining. He perfected the surface of the road.

The inland navigation had to be improved new artificial waterways were constructed the Duke of Bridgewater connected his coal mines with Manchester by Canal, who was called. The father of inland navigation.

George Stephenson invented the first rail engine. The first railway line was opened in 1825. Steam was also used for water transport. The first successful steam boat in Europe was Bell's Comet which ran in 1812.

Merits of Industrial Revolution :

1. Many large cities sprang up in different parts of England Manchester, Lancashire and Sheffield were such new towns.

2. The growth of population.

3. The redistribution of land

4. The rise of the capitalist class.

5. The rise of factory system.

6. The employment of women and children in the factories.

7. The need for parliamentary reforms.

Conclusion

Industrial Revolution gave employment to the labourers by starting many factories. It brought an era of large scale production. England's economic strength contributed to the downfall of Napoleon. It taught co-operation, efficiency and punctuality. It was responsible for raising the standard of life.

Short Questions

1. Define the term Industrial Revolution

2. Define the term "Revolution "

3. When the Industrial Revolution Was started?

4. Who invented spinning jenny?

5. Who invented the water frame?

Dr.S.Indira

UNIT –III

The Effect of French Revolution

The Effects of the French Revolution were a great event. It was great not only in the history of France and Europe but also of mankind. It gave new ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. The most important cause of the French Revolution was the social cause. There was too much of inequality in the French society. The society was divided into privileges and the unprivileged. The administration was hopeless in Louis XIV's rule. The legal system was full of confusion. Torture was a common feature. The tax collection method was wrong.

Louis XIV made the country financially bankrupt. The preaching of **voltaire** and **Rousseau** was the cause of French Revolution. The finance of the Government was worst. There was famine and suffering in France. People rose against the tyranny of Kings. This resulted in the removal of monarchy. The French Republic was established.

In 1789, the French Revolution started with the breaking open of the state prison "Bastille ". In 1789, people's Assembly was framed. It took all authority. It formed a new system of Government It abolished the feudal and monarchical system. King Louis XIV and his Queen were killed. In 1792, a Republic was announced. The rule till 1794 is called the Rule of Terror. It is because they troubled everyone by violence. Napoleon, an army officer declared himself a counsel first. Then in 1793, he called himself Emperor. In 1793, England decided to fight against the French Revolution. It is because the revolutionary rulers were ready to help all nations to throw away their kings. The war continued till 1815. In the **Battle of Waterloo**, in 1815, **Lord Wellington** defeated Napoleon.

The war continued for 20 years. It caused a great financial loss. The important effect was the National Debt. Even common people had to pay the tax. Wages were low. But the price of corn was high. The problem of unemployment became acute. During the 20 years of war, corn was not imported into England. So the price became high. After the war, corn was imported and the price of English corn became less. The English agriculturists disliked it. So to protect their interest the corn law was passed in 1816, the suffering of the poor led to the formation of the **Anti - Corn Law League**. In 1846, Robert peel replaced the Corn Law.

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To find a solution to their problems, the poor in England revolted for Parliamentary Reform. The First Reform Bill was passed in 1832. People felt that the system of electing members to the parliament had to be improved. After the French Revolution, the Navy and Army were reorganized as National Institutes. French Revolution was a source of inspiration to many English writers. Edmund Burke was the great English statesman and philosopher. He wrote the famous book *Reflection on the French Revolution*. Burke questioned the action of the Revolutionaries. As an answer to Burke's book, Thomas Paine wrote *Rights of Man* in 2 volumes. Paine justified the French Revolution. Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* gives a true picture of French Revolution.

French Revolution brought a new chapter in the history of English Literature. Romanticism was the by-product of French Revolution. In 1798, Wordsworth and Coleridge published the *Lyrical Ballads*. This is the beginning of Romanticism. The movement was completed by Byron, Shelley and Keats.

Short Question.

1. What was the most important cause of the French Revolution?
2. Who was the ruler during the French Revolution?
3. When did the French Revolution start?
4. Who defeated Napoleon?
5. Name the writers inspired by the French Revolution?

The Reform Bills

The Industrial and Agrarian Revolution resulted in unemployment. The peasantry delayed. England had a great National Debt due to twenty years war with France. Even common people were taxed. Wages were low. But the price of corn was high. Unemployment was a problem. During the 20 years of war, corn was not imported into England. So the price became high. After the war, corn was imported and the price of the English corn became less. To settle the problems, the poor in England revolted for parliamentary reforms. They wanted their representative in the parliament. In 1832, John Russell introduced a Reform Bill in the House of Commons. It had 2 objects. It wanted to enfranchise the thinly populated 'boroughs'. Secondly, it wanted to give representations to the new towns. But the Bill was not passed. The Bill was passed in the House of Lords. The Lords, who opposed it, absented themselves. So the Bill became a Law.

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Franchise was given to new towns. The boroughs with 2000-4000 Population were given one representation. The Reform Act of 1832 reduced the power of the King and the Lords. The middle class people got great power. People proved that they could change the law by protests.

Another important result of the Reform Bill was the Chartist Movement. The Chartist movement demanded equality for working men. William Lowett , a Londoner and Feargus O'connor, an Irishman were the main leaders. They drew a plan for a complete reform of the parliament. It was called The People 's Charter. This Charter demanded six things.

- i) Manhood
- ii) Suffrage
- iii) Vote by secret ballot
- iv) Annual parliaments
- v) Equal Electoral districts and
- vi) Abolition of property, qualification for Members of parliament and regular payment for them.

These demands were too early for the time. So it did not attract national interest.

The demand to extend franchise was growing. The whigs supported the demand. The Second Reform Bill was introduced by Gladstone. The Liberals were against it. So the Bill was defeated in the House of Commons itself. But in 1867, Benjamin Disraeli introduced it in the parliament. It was passed.

The second Bill had the following results, the franchise qualification was lowered. It increased the electorate. Franchise was given to all male householder and lodgers paying ten pounds as rent. The second Act was an improvement of the First.

In 1884, the Third Reform Act was passed by Gladstone. Franchise was extended to the householders in the counties also. English was divided into electoral districts. With the Third Reform Bill, the power of controlling the Government passed over to the people . Thus Britain became a democratic nation.

In 1918, the Fourth Reform Bill gave the right to vote to all men aged 21 and women aged 25. This age difference was abolished in 1928. Thus the equality of women was officially accepted.

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Short Questions.

1. Who introduced a Reform Bill in the House of Commons?
2. Name the main leaders of the Chartist movement?
3. Who introduced the second Reform Bill in the Parliament?
4. Who passed the Third Reform Bill?
5. How was the equality of women officially accepted?

The Development of Transport and Communication

In the 19th century, there was a remarkable change in social life. People exchange visits and communicated through letters. Visiting and communication were possible due to the progress in the means of Transport and communication.

The most important means of Transport was the Railway. As Trevelyan puts it; “the railways were England ‘s gift to the world”. George Stephenson invented the first railway engine named “Active”. The first railway line ran between Stockton and Darlington. It was opened on 27th September 1825. Later he invented a more per hour. Within a decade (10 Years) a longer railway was built. In 1838, London was connected with Birmingham, Brighton and Manchester.

The railway Age was thirty five years between the first two Reform Bills. Great improvements were done in the field. Fast moving engines and better compartments were made . Many railway companies were started . George Hudson, known as the Railway King started a company.

In 1840, there were 2000 miles of railway. In 1845, it rose to 5,000. In 1860 the mileage was 10,000 miles. In 1890, it was nearly 2,000 miles. In 1844, the Cheap Trains Act was passed. It made one train in each direction at one penny a mile , compulsory.

The public coach connected the stations and the towns. The roads became busy when motor vehicles came into use. The use of bicycle made the roads busy.

There was development in English shipping too. Iron was used to make ships. Steam engines replaced sails. Around 1850 big oceans going ships were made. In 1855, a third of the world’s sea-going ships were Britain’s.

An important means of communication was the penny post in 1840, by Rowland Hill. Before the introduction of penny post, sending letters were costly. Rowland Hill suggested that the lower price would increase the revenue of the Government. All postage rates should be the same without regard to distance. All mails should be prepaid. The postage stamp was introduced. The system became a boon (gift) to many, in the history of mankind, it enabled the poor to communicate with their kith and kin (friends and relatives). The postal system became a great success in England. So it was followed in all the countries.

Based on Samuel Morse's invention, electric telegraph was introduced. In 1843, he built the first telegraph line in the United States of America. Nearly 1800 miles of railways were equipped with telegraph wires. The first successful cable was laid in 1866. Stearns and Edison developed the methods of sending more than one message at a time.

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, the popular and easiest means of communication. In 1856, he established an instrument that transmitted sound by electricity. In 1858, he demonstrated his invention before Queen Victoria. In 1879, the first telephone exchange was opened in London. Several telephone companies were organized. When it became the most powerful means of communication, the Government took over the service.

There was a change in the press too. News was presented as a story in short sentences. The style was informal. So it appealed to a larger audience. The change was brought by Alfred Harmsworth and Lord Northcliffe.

The development in science helped in the progress of society. The wealth of the nation increased. There was a rise in the wages of the working class. Different parts of the world were connected. There was migration from the country to the towns.

Short Questions:

1. What according to Trevelyan was England's gift to the world?
2. Who was known as the Railway King?
3. By whom penny post was introduced?
4. Who introduced the electric telegraph?
5. Who invented the telephone?

The Development of Education in the 19th Century

In Victorian England, there was an increase in wealth and manufacturing power. This gave rise to a new middle class. To educate them, there was development in the field of education too. The prime Minister, Gladstone was interested in educational reforms.

There were 3 Kinds of secondary schools.

1. Fashionable public schools like Eton, Winchester and Harrow where Upper and Middle classes were educated.
2. Government schools.
3. Private Academy ran by Dissenters and the Roman Catholics.

The old grammar schools were cheap. But they were badly managed. The private village schools were below the standard. There was no central authority to control the educational activities of the country. The primary Education of the poor was neglected.

The public schools were the training places for ruling class. But the school became known for indiscipline. A change was brought by Dr. Arnold, the headmaster of Rugby. He stressed on the study of moral science. He also introduced monitor system to maintain discipline. He also introduced games. It is agreed that education is meant for the over all development of the personality. It was followed in other public schools and later in the Government schools.

The Second Reform Bill was passed in 1867. It helped to think of a uniform system of primary Education. People understood that education was necessary to make democracy a success. The result was Gladstone's Education Act of 1870. The year 1870 was a turning point in the history of education and in the social history of England.

The Act established a school Board in every district. Its aim was to educate children between five and twelve. The education was cheap but not free: one - third of the expenses were from a government grant, one third from the local tax and the remaining third the fess. Thus for the first time, a national system of education was evolved.

The Education Acts brought changes in the University Education as well. In 1887, a New code was issued. Under the New code reading , Writing, Maths and for girls needle work were made compulsory. General subjects were singing ,English , Geography, History and Elementary Science. Physical sciences were introduced in the Universities. New Universities encouraged the study of professional subjects. The Universities of London was established in 1836. Other Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and New Castle followed. These Universities were the result of the advancement of scientific and technical education. In 1890, the Royal College of science was established for scientific instruction.

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In 1894, a Royal Commission was appointed. In 1902, the prime Minister, James Balfour laid the foundations for education in England, during the 20 th century. The school Boards were cancelled. The power to give primary and Secondary education was given to the country and Borough councils. Private schools were compelled to improve their efficiency to get grant from the Government.

Attention was given to Women's education too. In 1848, Queen's College for Women was started. Some examinations in Oxford and Cambridge were opened for both girls and boys.

Another reform to develop education was done by Gladstone. He cancelled patronage in all public offices. He made competitive examination the normal entrance to the Civil service. So Education is considered the best passport and not fashionable friends or social patronage.

In the reign of Queen Victoria, there was a process of education along with the extension of franchise. Thus the process of producing leaders of society and governance was done.

Short Questions:

1. What did Dr. Arnold Introduce in the public schools?
2. What was a turning point in the history of education in 1870?
3. Who laid the foundations for education in England , during the 20 th century?
4. Who was interested in educational reforms?
5. What was the change brought by Arnold in public schools?

UNIT – IV

Effects of 1st and 2nd World war

The First World War (1914-18) and its Impact on England. Causes and course of the First World War.

The assassination of the Austrian prince by a Serb provoked the first World War. At that time the major countries of the world had been divided into two major camps. England gave up her policy of isolation and joined with Russia and France. Germany supported Austria. Austria declared war on Serbia. Russia helped Serbia attack Austria.

Germany declared war on Russia and its ally France, England entered the war by helping Belgium's resistance to the German move to pass its army through Belgium.

The war dragged on for four years. Germany launched a submarine attack on England and its allies. A few American ships were sunk. In the meantime Russia withdrew from the war as it had to tackle the Communist Revolution led by Lenin that had broken out within the country.

Germany met with unexpected problems. Germany was deserted by its allies, Austria and Turkey. The German navy mutinied. The German king, Kaiser William, abdicated and ran away from the country. The German army was routed. The Treaty of Versailles was signed. This treaty set up the League of Nations to prevent future wars, America generously came forward to prevent future wars, America generously came forward to finance the League of Nations, America also offered to rebuild the shattered economies of the affected nations, including England.

Impact of the war on England

The first World War had a destructive impact on the English economy. The unemployment problem became severe. The soldiers returning home after the war could not be given alternate jobs.

The price of commodities rose up because of restrictions imports and the fall in productions. The war demoralized society. Age-old morals were shaken up.

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The Second World War (1936-45) and its impact on England

Mussolini of Italy and Hitler of Germany were war-mongers. Italy attacked Abyssinia and Germany invaded Poland. Japan attacked China. These acts of aggression developed into a world war. Russia sided with Germany. England declared war on Germany, hoping to arrest the escalation of the war.

Germany was victorious in the beginning. It conquered countries like Austria, Poland, Denmark, etc. America also jumped into the fray to stop the victories of Germany. Hitler was helpless. He committed suicide.

America dropped atom bombs on two Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This incident brought the second World War to an end. England and America emerged victorious. But it was a dubious victory. The U.N.O was formed in order to avert future wars.

Impact of the Second World War on England

Like the First World War the Second World War also had a disastrous effect on England. Unemployment was on the increase. The government implemented many welfare schemes in order to relieve the distress of the people. Moral values collapsed. T.S. Eliot represented post-war England as 'waste land'.

Short Questions:

1. When the world men I & II started?
2. Why the labour party became worst?
3. Why was there a depression in European economy in 1939?
4. How did England handle the situation of depression ?
5. Name the creator of new style in painting?

Social Security and the Welfare State

Introduction

The First and the Second World Wars shattered the economy of England. The individual was not able to fend for himself. Many were in need of aid by the government. In order to help such people, the Labour Government introduced a series of welfare schemes. Sir William Beveridge, a warm sociologist of the twentieth century. Analysed the pathetic condition of poor people. He drew up an elaborate 'cradle to the grave' scheme to help the poor. The Labour Government put into effect many of his recommendations.

The Family Allowance Act

This Act granted five shillings a week to the second and each successive child.

Retirement Pensions:

Handsome old-age pensions were granted to retired and old people to enable them to live comfortably and with self-respect.

The Health Service Act

This Act gave free medical service to old people who needed surgery or specialist consultations. Doctors received annual sum for each old person treated free of cost by him. Dental and optical medical treatment was also given free to old people.

The National Assistance Act

This Act opened hostels for the care of pensioners, physically disabled people and tubercular patients.

Free Education

A number of state schools giving free education to children were opened. Free milk was given to all the students of these schools.

The welfare schemes introduced in England were criticized in the beginning. It jis said that these schemes make people lazy and thriftless. But poor beneficiaries are certainly thankful to the British government.

Dr.S.Indira

The British Colonies and the Emergence of the Commonwealth.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries England had a network of colonies all over the world. It was the most powerful empire. It contained 1) white colonies where all the inhabitants were of British origin (such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand, 2) non-White colonies such as India, Ceylon and Pakistan where the English people remained only for a short period and 3) semi-white colonies such as African countries where the inhabitants are partly English and partly non-English.

After the Second World War, all these colonies struggled and became free. But they are constituted an organization called the Commonwealth. Through this organization England has cultural and educational links with its erstwhile colonies. The Commonwealth nations meet at regular intervals to chalk mutually beneficial projects.

Short Questions:

1. What are the welfare schemes introduced by England?
2. What implemented to the Retirement Pension Act?
3. What were the implementations made to National Assistance Act?
4. Who analysed the pathetic condition of poor people?
5. Name the government introduced a services of welfare act?

The Effects of the Cold War

Introduction

After the end of world war II, there was rivalry between the USA and the USSR, the two powerful nations of the world. The tension between the two countries caused the cold war that engulfed almost the entire world. The countries of the world formed themselves into Eastern Bloc, supporting the USSR and Western Bloc, supporting the USA.

Causes of the War

The mutual distrust, suspicion, envy and misunderstanding between the two blocs marked the beginning of the cold war. The USA and its allies felt that the USSR's aim of spreading communism through out the USA of practising imperialism and trying to stop the other nation's revolutionary activities.

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Origin of the war

In February 1945, the USA president, Roosevelt, the USSR premier, Stalin and the prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, met at Yalta conference to plan for the peace that was to follow the war. As Stalin did not cooperate with peacetime programme of the other leaders, the cold war began.

Course of the war

During the 1940's and 1950's the war was intensified and it reached its height in the 1960's. The arms race between the USA and the USSR, threatened the world of a nuclear war. The two nations competed with each other in conquering the space. But in the 1970's they realised the danger of amassing powerful weapons and efforts were taken to bring peace between the two nations. The situation changed when Gorbachev became the president of the USSR. By his Glasnost and perestroika, he tried to reform Russia's economic and political machinery.

Effect on Britain

Britain belonged to the Western bloc and she supported all the actions of the USA against the USSR. So she had to spend much on military and arms. As this led to her economic deterioration, the English people felt uneasy.

Margaret Thatcher

Margaret Thatcher became the prime Minister of Britain in 1979. She took steps to review the British economy. She avoided any public conflict with the USA and maintained a personal friendship with Regan, the American president. Till 1982-83, she supported Regan's anti-Soviet programmes. But when she was reelected in 1983, she changed her approach and made contacts with the communist countries and visited Hungary and Moscow, she made a visit to the USA and made it agree to the Camp David pacts.

End of the War

By the efforts of Thatcher, Regan and Gorbachev signed an arms treaty in 1987 and agreed to remove all the medium range weapons from their nations. Thus the cold war came to an end.

Conclusion

The breaking of the Berlin wall in 1989 put an end to the bitterness between the two blocs and with the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, the cold war completely disappeared.

Dr.S.Indira

Short Questions:

1. What was cold war?
2. What were the two blocs?
3. What were the country of the cold war?
4. What was the origin of the cold war?
5. How did the cold war effect great Britain?

UNIT-V

Trade Unionism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries.

Introduction

The trade union is an organization of workers demanding, more and more wages and facilities from employers. Hence, in the 19th century employers tried their best to repress trade unions by hook or by crook. The more the trade unions were repressed, the more violent they became.

Trade Unionism in the Nineteenth Century

Francis Place, a tailor by profession, was the father of the trade union movement in England. He gave up his profession in order to tour widely and create an awakening in the minds of workers.

The French Revolution frightened the employers in England. They thought that, if left unchecked, the trade union movement would create an explosive situation in England also. So in 1799 and 1800 Combination Laws were passed in England. Workers combining or joining together for the purpose of striking was declared illegal. The committee headed by Joseph Hume gave many concessions to workers including the right to combine and strike to raise their wages.

Combination of small trade unions:

There started a new trend in trade unionism early in the nineteenth century. Many small unions joined together in order to increase their bargaining power. Thus, inspired by Robert Owen, many small unions joined and formed the Grand National Consolidated Union in 1834. It had about one million members. Such consolidated unions resorted to general strikes to realize their demands. They aimed at paralysing the economy in order to achieve their ends. This tactic was not liked by the people.

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In 1872 agricultural labourers, headed by Joseph Arch, formed a union. In 1888, thanks to the effort taken by Annie Besant, match workers formed a trade union. Gas workers followed suit with their union in 1889. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Workers was formed in 1871. The railway workers went on a strike to press their demands. The strike was called off only when the government promised to redress their grievances.

Trade Unionism in the Twentieth Century

In the twentieth century, white collar employees such as teachers, doctors, engineers etc., formed unions. Federations of unions were also formed. The Miner's Federation, Engineering Federation and Printer's Federation are such federations. Workers are also organizing workers' congresses these days.

Government control over trade unions

Trade unions amass huge amounts of money by way of subscriptions from members. To avoid misappropriation of funds the government requires the trade unions to submit accounts of their income and expenditure.

Workers are in the habit of demanding less work and more pay. This is an unhealthy trend. Trade unions should not encourage it.

Short Questions:

1. Who was the father of Trade Union Movement?
2. Who formed the Grand National Consolidated union?
3. Name the committee headed by Joseph Hume?
4. When the Society of Railway workers was formed?
5. Who formed Unionism in the Twentieth century?

Dr.S.Indira

The Origin and Growth of Political Parties in England.

Introduction

The political parties in England originated in the Stuart period. During the reign of Charles I, there was a struggle between the king and the parliament, for power. The parliament split into two as Royalists, the supporters of the king and the Whigs, the opponents.

Exclusion Bill

After the death of Charles II, his brother James, the Duke of York was to succeed him. As James was a Catholic fanatic, those who wanted to prevent him from succeeding the throne brought a bill called the Exclusion Bill. The brain behind the bill was Ashley Cooper. Those who supported the bill were called the Whigs and those who opposed were the Tories.

Whigs and Tories

The Whigs, who were a minority of land-owning men represented commercial men and commercial interests. They were Dissenters and they always stood for the rights and privileges of the parliament.

The Tories were more in number than the Whigs. They represented the landed interests. The Tories who were the supporters of the king were the members of the Anglican church.

Eminent men of the political parties

Robert Walpole remained in power as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister for nearly twenty years. He was a Whig statesman. He was considered to be the first Prime Minister. He followed the policy of non-interference.

William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham, the greatest of the Tories was another great politician of the latter half of the 18th century. It was William Pitt who advocated the policy of conciliation with America.

The influence of the French Revolution

French Revolution marked clearly the party division in England. While the Tories objected the French Revolution, the Whigs welcomed it. But when the revolutionary government of France offered help to any country that followed its example, there was a hardening of party lines. Now it became easy for younger William Pitt, the Tory leader to declare war against France in 1794. Only after 1832, the local party organisations were established.

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Conservations and liberals

The whigs played an important part in the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832. Now the Tories who felt that the British constitution was in danger and had to be conserved or protected from the reformers, called themselves as conservatives. The whigs changed their names as liberals indicating that they were more liberal minded. The conservative party represented property and the Liberals represented all those who lived on salaries and wages.

Labour party.

In the beginning of the 20th century, the labour party entered politics. It represented the interests of all kinds of workers. As the Liberals failed to represent effectively the interest of the wage earners, their place was taken up by the Labour part. At present the two powerful political parties in England are the conservatives and the Labour party.

Liberal Democratic party

In 1981 many members left the Labour party and established the social Democratic party. In 1988 the social Democratic party and the Liberal party formed an alliance and merged to form the liberal Democratic party.

Conclusion

Because of the party system many eminent men were brought to the fore front. Robert peel, Disreli, Gladstone were able prime ministers. It was Winston Churchelill, the prime Minister, who led England to Victory in the second world war. Clement Attlee, the Labour prime Minister declared independence to india.

Short Questions:

1. When did the political parties originate in England?
2. Who were the Tories?
3. Who were the Whigs?
4. Why were the Roundheads called so?
5. What was the couse for the Civil war?

S.Manjula

Contemporary life in England

Introduction

After Margaret Thatcher , John Major became the prime Minister in 1990 and he remained in power till 1997. In the election of 1997, the Labour party won and its young leader Tony Blair became the prime Minister. The labour party won in the elections of 2001 and 2005 also. Tony Blair resigned in 2007 and Gordon Brown became the prime Minister. In the election of 2010 the conservative appointed prime Minister and the set up a coalition government with the support of the Liberal Democrats.

Tony Blair

In the 1997 general election the Labour party won and Tony Blair became the prime Minister. His party won the next two elections in 2001 and 2005. The young prime Minister Blair promised a classless society and he brought economic stability in the country and played a vital role in Scottish and welsh devolution and Northern Ireland peace process. He introduced the minimum of wage and invested government money in public services.

As he was criticized for his support of Bush , the American president, in his war against Iraq he resigned in 2007 and was replaced by Gordon Brown . In the election of 2010 the Labour party lost and the conservative party won the election.

Religion and the Church of England

Though everything in the world change with the passage of time , the church of England remains the same from the days of Reformation to till date . The monarch of England is the supreme governor of the church. The coronation services are conducted by the church and it is the Archbishop of canturbury who places the crown on the head of the new king. The church of England continues to demand public respect.

Towards the end of the 20th century regular church attendance had declined and in the United kingdom the Anglicans are out numbered by the Roman catholics. The sociologists have found out that people still believe in God and during the times of joy and crisis, they go to church.

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Hong Kong

Britain yielded its colony Hong Kong to china in June 1997 and the then chinese president had made his country allow Hong Kong to retain its religious freedom and democratic system.

Important Events in the Royal family

Prince Charles and princess Diana were officially divorced in August 1996. Diana died in a car accident in August 1997. Prince Charles married Camilla parker Bowles in 2005.

Queen Elizabeth II lost her sister , princess Margaret in 2000 and a few months later her mother, the Queen Mother. The golden jubilee of the Queen's accession to the throne of England was celebrated grandly in 2002.

Major Tragic Event

In September 2001, the world Trade center and the pentagon in the USA were attacked by the AI Qaeda terrorists and about 3000 people were killed. Osama bin laden, the AI Qaeda leader was the master mind behind the attack. He became the most wanted man and was killed in 2011.

Wars

The USA declared war against terrorism and attacked Afghanistan and overthrew the Taliban government. The USA also invaded Iraq and captured Saddam Hussein. He was executed in 2006. In all the wars the UK supported the USA.

Death of the pope

Pope John paul II died in April 2005. Pope Benedict XVI became the next pope. He emphasized the need to return to fundamental Christian values.

Seven Wonders

The new seven wonders foundation announced in July 2007, Chichen Itza, Mexico; Christ the Redeemer, Brazil, Colosseum , Italy, Taj Mahal , India , the great wall of China .Petra , Jordan and Machu picchu , peru as the new seven wonders of the world.

Natural Disasters

Tsunami of 2004 killed many people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. Hurricane Katrina destroyed many lives and property in the USA in 2005.Global warming SARS,AIDS, bird flu threaten mankind.

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England Today

Several people belonging to different countries, races and culture have now settled in England, London has become the home of several minority groups from Asia and Africa.

Literature

As English language has spread far and wide in the world, Writers in English language have appeared from Britains former colonies. Three Indian novelists are awarded the Booker prize recently. They are Arundhati Roy, Kiran desai and Aravind Adiga.

Conclusion

As a result of the advancement of science and technology Email, and internet have shrunk the world. In the filed of space research ,people are trying to explore Mars. The conservation of natural resources and the control of pollution has become the major concern of the human beings to-day.

Short Questions:

1. What were the achievements of Tony Blair?
2. Who supported USA in Iraq war?
3. Mention the New seven Wonders of the world?
4. Who won the Booker prize for “ The God of small Thigs”.?
5. Name the tragic event of September 2001?

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