



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: Social Science	Sub: History
Chapter-2 Question Bank: No.2	Topic: SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION	Year: 2024-25

1	<p>What were the different notions of the Liberals, Radicals and the Conservatives regarding the formation of the government in Russia?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Liberals</p> <p>Liberals wanted a nation which tolerated all religions and opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers. They wanted to safeguard individual rights, supported an elected Parliamentary government, and ensure laws were interpreted by an independent and well-trained judiciary. However, they were not 'democrats' and did not believe in Universal Adult Franchise. They felt men of property mainly should have the vote and did not want voting right for the women.</p> <p>Radicals</p> <p>Radicals wanted a nation in which the government was based on the majority of a country's population. Many supported Women's Suffragette Movements. Unlike Liberals, they opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners. They were not against the existence of private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.</p> <p>Conservatives</p> <p>Conservatives were opposed to Radicals and Liberals. After the French Revolution, however, even Conservatives had opened their minds to the need for change. By the nineteenth century, they accepted that some change was needed but believed that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.</p>
2	<p>Explain the views of different Socialists and Philosophers regarding the basis of a Socialist society?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Explain the views of Karl Marx on Capitalism (Ans: Last Point only)</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Different Socialists had different visions of the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some believed in the idea of cooperatives. Eg. Robert Owen, sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA).• Other socialists felt that cooperatives could not be built on a wide scale only through individual initiative, they demanded that governments should encourage cooperatives. In France, Louis Blanc wanted the government to encourage cooperatives.• Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels added other ideas. Marx argued that industrial society was 'capitalist'. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories, and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers. The conditions of workers could not improve as long as this profit was accumulated by private capitalists. Workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property. Marx believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, workers had to construct a Socialist society where all property was socially

	controlled. This would be a Communist society , the natural society of the future.
3	<p>Explain the economic and social condition of Russia before 1905</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>Agrarian Economy: At the beginning of the twentieth century, about 85 per cent of the Russian empire's population earned their living from agriculture. Cultivators produced for the market as well as for their own needs and Russia was a major exporter of grain.</p> <p>Industry: Main industrial areas were St. Petersburg and Moscow. Craftsmen undertook much of the production. Many factories were set up, when Russia's railway network was extended. Most industry was the private property of industrialists. Government supervised large factories to ensure minimum wages and limited hours of work. But factory inspectors could not prevent rules being broken.</p> <p>Condition of Workers: Workers lived a life of misery. In craft units and small workshops, the working day was sometimes 15 hours. Living conditions of workers were poor. Workers were a divided social group. For eg: Metalworkers considered themselves aristocrats among other workers. Despite divisions, workers united to strike when they disagreed with employers about dismissals or work conditions.</p> <p>Peasants and Nobility: In the Russian countryside, peasants cultivated most of the land, while large estates were owned by the nobility, the crown, and the church. Unlike French peasants, Russian peasants had no respect for nobles and often refused to pay rent or even killed landlords, demanding the land be redistributed to them. They also periodically pooled and redistributed land among families through their commune (mir).</p>
4	<p>"Social Democrats disagreed with the Socialist Revolutionaries." Explain</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the late 19th century, some Russian socialists believed that the periodic land division among peasants made them natural socialists, and thus, peasants would lead the revolution, allowing Russia to become socialist faster than other countries. • The Socialist Revolutionary Party, formed in 1900, advocated for peasants' rights and the transfer of noble-owned land to peasants. • However, Social Democrats, including Vladimir Lenin, disagreed, arguing that among the peasants some were poor and some were rich, some worked as labourers while others were capitalists and were not a unified group making them unsuitable as the main force of a socialist movement.
5	<p>What led to the division of the Russian Socialists Democratic Workers Party (RSDWP) and how was it divided?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded by Socialists who respected Marx's ideas. RSDWP was divided over the strategy of organisation. It was divided into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. • Bolsheviks under Vladimir Lenin thought that in a repressive society like the Tsarist Russia the party should be disciplined and should control the number and the quality of the members. • Mensheviks thought that the party should be open to all (as in Germany).
6	<p>Explain the major causes that were responsible for the Russian Revolution of 1905?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Which event came to be known as 'Bloody Sunday'? (Ans: Last point only)</p>

	<p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia was under the autocratic rule of the Tsars. The Tsar Nicholas II was an inefficient ruler and not subject to the Parliament. • Both Liberals and Socialists worked with peasants and workers to demand a constitution. They were supported by the nationalists and in the Muslim-dominated areas by the Jadidists (Muslim reformers within the Russian empire) who wanted modernized Islam to lead their societies. • In 1904, Russian workers faced a tough year as prices of essential goods rose rapidly. Membership in workers' associations increased significantly. When four workers were dismissed from the Putilov Iron Works, over 110,000 workers in St Petersburg went on strike, demanding a reduction in the working day to eight hours, higher wages, and better working conditions. • Bloody Sunday marked a turning point in the 1905 Revolution in Russia. On this day, peaceful workers and their families, led by Father Gapon, were fired upon by police and Cossacks while marching to the Winter Palace to present a petition to the Tsar. The attack resulted in over 100 deaths and around 300 injuries. This tragedy sparked nationwide strikes and university closures. In response, lawyers, doctors, engineers and other middle-class workers formed the Union of Unions, demanding a Constituent Assembly, which eventually led to the creation of the Duma, the Russian Parliament.
7	<p>How did the First World War affect Russia?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1914, the First World War broke out between two European alliances – Germany, Austria and Turkey (the Central powers) and France, Britain and Russia (the Allies). • Between 1914 and 1916, the Russian army suffered severe defeats in Germany and Austria, resulting in over 7 million casualties by 1917. As they retreated, the Russian army destroyed crops and buildings to prevent the enemy from using them, resulting in over 3 million people becoming refugees within Russia. • The war also had a severe impact on industry. Russia's own industries were few in number and the country was cut off from other suppliers of industrial goods. • By 1916, railway lines began to break down. Able-bodied men were called up to the war. As a result, there were labour shortages and small workshops producing essentials were shut down. • Large supplies of grain were sent to feed the army. This caused the scarcity of bread and flour for the people in the cities. By the winter of 1916, riots at bread shops were common.
8	<p>"Petrograd had led the February Revolution that brought down the Monarchy in February 1917." Explain.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Winter of 1917, conditions in the capital, Petrograd, were miserable. The workers' quarters and factories were located on the right bank of the River Neva. On the left bank were the fashionable areas, the Winter Palace, and official buildings, including the Palace where the Duma met. • In February 1917, severe food shortages hit workers' quarters during an exceptionally cold winter with heavy snow. On 22 February, a lockout took place at a factory on the right bank. The next day, workers in fifty factories called a strike in sympathy. Women played a leading role in these strikes, which came to be known as International Women's Day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the fashionable quarters and official buildings were surrounded by workers, the government imposed a curfew. The government called out the Cavalry and Police to keep an eye on the workers. On Sunday, 25th February, the government suspended the Duma. On the next day the streets were full of people raising slogans about bread, wages, better hours and democracy. The government tried to control the situation with the Cavalry but the Cavalry refused to fire the people. By the evening, (Feb 26th) Soldiers and striking workers had gathered to form a 'Soviet' or 'Council' called as the Petrograd Soviet in the same building as the Duma met. Under the advice of the Military commanders Tsar abdicated on 2nd March. Soviet leaders and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government to run the country. Russia's future was hence to be decided by a Constituent Assembly, elected on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage.
9	<p>Explain Lenin's 'April Theses'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Describe the major demands of Bolshevik during 1917.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 1917, the Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin returned to Russia from his exile and felt that it was time for Soviets to take over power. He declared that war be ended, land be transferred to the peasants and banks be nationalized. These three demands were Lenin's 'April Theses'.
10	<p>What is meant by 'October Revolution'? Describe its major events.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The taking over of the Government in Russia by the Socialists under the leadership of Lenin and subsequent establishment of the world's first Communist regime is called the 'October Revolution'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks grew, Lenin feared the Provisional Government would set up a dictatorship, so he began discussions for an uprising against the government. Bolshevik supporters in the army, soviets and factories were brought together. On 16 October 1917, Lenin persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a 'Socialist Seizure of Power'. A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by the Soviet under Leon Trotskii to organize the seizure. Sensing trouble, Prime Minister Kerenskii had left the city to summon troops. Military men seized the buildings of two Bolshevik newspapers, troops were sent to take over telephone and telegraph offices and protect the Winter Palace. As an immediate response, the Military Revolutionary Committee ordered its supporters to seize government offices and arrest ministers. Late in the day, the ship Aurora shelled the Winter Palace. By nightfall, the city was under the Committee's control and the ministers had surrendered. At a meeting of the All Russian Congress of Soviets in Petrograd, the majority approved the Bolshevik action. By December, the Bolsheviks controlled the Moscow-Petrograd area.

11	<p>What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most industry and banks were nationalized in November 1917. Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility. • In cities, Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements. They banned the use of the old titles of aristocracy. New uniforms were designed for the army and officials. • The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik). Despite opposition, the Bolsheviks made peace with Germany. • In January 1918, the Constituent Assembly rejected Bolshevik measures and Lenin dismissed the Assembly. • In the years that followed, the Bolsheviks became the only party to participate in the elections to the All Russian Congress of Soviets, which became the Parliament of the country. Russia became a One-party state. Trade unions were kept under Party control. The secret police (called the Cheka first, and later OGPU and NKVD) punished those who criticized the Bolsheviks.
12	<p>What were the factors responsible for the Civil War which broke out in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>The Civil War in Russia between the 'Reds'(Bolsheviks), the 'Whites'(pro-Tsarists) and the 'Greens' (Socialist Revolutionaries) happened because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the Bolsheviks ordered land redistribution, the Russian army began to break up. Soldiers, mostly peasants, wished to go home for the redistribution and deserted. • Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals, and autocracy supporters condemned the Bolshevik uprising and moved to South Russia to organize troops against the Bolsheviks ('reds'). In 1918 and 1919, the Socialist Revolutionaries ('greens') and pro-Tsarists ('whites') controlled much of Russia, with support from French, American, British, and Japanese troops, who were concerned about the rise of socialism in Russia. • As these troops and the Bolsheviks fought a civil war, looting, banditry (armed robbery) and famine became common. Supporters of private property among the 'whites' took harsh steps with peasants who had seized land. Such actions led to the loss of popular support for the non-Bolsheviks. • By January 1920, the Bolsheviks controlled most of the former Russian empire. They succeeded due to cooperation with non-Russian nationalities and Muslim jadidists.
13	<p>Explain how a Socialist society was established in Russia</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Civil war, the Bolsheviks kept industries and banks nationalized. They permitted peasants to cultivate the land that had been socialized. A process of centralized planning was introduced.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials evaluated the economy and set targets for five-year periods, creating the Five-Year Plans. To promote industrial growth, the government fixed prices during the first two plans, leading to increased industrial production. New factory cities emerged, and an extended schooling system was developed. Factory workers and peasants were given access to universities. Crèches were established in factories for women workers' children, cheap public healthcare was provided, and model living quarters were set up for workers. However, rapid construction led to poor working conditions. Workers lived hard lives. For eg: in living quarters, in the wintertime, at 40 degrees below, people had to climb down from the fourth floor and dash across the street in order to go to the toilet.
14	<p>Explain the Collectivization Policy of Stalin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>What were the major changes introduced in agriculture by Stalin?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1927- 1928, the towns in Soviet Russia were facing an acute problem of grain supplies. As an emergency step, Collectivisation policy was introduced by Stalin in Russia. Under this policy land was taken away from the Peasants. Kulaks (the name for well-to-do peasants) was eliminated and large State controlled farms or Collective farms (kolkhoz) was established. After 1917 land had been given to peasants but they were small sized farms that could not be modernised. To develop modern farms, it was necessary to eliminate Kulaks. From 1929 the government forced all peasants to cultivate in Collective farms. Peasants worked on the land and profits were shared. Though Collectivisation programme was introduced to solve the acute problem of grain supplies, the production did not increase immediately. Those who resisted Collectivisation were severely punished. Many were deported and exiled.
15	<p>Explain the impact of Russian Revolution on the world?</p> <p>Ans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communist parties were formed in many countries, like the Communist Party of Great Britain. Bolsheviks encouraged the colonial people to follow their experiment to fight against Imperialism. Many Non-Russians from outside the USSR, participated in the Conference of the People of East and the Bolshevik founded Comintern (an International Union of Pro-Bolshevik Socialist Parties). Some received education in USSR's Communist University of Workers of the East. By the time of the outbreak of the Second World War, the USSR had given Socialism a global face.