

#1. What was the Pre-Revolution state of French society?

[1] France strong and powerful state in the 18th century [2] society divided into three Estates → Estate 1 = Clergy, Estate 2 = Nobility, Estate 3 = commons [3] Estate 1 & 2 → population = 5%, total land = 40% + privileged class + exempted from almost all taxes + lavish-extravagant life + controlled most of the administrative posts.

3rd Estate → common people; 95 per cent of the total population.; unprivileged people, mostly peasants, high taxes and no tenancy rights.

#2. What were the factors that led to French Revolution?

I. Role of Monarchy: King called Louis XVI of Bourbon dynasty → incompetent king; queen name Marie Antoinette → lavish life and state interference; French huge army+ frequent wars → Bankruptcy.

II. Role of Intellectuals: age of reason+ anti monarchy+ ideological backing to revolution.

- a. **Rousseau:** Social contract theory + popular sovereignty+ “Man is born free, yet everywhere he is in chains” + legitimate government.
- b. **Voltaire:** king of satire+ freedom of speech and the press+ constitutional monarchy+ diversity of thoughts+ open criticism+ not supported democracy+ critique of Catholic Church+ separation of church and state+ tolerance.
- c. **Montesquieu:** separation of powers + not supported democracy + decentralization of power to prevent despotism.

#3. What were the immediate events which led to French revolution?

France was bankrupt → King called meeting of all three Estates delegates → Despite 3rd Estate having 95% population, each estate had one vote → 3rd Estate demanded cut in royal expenditure and tax from 1st and 2nd estate → 1st and 2nd demanded fresh taxes on 3rd estate → Leading to logjam in the meeting → 17th June 1789, the third Estate declared itself as the National Assembly → Tennis Court Oath → outbreak of revolution → fall of state prison Bastille → monarchy arrested and tried for treason.

#4. Who were the leaders of the revolution?

I. Radicals: They were called left-wing and said to be on the left, called Jacobins → opposed the king and the idea of a monarchy+ radical+ sweeping reforms at any cost+ republicanism+ adopted legal, extra-legal or even illegal methods.

II. Conservatives: called constitutionalists → establish constitutional monarchy in France.

III. Moderates: called Girondists → establish republic but gradually and not through force.

#5. What were the reasons for the failure of post-monarchy Governments?

1) Invasion of France: idea of Republicanism and anti-monarchy stand alarmed rest of the European countries → Prussia and Austria declared war on France with the aim of re-establishing Monarchy back in France → Radical Jacobins forced National assembly to declare France as Republic → monarchy guillotined.

2) Reign of Terror: Jacobins under Robespierre became powerful → followed the policy of Blood and Iron → killed all opponents; Robespierre guilty of misusing power → executed.

3) Rule of Directory: concentration of power → despotism; committee system of Government → committee of 5 directors was called ‘rule of Directory’; system proved to be flop → people became disillusioned to the idea of Republic → rise of Napoleon

#6. what were the consequences of the French Revolution?

- 1) **Political:** destruction of feudalism + Privileged classes were abolished + Declaration of the Rights of Man + The idea of Republic + "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" + nationalism, patriotism and democracy + End of monarchy+ idea of sovereignty + right to vote+ limited Government.
- 2) **Social:** abolished slavery + welfare state+ egalitarianism + equal rights for all + women right to property.
- 3) **impact over World Order:** rulers found it increasingly difficult to rule the people → divine right of King was challenged.

#7. what was the Impact of French revolution on Indian freedom struggle and India?

Political ideology like: sovereignty of Citizen, to govern with the consent of Governed, Republicanism, abolition of privileged class, equality of all etc. inspired our freedom struggle. Slogan of FR 'Liberty, equality and Fraternity' was included in Preamble+ Abolition of Zamindari + Divine right of the king to rule was challenged = Praja Mandal were formed+ secular state + nationalism, patriotism and democracy inspired Indian Freedom struggle.