



# **पुर्णा International School**

**Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul, Zundal**

**Class- IX**

**Subject- Social Studies**

## **Chapter-2**

### **Socialism in Europe & The Russian Revolution**

**1. What were the social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905?**

Ans : The Social, economic and political conditions in Russia before 1905 was backward:

→ Social Conditions: 85% of Russia's population was agriculturist. The industry was existent, but rarely in which most of was privately owned. Workers were divided on the basis of their occupation. They mainly migrated to cities for employment in factories. The peasant community was deeply religious but did not care much about the nobility. They believed that land must be divided amongst themselves.

→ Economic Condition: Russia was going through bad period economically. Prices of essential good rises while real wages decreased by 20% leading to the famous St.Petersburg strike. This strike started a series of events that are together known as the 1905 Revolution. During this revolution, there were strikes all over the country, universities closed down, and various professionals and workers established the Union of Unions, demanding the establishment of a constituent assembly.

→ Political Condition: Political parties were illegal before 1914. The Russian Social Democratic Workers Party was founded in 1898 by socialists who respected Marx's ideas. In 1903, this party was divided into two groups - Mensheviks and Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks, who were in majority, were led by Lenin who is regarded as the greatest thinker on socialism after Marx.

**2. In what ways was the working population in Russia different from other countries in Europe, before 1917?**

Ans : The working population in Russia was different from other countries in Europe before 1917 because not all Russian workers migrated from the villages

to work in the industrial sector. Some of them continued to live in villages and went to work daily, to the towns. They were a divided group, socially and professionally, and this showed in their dress and manners too. Metal workers were the "aristocrats" of the working class because their occupation demanded more training and skill. Nevertheless, the working population was united on one front - strikes against work conditions and employer tyranny.

### **3. Why did the Tsarist autocracy collapse in 1917?**

Ans : The Tsar first dismissed the initial two Dumas and then packed the parliament with the conservatives. During the First World War, the Tsar took decisions without consulting the Duma. Large scale casualties of Russian soldiers in the war further alienated the people from the Tsar. Burning of crops and buildings by the retreating Russian armies created a huge shortage of food in Russia. All of these led to the collapse of the Tsarist autocracy in 1917.

### **4. Make two lists: one with the main events and the effects of the February Revolution and the other with the main events and effects of the October Revolution. Write a paragraph on who was involved in each, who were the leaders and what was the impact of each on Soviet history.**

Ans : February Revolution:

- 22nd February: Factory lockout on the right bank took place,
- 25th February: Duma was dissolved.
- 27th February: Police Headquarters ransacked. Regiments support the workers. Formation of Soviet.
- 2nd March: The Tsar abdicated his power. The Soviet and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government for Russia.

The February Revolution had no political party at its forefront. It was led by the people themselves. Petrograd had brought down the monarchy, and thus, gained a significant place in Soviet history. Trade Unions grew in number.

October Revolution:

- 16th October: A Military Revolutionary Committee was appointed by Soviet.
- 24th October: The uprising against provisional government begins. Military Revolutionary Committee controls the city by night and ministers surrender. The Bolshevik gained power.

The October Revolution was primarily led by Lenin and his subordinate, Trotskii and involved the masses who supported these leaders. It marked the beginning of Lenin's rule over the Soviet, with the Bolsheviks under his guidance.

### **5. What were the main changes brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution?**

Ans : The main changes which were brought about by the Bolsheviks immediately after the October Revolution:

- Banks and Industries were nationalised.
- Land was declared social property, thereby allowing peasants to seize it from

the nobility.

→ In urban areas, houses were partitioned according to family requirements

→ Old aristocratic titles were banned, and new uniforms were designed for the army and the officials.

→ New uniforms were introduced for the army and the officials.

**6. Write a few lines to show what you know about:**

**(i) Kulaks**

**(ii) The Duma**

**(iii) Women workers between 1900 and 1930.**

**(iv) The Liberals.**

**(v) Stalin's collectivization programme.**

Ans : (i) It is the Russian term for wealthy peasants who Stalin believed were hoarding grains to gain more profit. By 1927-28 the towns of Soviet Russia were facing an acute problem of grain supplies. Kulaks were thought to be partly responsible for this. Also to develop modern farms and run them along industrial lines the Party under the leadership of Stalin thought it was necessary to eliminate Kulaks.

(ii) During 1905 Revolution, the Tsar allowed the creation of an elected consultative parliament in Russia. This elected consultative parliament in Russia was called Duma.

(iii) They made up 31% of the factory labour force by 1914 but were paid almost half and three-quarters of the wages given to men. However, interestingly, it was the women workers who led the way to strikes during the February Revolution.

(iv) They espoused a nation that was tolerant towards all religions; one that would protect individual rights against the government. Although the liberals wanted an elected parliamentary form of governance, they believed that the right to vote must only belong to men, and that too the

ones who were property holders.

(v) Stalin believed that collectivization of agriculture would help in improving grains supplies in Russia. He began collectivization in 1929. All peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms (kolhoz). The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of the collective farm. Many peasants protested such attempts and destroyed livestock to show their anger. Collectivization did not bring the desired results in the food supply situation turned even worse in subsequent years.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **NAZISM & THE RISE OF HITLER**

**Ques 1: Describe the problems faced by the Weimar Republic.**

**Ans :** The problems faced by the Weimar Republic were:

→ Versailles treaty: The Versailles Peace Treaty at the end of the First World War dispossessed Germany of its territories, its resources and its pride as a nation. He also had to pay 6 billion pounds as war compensation. In spite of the harsh terms, the Weimar Republic accepted the humiliating treaty, thereby making it unpopular amongst the German masses.

→ Economic Crisis: The German state was financially crippled due to overwhelming war debts which had to be paid in gold. Subsequently gold reserves depleted and value of German mark fell. Prices of essential goods rose dramatically.

→ Political defects: The Weimar Republic was weak due to inherent constitutional irregularities such as proportional representation and Article 48 (which gave the President the power to impose emergency and rule by decree). The democratic parliamentary system seemed to give the people no solutions or benefits in the times of the severe economic crisis.

**Ques 2. Discuss why Nazism became popular in Germany by 1930.**

**Ans :** Nazism became popular in Germany by 1930 due to lot of reasons:

→ The most apparent being the Great Depression. The Weimar Republic did little to remedy the country's economic downfall, and Hitler was presented as a saviour to the humiliated German people living in economic and political crises.

→ The powerful speeches of Hitler in which he sought to build great nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty, restore the dignity of German people and provide employment for all stirred hopes in people.

→ Nazi propaganda was unique. Red banners with the Swastika, Nazi salute and the rounds of applause attracted the people making Nazism very popular.

**Ques 3. What are the peculiar features of Nazi thinking?**

**Ans :** The peculiar features of Nazi thinking were

→ A belief in racial hierarchy and Lebensraum or living space.

→ Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while the Jews formed the lowest rung of the racial ladder.

→ They believed that only the strongest race would survive and rule.

→ New territories must be gained for enhancing the natural resources and power of Germany.

**Ques 4. Explain why Nazi propaganda was effective in creating a hatred for Jews.**

**Ans :** Nazi propaganda was effective in creating hatred for the Jews: → The Nazis used the language and media effectively with great care. The racial theory put forward by the Nazis that the Jews belonged to a lower race and as such were undesirable.

→The traditional Christian hatred for the Jews, because they were accused to have killed Christ, was fully exploited by the Nazis in order to make the GermAns pre-judicial against Jews.

→The Nazis injected hatred against the Jews even in the minds of the children from the very beginning during the days of their schooling. The teachers who were Jews were dismissed and Jews children were thrown out of the schools. Such methods and new ideological training to the new generation of children went a long way in making the Nazi's propaganda quite effective in creating hatred for the Jews.

→Propaganda films were made to create hatred for the Jews. Orthodox Jews were stereotyped and marked. For example, one such film was 'The Eternal Jew'.

**Ques 5. Explain what role women had in Nazi society. Return to Chapter 1 on the French Revolution. Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the role of women in the two periods.**

**Ans :** Role of women in Nazi society followed the rules of a largely patriarchal or male-dominated society. Hitler hailed women as "the most important citizen" in his Germany, but this was true for only Aryan women who bred pure-blood, "desirable" AryAns. Motherhood was the only goal they were taught to reach for, apart from performing the stereotypical functions of managing the household and being good wives. This was in stark contrast to the role of women in the French Revolution where women led movements and fought for rights to education and equal wages. They were allowed to form political clubs, and schooling was made compulsory for them after the French Revolution.

**Ques 6. In what ways did the Nazi state seek to establish total control over its people ?**

**Ans :** The Nazis established control over its people by various meAns: → They used different propganda through posters or films to glorify their behaviour.

→Media was carefully used to win support for the regime and popularise it.

→Nazism worked on the minds of the people, tapped their emotions and turned their hatred and anger against those marked as 'undesirable'.

→Special surveillance and security forces to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted, was created.

→The police forces had powers to rule with impunity. Genocide also created an atmosphere of fear and repression which helped them to establishtotal control over its people.