Name

Topic 3 Summary and assessment

Summary

The conditions prevailing from 1614 under the old order laid fertile ground for the outbreak of the revolution in 1789.

- The harsh economic crisis of 1788–1789 adding to the mounting social and political inequalities, served as the immediate cause of the revolution.
- The Enlightenment era produced philosophers (such as Montesquieu, Rousseau, Voltaire and Marat) whose writings played a crucial role in influencing ideas as to why the masses should revolt against the old order.
- The course of the revolution, starting from the meeting of the Estate-General (May 1789), the establishment of the National Assembly and the Tennis Court Oath sworn in June 1789, signified the commitment of the masses to destroying the old order and putting a new one in place, based on equality.
- The storming of the Bastille (July 1789), which was seen as a symbol of the power of the monarchist dynasty, signified the breakdown of this power.
- The *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* (August 1789), a month after the fall of the Bastille, ushered in a new order.
- The women of France, though not real beneficiaries of the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*, played an important role in pressurising the royal family through their march (October 1789) to leave their expensive palace in Versailles outside Paris and move back to the Tuileries.
- The King was executed in January 1793 and this meant the end of absolute monarchy in France.
- The Revolution became very aggressive in the Reign of Terror waged against sympathisers to the royal family and those labelled anti-revolutionary by the Jacobins, the violent Republicanists under Robespierre between 1793 and 1794.
- The rule by the Directory (1795-1799) of elected representatives was characterised by conflict, corruption and a chaotic atmosphere. The people were still not happy with the government and the way the country was being run.
- The general discontent against the Directory paved the way for the *coup d'etat of Brumaire* in November 1799 by Napoleon Bonaparte. Immediately after taking over, Napoleon centralised power again and declared himself Emperor with hereditary privileges.
- The general discontent that continued after the execution of the King and Queen and the taking over of power by Napoleon Bonaparte raised questions as to what the Revolution had actually achieved.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Source A

King Louis XIV, on his deathbed, is reported to have said: *"Je m'en vais, mais l'État demeurera toujours."* ("I depart, but the State shall always remain").

Marquis de Dangeau. "Mémoire sur la mort de Louis XIV

1 Source-based questions

1.1 Refer to sources A, B and C below to answer the following questions:

a What do you think Louis XIV meant when he declared "I depart, but the State shall always remain" in Source A? 1 x 2 [2]

Answer

b Do you personally think his declaration (in source A) can be justified or not? Motivate your answer. 1 x 2 [2]

Answer

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Source B

The *Ancien Regime* was the political and social system of France prior to the French Revolution. Under the regime, everyone was a subject of the King of France as well as a member of an estate and province. All rights and status flowed from the social institutions, divided into three orders: clergy, nobility, and others (the Third Estate). There was no national citizenship ... It was primarily a political concept but it also had a direct impact on social and economic conditions in France. It determined the living conditions of different people in France.

Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Encyclopædia Britannica, 2011

Source C

The view of Edmund Burke – an Irish essayist on Rousseau:
I had good opportunities of knowing his proceedings almost from day to day and he left no doubt in my mind that he entertained no principle either to influence his heart or to guide his understanding, but vanity ... Taste and elegance ... are of no mean importance in the regulation of life. A moral taste ... infinitely abates the evils of vice. Rousseau, a writer of great force and vivacity, is totally destitute of taste in any sense of the word. Your masters [i.e., the leaders of the Revolution], who are his scholars, conceive that all refinement has an aristocratic character. The last age had exhausted all its powers in giving a grace and nobleness to our mutual appetites, and in raising them into a higher class and order than seemed justly to belong to them. Through Rousseau, your masters are resolved to destroy these aristocratic prejudices.

Edmund Burke – A letter to a member of the National Assembly, 1791

c Use sources B and C and your own knowledge to explain the following concepts (use your own words):

i *Ancien Regime* 2 × 1 [2]

ii Absolute monarchy 2 × 1 [2]

Answer:

Ancient Regime:

Absolute monarchy

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Source A

King Louis XIV, on his deathbed, is reported to have said: *"Je m'en vais, mais l'État demeurera toujours."* ("I depart, but the State shall always remain").

Marquis de Dangeau. "Mémoire sur la mort de Louis XIV

Source C

The view of Edmund Burke – an Irish essayist on Rousseau:
I had good opportunities of knowing his proceedings almost from day to day and he left no doubt in my mind that he entertained no principle either to influence his heart or to guide his understanding, but vanity ... Taste and elegance ... are of no mean importance in the regulation of life. A moral taste ... infinitely abates the evils of vice. Rousseau, a writer of great force and vivacity, is totally destitute of taste in any sense of the word. Your masters [i.e., the leaders of the Revolution], who are his scholars, conceive that all refinement has an aristocratic character. The last age had exhausted all its powers in giving a grace and nobleness to our mutual appetites, and in raising them into a higher class and order than seemed justly to belong to them. Through Rousseau, your masters are resolved to destroy these aristocratic prejudices.

Edmund Burke – A letter to a member of the National Assembly, 1791

d How do sources A and C support or oppose each other? 3 × 1 [3]

Answer:

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Source D

Absolute monarchy: "The rule by the Royal family in which the King had absolute powers for he believed he was only accountable to God."

e Refer to source D to respond to the following questions:

i Extract words from source D that suggest that the source is biased. Any 2 × 1 [2]

Answer

ii Do you think the source can be seen as reliable for a person or historian studying the role of Rousseau as a philosopher? Give reasons for your answer. 1 × 2 [2]

Answer

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Source E

'No person shall be accused, arrested, or imprisoned except in the cases and according to the forms prescribed by law. Any one soliciting, transmitting, executing, or causing to be executed, any arbitrary order shall be punished. But any citizen summoned or arrested in virtue of the law shall submit without delay, as resistance constitutes an offense.'

Article 7 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

Source F

Lettres de cachet were letters signed by the King of France, countersigned by one of his ministers, and closed with the royal seal, or cachet. They contained orders directly from the King, often to enforce arbitrary actions and judgments that could not be appealed. The best-known *lettres de cachet*, however, were penal, by which a subject was sentenced without trial and without an opportunity of defense to imprisonment in a state prison or an ordinary jail, confinement in a convent or a hospital, transportation to the colonies, or expulsion to another part of the realm. The wealthy sometimes bought such *lettres* to dispose of unwanted individuals. In this respect, the *lettres de cachet* were a prominent symbol of the abuses of the *ancien régime* monarchy, and as such were suppressed during the French Revolution.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lettre_de_cachet#cite_ref-0

1.2 Use sources E and F and your own knowledge to answer the following questions:

a Identify differences between sources E and F in terms of:

i content (what they state) 2 X 2 [4]

ii the era in which they operated 2 X 2 [4]

iii whether article 7 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen and all other articles applied equally to all the people of France? Why or why not? 1 x 2 [2]

Answers

I) content (what they state)

II) The era in which they operate

LIVEWORKSHEETS

III) Whether article 7 of the Declaration of the Rights of man and the citizen and all other articles applied equally to all the people of France Why or why not

1.3 Use all the sources and your own knowledge to write a paragraph of about five or six lines on how the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen changed the old order. [5]

[Subtotal: 30]

Answer:

2 Extended writing question

Use all the sources on the next two pages to write a page or two on what life was like under the old order and how it changed after the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. [Subtotal: 20]

Answer:

LIVEWORKSHEETS