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THE RISE OF THE MODERN WEST-I

B.H.I.C.-106

B.A. History (Hons.) - 3rd Semester

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Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

I.G.N.O.U.

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(Publishers of Educational Books)

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MRP ₹ 280/-

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

THE RISE OF THE MODERN WEST-1

B.H.I.C.-106

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** of the following questions. Attempt at least **two** questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

Section-I

Q. 1. Analyse the debate on transition from feudalism to capitalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 16, 'The Beginning of the Debate', Page No. 17, 'Paul Sweezy's Intervention', 'Kohachiro Takahashi and Rodney Hilton in Fray', Chapter-3, Page No. 33, Q. No. 2, Page No. 34, Q. No. 3, Page No. 35, Q. No. 4.

Q. 2. Outline the main trends of the fifteenth-sixteenth century European economy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 66, Q. No. 3, Page No. 67, Q. No. 4.

Q. 3. Discuss the motives that led the Europeans to undertake voyages during 15th and 16th centuries.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 49, Q. No. 1.

Q. 4. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Hobsbawm's concept of Uneven Development.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 18, 'Role of Uneven Development: E.J. Hobsbawm'.

(b) Renaissance Art.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 110, 'Art and Art Forms'.

(c) Achievements in Science during the Renaissance period.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 111, 'Science'.

(d) 17th Century Sugar Revolution.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 82, 'The 17th Century 'Sugar Revolution'.

Section-II

Q. 5. Do you agree that the 16th century saw a major shift in the way trade was conducted across Europe? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 62, 'Trade and Exchange in the 16th Century'.

Q. 6. Write an essay on Western Absolutism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 151, Q. No. 1.

Q. 7. Discuss the development of Renaissance ideas with special reference to humanism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 109, 'Humanism'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Eastern Absolutism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 151, Q. No. 2.

(b) Defining features of Early Modern West.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 5, Q. No. 1.

(c) Rural base of Commercial Revolution.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 92, 'Rural Base of Commercial Revolution'.

(d) Martin Luther.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 121, 'Martin Luther and Protestant Reformation'.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

THE RISE OF THE MODERN WEST-1

B.H.I.C.-106

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** of the following questions. Attempt at least **two** questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. What were the salient features of the Early Modern West?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'The Defining Features of the Early Modern West'.

Q. 2. What do you understand by Renaissance? Assess its impact on literature and philosophy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 108, 'Renaissance: Meaning and Interpretation', Page No. 109, 'Growth of Literature and New Learning' and Page No. 110, 'Political Theory and Philosophy'.

Q. 3. Examine the transition from feudalism to capitalism with special reference to Guy Bois's views.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 30, 'Critique of Brenner's View: Guy Bois's, Chris Herman and Terance J. Byres'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) 17th Century Sugar Revolution.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 82, 'The 17th Century 'Sugar Revolution'.

(b) Western Absolutism in Spain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 146, 'Spain'.

(c) The Annales school on transition to Early Modern European Economy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 66, Q. No. 2.

(d) Machiavelli.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 110, 'Political Theory and Philosophy'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Discuss the emergence of new absolute monarchies in Early Modern West.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 143, 'Emergence of New Absolute Monarchies' and Page No. 151, Q. No. 1.

Q. 6. Was 15th century European economy breaking out of the shackles of Middle Ages? Analyse.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 66, Q.No. 3.

Q. 7. Elucidate the consequences of rise of print culture in Early Modern Europe.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 139, Q. No. 2 and Q. No. 3.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Establishment of Universities in Early Modern West.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 5, 'Social Institutions and Universities'.

(b) Martin Luther's role in Reformation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 121, 'Martin Luther and Protestant Reformation'.

(c) Renaissance Painting.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 113, Q.No. 3.

(d) Slave Trade.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'The Growth of Slave Trade'.

■ ■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

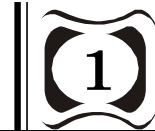
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THE RISE OF THE MODERN WEST-I



Introducing the Early Modern West

INTRODUCTION

Early modern refers to a period between medieval and modern period of history in European history. Modernity involved a change from feudalism to capitalism and from hand crafts to mechanised industrial production. The period saw an alteration in the use of animate form of energy to inanimate fossil fuels as source of energy, from religious uniformity to secularism and freedom of worship, and from dark ages to scientific rational age. It also saw a shift from decentralised polities to centralised nation states and empires and from restricted, elite dominated politics to notions of natural rights, freedom, equality, popular politics, and creation of a public space. The terms – renaissance and reformation – have also been used to refer to the period. Many scholars opposed to the use of term – renaissance – which they said often had more elitist or literary/artistic connotations and which was seldom used in main European countries. Reformation, as a religious reform movement, was more truly a European phenomenon. Peter Burke's *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe* (1972) and *Economy and Society in Early Modern Europe* (1978) and Natalie Zemon Davis's *Society and Culture in Early Modern France* (1975) indicated the wide use of the term, early modern. In this chapter, we will study different features of the early modern west, the printing and commercial revolution and the nature of social structure of the period.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

PROBLEMS OF DEFINING EARLY MODERN WEST

Historians divide periods in different ways. One way is as per the reign of a monarch or family. For

example, Tudor England refers to the period when England was ruled by the Tudor family. Historians also refers to a particular chronological period as a narrative tool such as 'The 1670s', which refers to the decade of the 1670s. Each historical period has some basic features of society, culture, politics and ideas that provide the time an underlying unity and differentiate it from earlier and later periods. Elemental changes happened in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Linguistically, the 'early modern' was the period when 'modern' was introduced and assimilated into English usage. The first publication was *Arithmetical Military Treatise* (1579) which included a long section on 'modern military' matters. The first book in English to have 'modern' in its title was Leonard Digges's. Another conceptual difficulty is related to space or geographical dimension. It is difficult to draw the boundaries of 'the West'. Oceans, seas, mountains and rivers define natural geographical boundaries but there is no natural, geographical feature that clearly marks the East and the West. Each European national history has different trajectories, at least, in terms of political history and episodes and their colonial histories or history of empires are different again. History of the West is a history or rather histories of many different countries. There are a series of discontinuities and divisions instead of a coherent history. The West cannot be separated from the rest of the world. European colonialism has been a part of the history of the West.

THE DEFINING FEATURES OF EARLY MODERN WEST

Early modern West had some defining features. A rekindling of interest in the writings of ancient Greek and Roman scholars emerged. The use of observation as the basis of knowledge was given importance. Called

the Renaissance, these developments led to new idea of liberal humanism which defined men of the West or Europe as maker of their own history, the engineers, creators of empires, and masters of language and knowledge. The new way of observing nature and experimenting as tool of knowledge also emerged. For example, Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) proposed the model of the solar system with the sun at the centre while the planets revolved around it. The new ideas was aided by the development of printing using movable type, devised by Johannes Gutenberg (c.1398-1468) in the 1450s. A significant change in the economy happened with a decline in the number of people holding land under the feudal system. Farmers paid rent in goods or money instead of getting access to land in return for military service or unpaid labour. The Catholic Church was criticised because of its theology and practices and new Protestant churches emerged. Europeans also discovered cultures beyond Europe. Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) led the voyage and the colonisation of the Americas started.

Lack of Single Power Centre

In early modern phase or later when full-fledged modernity emerged in the West, no single power had supremacy for long. A number of power centres were there and there was no political entity with a common purpose. There were city states, small regional states, territorial empires, and later nation-states dominated with none ever gaining total supremacy and none enduring for long. They were different in terms of economy, social structure and culture, but they had significant similarities. There were frequent wars between the various powers of the West but some sort of balance of power system evolved since 1648. Conflicts were there between church and state. The state got an upper hand in a few powerful absolutist states in the early modern period. There was also a lack of single institution/centre within society which could control the entire society.

Strong Tradition of Civil Society

A strong tradition of civil society in the early modern West did not allow a powerful institution within societal order. It was a legacy of the Middle Ages. Feudalism, based on decentralized power structure and a polity of mutual obligation, could not prevent the local powers from winning rights against the nobility and setting limits to the centralization of power. After the emergence of absolute monarchs in a few states, the ruling elites negotiated and shared power with

organized civil society groups such as merchants, craft workers, the intelligentsia, and later organized workers. This segment was most developed particularly in the autonomous cities. The growth of absolutism was held back by the demands of organized guilds and civil society.

The structure of power institutionalized by feudalism gave a foundation to legal and symbolic relations of mutual recognition whereby the ruler had to grant rights to those lower down in return for their obligations. The history of early modern West demonstrate this continuity in the form of civil society movements which played a major role in shaping the direction of societal development. The legality of any political order was always open to questioning from those who did not accept its legitimacy. This undoubtedly had a democratizing effect in the long term. Besides, in the history of Modern West there are many legacies that can be traced back to the Middle Ages. But there are also periodic ruptures which produce change. Within Christianity disputes over the scriptures and ecclesiastical authority were not new. Primary domain of the Church was supposed to be spiritual but it was enjoying wide powers in medieval period in terms of landownership and worldly privileges. So as a powerful social institution entangled in profane world, tensions were bound to emerge, which Max Weber claimed to provide the West with the basic momentum towards rationalism.

Contest between Individual and Collective

The period saw the discovery of the quest for individual, which became central to Christianity and the basis of the Western philosophy and ethics. Ancient civilizations also had the idea of individuality. So, the political implications that followed from the discovery of the idea of individual is notable. The focus on the individual led to the philosophy of liberalism and the capitalist ethic. Another core idea was Calvin's concept of calling. Weber believes that the calling was a new idea, a product of the Reformation, and a Protestant notion. The idea was the valuation of the fulfillment of duty in worldly affairs as the highest form which the moral activity of the individual could assume. This provided every-day worldly a religious significance and the individual was to meet the obligations of his or her position in the world to be acceptable by God. Weber believes while the concept of calling was first developed by Luther, who was not all that friendly to capitalism or the capitalistic spirit. A more traditional view of

INTRODUCING THE EARLY MODERN WEST / 3

economic activity dominated Luther's teachings – opposition to capital and profitmaking and acceptance of one's occupation and work as a divine ordinance. According to Weber, for reformers such as Calvin, the Puritan sects, and for men like Menno, George Fox, and Wesley saw the clearest expression of the Calling in a manner that had connections to the development of the capitalistic spirit. The teachings of these writers were not directed toward ethical culture, humanitarianism, social reform, or cultural ideals.

CULTIVATION OF A GLOBAL ORIENTATION AND THE AGE OF GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATION

The Early Modern West cultivated a global orientation. People intended to move beyond their own homeland. They wanted to negotiate with "others". Some sections of elites became familiar with what was different, and outside home country. Curiosity about other cultures took them further from their home although the 'other' was often seen as something to fear, to attack, to colonise, to dominate or to keep at bay. The West saw an extensive borrowing of the culture of others. The most salient aspects of the Western science and technology were derived from other civilizations. The Western civilization had cross-fertilization from other cultures, especially those of the East and the Mediterranean. Colonial expeditions and expansion of the Western Powers were at the core. In Early Modern West, sophisticated cartographic techniques were developed and that made it possible to think of the world as a globe. The European discovery of America shaped the formation of the Western worldview. The encounter with America took the form of a 'discovery' that challenged the assumptions of a world ordered by Eurasian civilizations. It led to the emergence of the wider category of the West, which ultimately reduced the place and significance of Europe. Portuguese and Spanish sailors aided by the kings of their country explored further. Their main motives were military glory and spread of Christian beliefs besides wealth in the form of silver and gold and controlling spice trade. Technological factors also contributed to their success. Instruments like magnetic Compass, Astrolabe and better cartography and shipping helped them reach new lands where they fulfilled their ambitions. The caravel ship designed by the Portuguese, which they learnt from the Arabs, helped them in exploration. The magnetic compass was invented by the Chinese and Astrolabe by the Greeks. The Age of

Exploration found expression in the phrase 'God, Glory and Gold'.

TRADE, COLONIES AND MERCANTILISM

In the 1500s and 1600s, European nations, led by Portugal and Spain, established many trading posts and colonies in the Americas and the East.

Europeans entered an age of increased international trade with the development of colonies and trading posts. The theory of mercantilism, a set of principles that dominated economic thought in the seventeenth century, developed with colonialism. Mercantilists believed in the prosperity of a nation depended on a large supply of bullion, or gold and silver. Nations tried to have a favourable balance of trade to bring in gold and silver payments.

Governments stimulated export industries and trade to encourage exports. They granted subsidies, or payments, to new industries and improved transportation systems by building roads, bridges and canals. They tried to keep the foreign goods out of their own countries by placing high tariffs, or taxes, on these goods.

THE GROWTH OF SLAVE TRADE

Large scale slave trade emerged as an offshoot of exploration. Slaves were served as domestic servants before the age of exploration. After the Americas was discovered in the 1490s and the establishment of sugarcane plantations, the demand for slaves changed considerably. In the 16th century, plantations, large agricultural farms, were set up along the coast of Brazil and on islands in the Caribbean to grow sugarcane, which led to an increase in demand for labour. African slaves were shipped to Brazil and the Caribbean to work on the plantations. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the trade in slaves multiplied and became part of the triangular trade which connected Europe, Africa and Asia, and the American continents. European merchant ships carried goods, such as guns and cloth, produced in Europe to Africa, where they were traded for a cargo of slaves. The slaves were brought to the Americas and sold. European merchants then bought tobacco, molasses, sugar, and raw cotton and shipped them back to Europe to be sold in European markets. In 16th century, about 275,000 African slaves were exported. Two thousand slaves were brought to the Americas. In the seventeenth century, the number of slave brought increased to over a million and jumped to six million in the 18th century. By that the trade had spread from West Africa and central Africa to East Africa. Between

the early 16th and the late 19th centuries, ten million African slaves were brought to the Americas.

PRINTING AND NETWORKS OF INFORMATION

The development of printing using type provided an additional means of reproducing texts in very large numbers. Books were produced in both cheap and expensive editions. People from across society could get books for reading – the rich, the middling and even some working people. It impacted all areas of life including religion and culture. The arrival of Gutenberg's printing press and movable type made books a mass commodity. Literacy became a mass phenomenon. Printing press introduced new modes of production, transmission and reception of written word. New categories of authors and readers emerged. Libraries were set up. New centres of learning came up. More books were translated. The printing led to better networks of information and the impact could be seen in the development of society.

Printing also played a key role in the acquisition and development of skills that were valuable to merchants and businessmen. It also contributed to the spread of literacy, the accumulation of human capital, and technological change. More broadly, printing press fostered the emergence of dispositions, competencies, and aptitudes reflective of and suited to life in a commercial environment. For merchants engaged in large scale and long-distance trade, numeracy and the ability to keep sophisticated accounts were associated with high returns. Following the invention of movable type printing, European presses produced a stream of commercial arithmetic. The commercial arithmetic of the European renaissance were the first printed mathematics textbooks and were designed for students studying math in preparation for careers in business.

THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN EARLY MODERN WEST

The middle ages had three major social orders – the clergy, the nobility and lower rank of the peasant or serf-cultivators and artisans. The unequal social order was legally recognized and approved by religious-normative order of the society. Within each social strata, there were significant variations in terms of access to wealth, power and resources. For example, nobility was differentiated from within which included kings with big, estates, many castles and palaces to minor nobles with a small estate and may be a single house.

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731), a novelist and social commentator, in an 18th century newspaper, described

the social structure: "The great, who live profusely. The rich, who live very plentifully. The middle sort, who live well. The working trades, who labour hard but feel no want. The country people, farmers, and Co., who fare indifferently. The poor, that fare hard. The miserable, that really pinch and suffer want."

Nobles dominated the social elite in the Early Modern Western society. They owned much of the land and wealth. They were also joined in the social elite by wealthy merchants and bankers. Some merchants were richer than the nobles. Society in the early modern west was also divided along gender lines. Europe in the period had a patriarchal society, where men held greater power than women but it depended on class location. Men dominated the worlds of trade and of politics and women were confined to domestic domain and kitchen. Wealthy women of nobles and rich merchants ran large households, and some of the wives of nobles looked after their husbands' estates in their absence.

COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

The Commercial Revolution consisted of the creation of a European economy based on trade had significant impact on the society. This is reflected in the increase of fairs, the physical growth of cities, the higher production of books and the rise in population and urbanization show this. In 900 C.E., only about 1% of the population in Western Europe were living in cities, but by 1500, the urbanization rate for Western Europe increased to over 8%. The Netherlands and in Belgium recorded more than 10% and 20% increase respectively. The medieval "commercial revolution" was different from the Early Modern commercial or financial "revolutions" in the Low Countries and England which saw the long-term development of the bourse, exchange banks and joint stock companies. The Commercial Revolution is marked by a rise in general commerce, and in the growth of financial services such as banking, insurance and investing. The expansion of long distance trade, international banking, and commercial and industrial partnerships were facilitated by various developments such as cashless transactions using bills of exchange, contracts for marine insurance and advanced bookkeeping techniques including so called "double entry" accounting. The need of merchant credit and lower transaction costs in long distance trade resulted in the use of moneys of account and the creation of the earliest instruments of international finance and the "bill of exchange", which was revolutionary. The issuer could order a distant third party to pay the debt