2023 Edition

WORLD HISTORY

for

UPSC-CSE

& State Civil Service Examinations

With PYQ Analysis &
Topic-wise MCQs for Revision

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Introduction

World history is often the neglected part of UPSC preparation. However, it is also one of the important subjects.

To begin with, it's important to understand that in humanities, it is not possible to make strict compartmentalization. Everything you study can be used anywhere else. History, politics, economy, geography – all of these have bearing on one another. Therefore, a mature study involves a multidimensional approach.

World history then, is not an exception. Good knowledge of world history helps us better understand the Indian freedom struggle. It helps us consolidate our knowledge of geography and the economy. It explains a lot about present international relations. And if you are a student of political science, you cannot understand most of IR without prior knowledge of world history.

A good understanding of world history will improve your answers. It will help in essay writing and also in the interview.

Apart from all the analysis, world history is a highly interesting subject in itself 😀. And you'll never know it unless you read.

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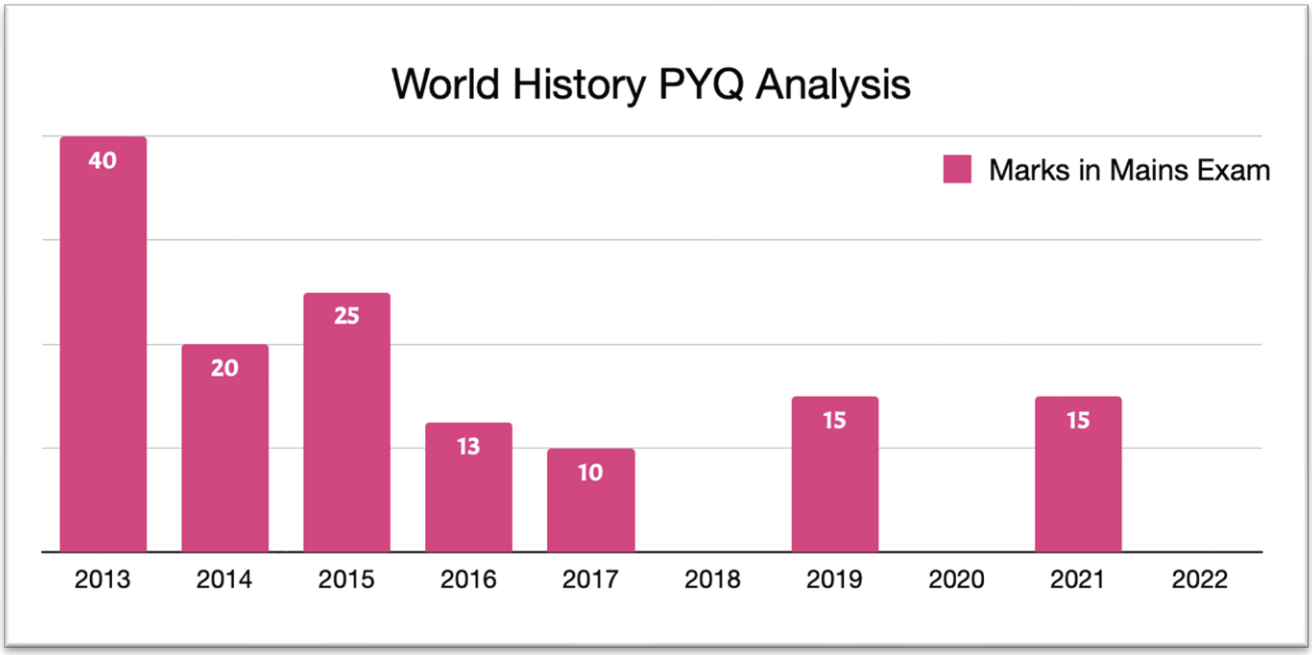
PYQ Analysis

As an independent subject, the importance of World history is not beyond 1-2 questions. The graph below reflects the trend in the last few years. Surprisingly, no question was asked in 2018, 2020 & 2022 on World History. However, since it is part of the syllabus, you can expect a question or two in 2023 Mains.



Previous Year Questions (2013-2022)

1. ” There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars.” Evaluate the statement. [2021/Q13/15m/250w]
2. Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French revolution. [2019/Q13/15m/200w]
3. What problems are germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula? [2017/Q4/10m/150w]
4. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western -educated Africans. Examine. [2016/Q7/12.5m/200w]
5. Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present? [2015/Q6/12.5m/200w]
6. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically [2015/Q7/12.5m/200w]

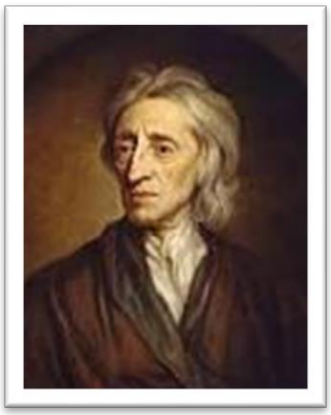
7. What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? [2014/Q8/10m/150w]
8. What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? [2014/Q9/10m/150w]
9. "Latecomer" Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience. [2013/Q11/10m/200w]
10. Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. [2013/Q12/10m/200w]
11. American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. [2013/Q13/10m/200w]
12. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression? [2013/Q14/10m/200w]

Chapter 1] Enlightenment Thinkers

1.1 Enlightenment Thinkers

The enlightenment thinkers were the major profounder of the ideas of the modern world, responsible for many changes which occurred in the European history. Among these prominent thinkers; Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu remained at the forefront during the enlightenment period .

1.1.1 John Locke



John Locke (1632-1704) was an English scholar, popularly called as the father of liberalism. He was known widely for his liberal ideas especially on the right to life, liberty & property. As a scholar, he has also played a crucial role in the European Enlightenment and his ideas form the basis of the US Constitution.

The times of Locke were regarded as the 'dark age'; marked by the lack of scientific temper and the powerful role of the church (religion) - under whose influence, the spirit of questioning was discouraged and even punished at times. Further, the Church owned around 1/3rd of the total land in Europe and could impose taxes on it. It also had the authority to give legitimacy to the rule of king, pass laws or grant pardons to those convicted of the crimes by issuing 'a *letter of comfort/indulgence'*, upon payment of certain fees.

The dawn of age of Enlightenment / Renaissance / Reawakening brought back the spirit of reasoning that questioned the age-old assumptions, otherwise discouraged by the Church.

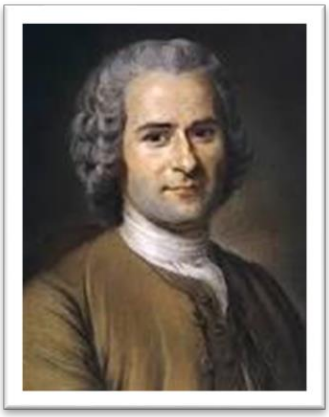
Copernicus, for instance, proposed a Heliocentric (sun at the centre of the universe) model which was in contrast with the geocentric (earth at the centre) model proposed by the Church. In the later years, Galileo invented a Telescope & proved that the model of Copernicus was correct. The Newtonian Physics, the theory of gravitation, and Koch's germ theory of diseases etc. all questioned the traditional teaching of the Church. Consequently, the hegemony of the Church started to slowly fall apart.

The notion of science and society came to be closely interlinked during the enlightenment age; as the scientific developments affect the society to a large extent. For instance, Locke's theory of property formed a background for the 'labour theory of value' with which he tried to answer the important questions like why the State exists and what is the need of the state etc.

Locke also proposed the theory of social contractual state, which was the result of voluntary association of people to protect their pre-existing natural rights namely, the right to life, liberty and property, which the state cannot violate under any circumstances. If the state fails to uphold this responsibility, it could be overthrown by the people in order to establish a new political state. These ideas of Locke found expression in the American Declaration of independence and later in the Indian constitution as well.

1.1.2 Rousseau

> "Without Rousseau, there would not have been a French Revolution"
>
> - Napoleon



Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) was born in France and was a resident of Switzerland. He has provided great pieces of thought through his discourses on inequality and the theory of social contract based on the idea of general will, which further forms the base of the modern political and social thought. Under his theory of social contract, he argued that the people had constructed states to ensure their well-being and if the state fails to ensure well-being, then it can be overthrown. Like John Locke, he also questioned the theory of divine right to rule professed by the Church.

1.1.3 Voltaire

> "I might disagree with your opinion, but I am willing to give my life for your right to express it."
>
> - Voltaire

Voltaire (1694-1778), a French philosopher, was widely known to introduce the thoughts of Newton and Locke to France. He believed above all in the efficacy of reason and argued that the social progress could be achieved only through reason and that no authority—religious or political or otherwise—should be immune to be challenged by reason.

Voltaire also speculated a nexus between the ruling class and the priestly class; and thereby, suggested for its destruction. Similarly, in his theory of secular state, he argued for the need to limit the vast powers of the Church in political and economic affairs as he was of the view that, ***'The ills of Europe can be chiefly attributed to the ideas and teachings propagated by the Church.'***

1.1.4. Montesquieu

> "There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice."
>
> - Montesquieu

Montesquieu (1689-1755), a French Judge by profession, was known as the principal source for propounding the theory of separation of powers which forms a basic part of many constitutions throughout the world.

Montesquieu argued that the problem in Europe were due to a lack of separation of power and their concentration in the hands of a single authority. Therefore, the idea of separation of power and checks and balances was a necessity. Though some were not in favour of the idea due to the possibility of a constitutional breakdown as a result of its implementation, however, it has become a basis of contemporary politics. The works of Montesquieu also inspired the declaration of rights of man and citizen (1789).

1.2. Summary

The age of Enlightenment was a result of the authoritative role played by church in the society which obstructed the growth of ideas based on reason and freedom of speech and expression etc. and also played a crucial in determining the powers of the monarchy.

This dark age gave space for the emergence of new thoughts to rectify the undue powers of the church and provide a free ground for the individual thought to develop, which in the modern times, formed the basis for the development of our constitutions and organisational of our lives along the secular and sovereign lines.

1.3. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who was widely known as the father of liberalism?
   a) Voltaire
   b) John Locke
   c) Hobbes
   d) Rousseau

2. The natural rights comprised of which of the following:
   a) Right to property
   b) Right to life
   c) Right to liberty
   d) All of the above

3. The idea of general will was given by whom?
   a) Rousseau
   b) Hobbes
   c) Montesquieu
   d) Mill

4. The theory of separation of church was propounded by:
   a) Jeremy Bentham
   b) Rawls
   c) Montesquieu
   d) Plato

Answers: 1) b 2) d 3) a 4) c

Chapter. 2] American Revolution (1765-1783)

2.1 Background

In the 16th century, colonization began under the civilising mission aiming to ensure better living and welfare of the people. The European nations such as France, Holland (province of Netherlands), Spain and England, thereby, started making settlements in various places including North America. Further, the colonisation process got an impetus with the beginning of the **Glorious Revolution of 1688** which provided England with a constitutional monarchy, putting some limitations on the king's powers.

Philosophers such as Voltaire considered England's government the most progressive in Europe. However, a growing number of England's colonists in North America accused England of tyrannical rule.

In the 18th century, England drove France out of the eastern part of the American continent and Canada. It had earlier taken New Netherlands from the, Dutch, changing its name to New York.

By the mid-18th century, there were 13 English colonies in North America along the Atlantic Coast. Landless peasants, people seeking religious freedom, traders, and profiteers had settled there. The bulk of the population consisted of independent farmers. Fishing, shipbuilding, and several infant industries in products such as wool, flax, and leather also developed in the north. On the other hand, in the south, large plantations like feudal manors had grown up where tobacco and cotton were grown, which slave labour had brought from Africa.

Each colony had a local assembly elected by qualified voters. These assemblies enacted laws concerning local matters and levied taxes. However, they were still under the rule of the mother country. Towards the end of the 18th century, the colonists (settlers) found the laws of the English government more and more objectionable. The idea of an independent nation grew culminating into a revolutionary war earning then their freedom.

Image: The 13 colonies of England

2.2 Causes of the American War of Independence

2.2.1 Economic causes:

The colonial policy of mercantilism used by England as an ideological and economical tool was the primary cause of resentment in the American colonies. England's policies did not encourage the American colonies to develop an economy of their own.

By 1650, the result of policies started becoming more evident. For instance, through the 1658 Navigation Acts, the English parliament had forbidden colonists to use non-British ships for their trade. Moreover, certain products such as tobacco, cotton and sugar could be exported only to England from American colonies. Heavy duties were imposed on the import of goods in the colonies from other places. The colonies were also forbidden to start certain industries like ironworks and textiles, and the settlers were forced to import these

goods from England. Thus, in every possible way, the growth of industry and trade in the colonies was impeded.

The English also angered the colonists by issuing a proclamation that prevented them from moving west into new lands. English aristocrats had bought lands in America and got rents from the farmers. They wanted to keep the colonists as mere renters.

Further, as a result of continuous wars in Europe, the English government was burdened with debt. It needed money. Thus, in 1756; the English Parliament passed the Stamp Act which imposed stamp taxes on all business transactions in the American colonies. Revenue stamps up to 20 shillings were to be affixed to legal documents and other papers. In1767, Townshend duties (taxes on essential commodities e.g. Sugar, oil etc.) were also imposed. This aroused violent resentment among all sections of the colonists and led them to boycott English goods. There were uprisings in many towns and tax-collectors were killed.

"No taxation without representation."

The colonists claimed that, since the English Parliament had no representatives from the colonies, it had no right to levy taxes on them. The revenue from these taxes was used not in the interests of the colonies but of the English.

2.2.2 Political Causes:

The 1740 – 1763 Anglo-French rivalry reflected itself in American colonies as well. It ended in the Treaty of Paris1763 where the French agreed to withdraw from America and South Asia. The two decades of war was an expensive affair which incurred huge debts on Britain. Thereby, to recover from huge war debt, the British imposed a series of new taxes on American Colonies.

Further, the tax on tea particularly led to trouble. In 1773, several colonies refused to unload the tea coming in English ships. In Boston, when the governor ordered a ship to be unloaded, a group of citizens, dressed as American Indians, boarded the ship and dumped the crates of tea into the water. This incident is famously known as **'the Boston Tea Party'.** Consequently, the English government closed the port of Boston to all trade and precipitated the uprising of the colonies.

Image: Boston tea party incident

The colonists having no representation in British parliament demanded political rights as that of people in Britain. However, the constitutional monarchy in Britain refused to their demands, paving favourable ground for their rebellion.

> "That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part."
>
> - Thomas Jefferson

2.2.3 Role of Philosophers:

The American revolutionaries were inspired by the ideas of the English philosophers of the 17th century such as Locke, Harrington, and Milton etc. who believed that men had certain fundamental rights which no government had the right to infringe. The American revolutionary thinkers especially Thomas Jefferson were also inspired by the writings of French philosophers. Jefferson, thereby, asserted the colonists' right to rebellion and encouraged their desire for independence.

> Being equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions.
>
> - John Locke

2.4 Declaration of Independence:

The representatives of the 13 American colonies met as a group in what is called the First Continental-Congress at Philadelphia in 1774. This Congress appealed to the English King to remove restrictions on industries and trade and not to impose any taxes without their consent. However, the King declared their action as a mutiny and ordered the troops to be sent to suppress it. As a response, the colonies planned for military defence with local troops or militia. Thus, in1775, the first battle of the revolution was fought when a thousand British soldiers met the colonial militia.

In the declaration on 4 July 1776, the Second Continental Congress asserted that "all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

The Declaration advanced the principle that the people are the source of authority and affirmed the people's right to set up their own government. It also stated that the American colonies had been oppressed by the English government and that these United Colonies have the right to be free and independent states.

Up to this time, the colonists had been fighting for their rights as Englishmen. After the Declaration in 1776, they fought for their right to be an independent nation. And the day of 4th July came to be known as American Independence Day.

Image: Presentation of second draft of declaration of Independence.

2.5 War of Independence:

During the course of war, George Washington was put in the command of the American forces. The first battle took place in and around Boston. The English sent a force to Canada with the plan to march it south to meet another English force, and so cut the American colonies in half. However, the plan failed to be implemented in its full swing because as soon as the English marched towards the south, the Americans met and defeated them. This victory of the rough American militia men against a trained British force gave the Americans much need confidence to fight the British army.

Moreover, to embarrass England, its old enemy France came forward to help the colonies with troops, supplies and funds. While other enemies of English—Spain and Holland—were soon fighting the English elsewhere.

Meanwhile, trouble was also brewing for Britain at home. There was a threat of rebellion in Ireland; and some leaders in Parliament were too opposing the war with the colonists.

Ultimately, the war ended in 1781 when the English commander, Cornwallis, (later to become governor-general in India), surrendered. Two years later, in 1783, the **Treaty of Paris** was signed and the English recognised the independence of its 13 former colonies.

2.6 Impact of American revolution:

The American Revolution had a huge impact on the erstwhile global politics. The American defeat of a mighty empire like Britain encouraged other colonies to do the same. The American Revolution also influenced the French revolution.

Moreover from now onwards, the United States of America had an official constitution, or book of rules on how the country should be governed. It also had a Bill of Rights that guaranteed certain rights and freedoms to its citizens. These documents helped to spread the democracy around the world.

In the US, the realization that Westward Expansion was now possible altered perceptions from the level of the individual family to National Policy. The rejection of Aristocracy also started a swing between extremes of Privilege and the Deification of the Common Man. This also led to the separation of church and state; and the increased importance of education to democracy.

Thus, as a result, from 1776 to 1850, America expanded from 13 states to 50 states.

2.7 Summary:

The American Revolution began in 1775 as an offshoot to the imperial and mercantile interests of England leading to the colonization of America. The presence of England resulted into domination and suppression of indigenous people, denying them necessary social-political and economic rights in parity with their English counterparts. This raged the people and the colonization finally ended with the rise of enlightenment scholars such as Locke, Milton and Jefferson who along with the occurrence of French revolution, on the other side, encouraged the demand for equal rights and an independent democratic order in the colonies, leading ultimately to the war for independence and the formation of the United States of America.

2.8 Multiple Choice Questions:

1. The glorious revolution of 1688 provided England:
   a) Republican form of government
   b) Constitutional monarchy
   c) Authoritarian government
   d) Monarchical government

2. The Anglo- French rivalry ended into:
   a) Treaty of Versailles
   b) Treaty of Westphalia
   c) Treaty of Paris
   d) Treaty of peace

3. Which of the following is the economic cause for American revolution?
   a) England favoured the rise of big industries in America.
   b) Encouragement of trade
   c) Distortion of trade and imposition of undue taxes
   d) Land revenue system

4. What is Boston tea party incident?
   a) The dumping of tea into sea by American Indians.
   b) The establishment of tea plantation in Boston.
   c) Protest in Boston due to imposition of tax on tea.
   d) Occurrence of violence due to tea trade.

5. Who encouraged colonists right to rebellion?
   a) Milton Friedman
   b) Voltaire
   c) Thomas Jefferson
   d) Edmund Burke

6. The declaration of independence came on:
   a) 4 July 1774
   b) 4 July 1776
   c) 8 March 1775
   d) 8 March 1176

Answer: 1) b 2) c 3) c 4) a 5) c 6) b

Chapter 3] American Civil War

Image: American Civil War

3.1 Background

The American Civil War, also known as the War Between the States, was one of the worst wars in the American history which was fought between the northern and southern states of the nation.

After independence in 1776, the northern states constituting the areas north of Pennsylvania and the southern states comprising the territories south of Maryland developed along different lines.

The South was primarily agriculturalist and the climate was favourable for the growth of the plantation products like cotton (important crop mainly exported to mills in England), tobacco, sugarcane and indigo etc. Thereby, the planters in the south required the cheap labour to be supplied through the slaves from Africa who served both as a necessity and as an indicator of the social status for the people of the southern states.

The North, on the other hand, had a different economic structure. Between 1815- 1860, an industrial revolution marked its onset in the north. Hence, the development of the industries gave rise to a social system in which the free workers could thrive. The northern states, moreover, did not need slave labour in their industries and did not approve of slavery.

Thus, there was a fundamental difference in the socio-economic systems that the two halves of the country followed. The differences between the northern and the southern states became so pronounced that a civil war broke out in 1861.

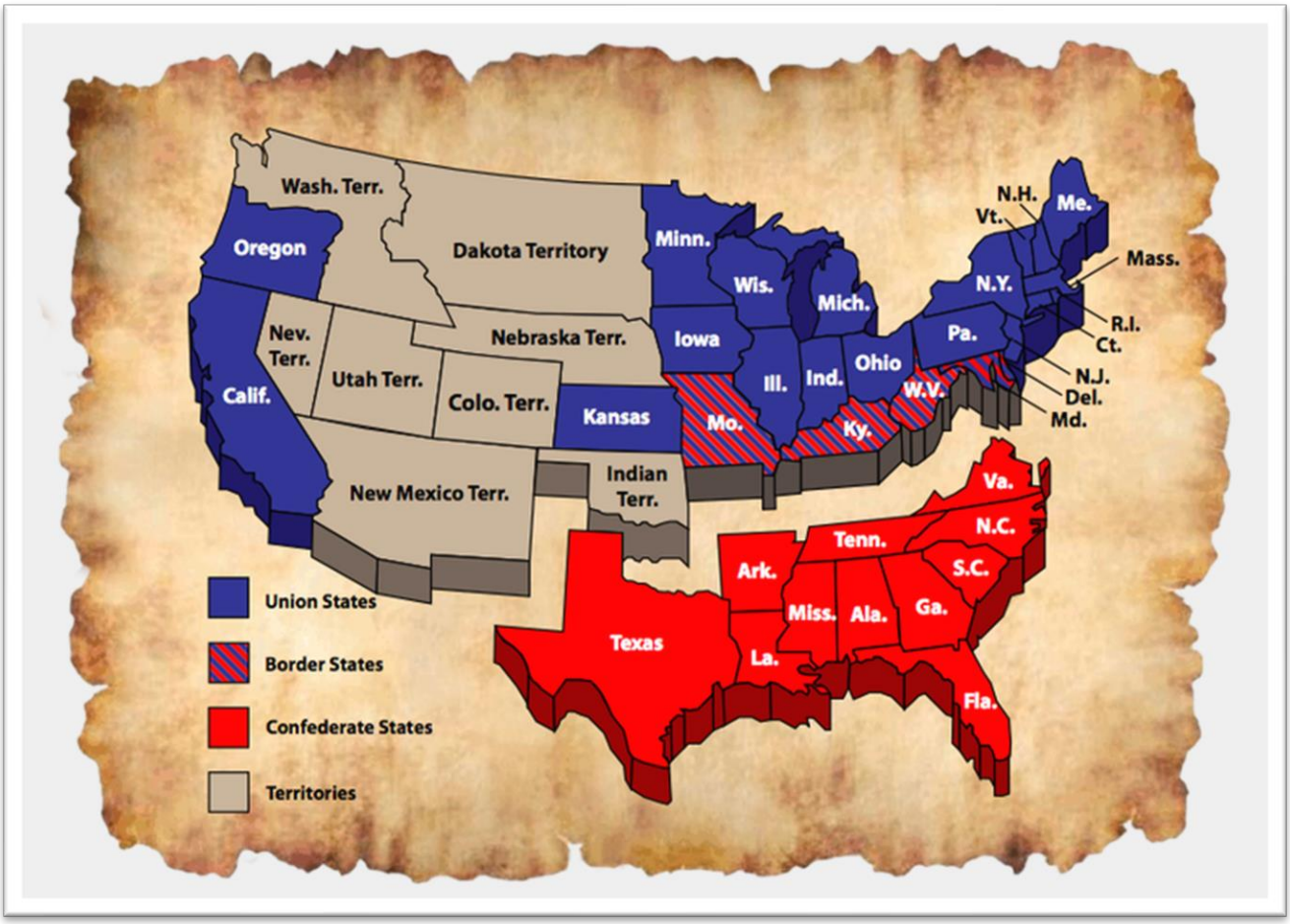


Image: Map representing areas of American civil war

The Civil War started when a group of the slave states of the south founded the Confederate States of America with Jefferson Davis as its president while the northern states under the presidency of Abraham Lincoln were totally against the notion of slavery.

Thus, one day the southern states opened fire on the Fort Sumter, forcing Lincoln to declare war on them. Although the Confederates won some of the early battles, however, the Union defeated the southern states in 1865 while marking the end of civil war.

3.2 Causes of the Civil War:

3.2.1 Prevalence of slavery

The controversy that started over the question of the abolition of slave labour culminated in a civil war between the North and the South. The interests of the planters in the south who were dependent on the slaves for cheap labour directly clashed with the industrial interests of the north who held opposite views and opposed slavery.

The north believed that the growth of industries in the region demanded cheap and skilled labour which was unlikely to be provided by slavery. Given their inhumane treatment, the slaves were inherently rebellious and difficult to discipline. It was because of this reason that their displeasure resulted in the violent protests.

Apart from the economic reasons, social justice also demanded the abolition of slavery.

Slaves in America were treated very cruelly. They had no family life and were treated as a movable property by their owners. If a slave ever attempted to run away and was caught, he was punished brutally. Such practices were considered as a black spot on the American society whose constitution guaranteed equal status to everybody. In northern states, the slavery was abolished in 1804 itself and they became the 'free states'. Hence, a strong movement for the abolition of slavery throughout USA began in the northern states.

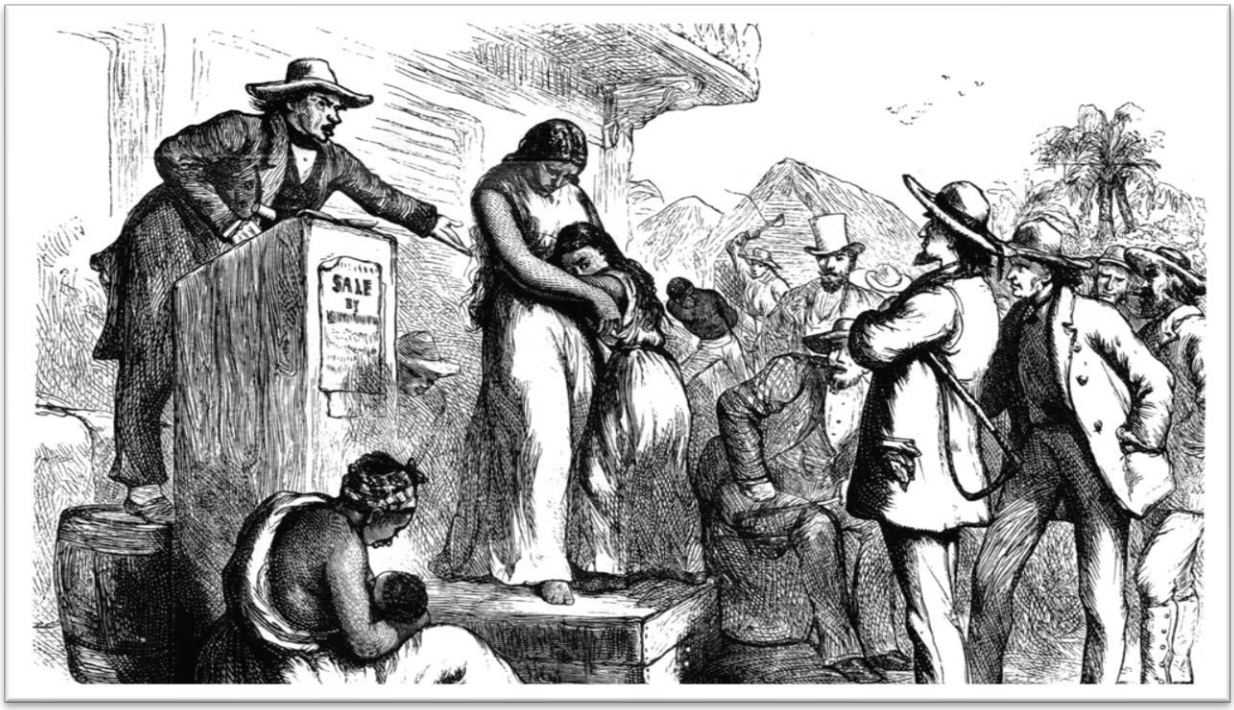


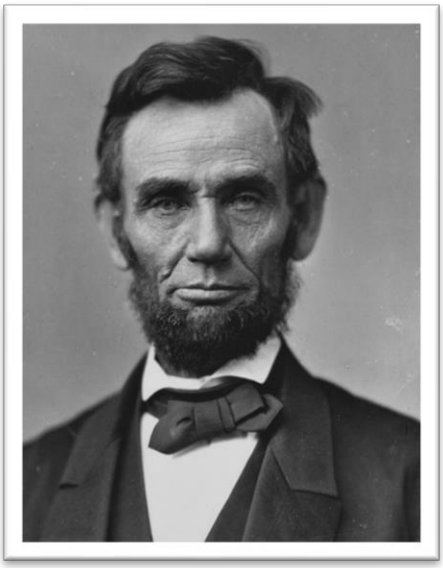
Image: Slavery in Southern America

Some of the writers such as Mary Chestnut and Stephen Crane published books severely denouncing slavery. For instance, the 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' written by Harriet Bucher (1852) was a stirring tale depicting the horrors of slavery and the miseries of the slaves. These writers helped to arouse the popular indignation against the institution of slavery. The movement called for the correction of the controversial Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

3.2.2 Role of Abraham Lincoln

> "A house divided against it cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."
>
> - Abraham Lincoln

The election of Abraham Lincoln as the President of the United States of America and the right of secession of the Southern States from the Union were the two major factors responsible for the outbreak of the Civil War.



Abraham Lincoln contested the election to the Senate as a candidate opposed to slavery and eventually won the election as the President of the United States in 1860. Lincoln's victory in elections precipitated conflict as the southern states declared their intention to secede from American Union during this period.

Anticipating that the President Lincoln would emancipate the slaves; seven Southern States seceded from the union and formed a separate union called the Confederate States of America, threatening the unity of America. However, the President Lincoln was determined to save the Union and believed that no state could lawfully leave the Union. Thus, on the issue of secession, the Civil War broke out in 1861 and in 1863 Lincoln abolished slavery in the south.

Interestingly, the civil war was not fought on the issue of slavery but on the demand of withdrawal by southern states from the Union.

3.3 End of civil war

After a prolonged war for four years, the southern army was completely defeated. The Confederate army under General Lee surrendered to General Grant of the Union in April 1865. Thus, the Civil War came to an end, the unity of America was restored and the practice of slavery was abolished.

Unfortunately, a few days after the peace, the President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a sympathizer of the Southern States.

3.4 Significance of the American Civil War:

Like all the wars fought in the history, the American civil war too left various lessons to be learnt for the upcoming generations of America in particular and the world in general.

Firstly, for all the time to come, the war settled the question whether states could withdraw from the Union. However, the doctrine of the state sovereignty was laid to rest and the supremacy of the nation was vindicated; and hence, the Union was declared to be perpetual.

The Civil War also strengthened the foundations of the United States by resolving the North-South tension permanently.

The slavery was abolished everywhere in America and the provision was added in the constitution, with passage of the 13th Amendment which prohibited the enactment of discretionary laws against African Americans.

The southern states, now, lay in ruins as the plantations were badly affected. However, the situation created the space for new business to emerge in the south marking the beginning of the new age of industrial growth. A special economic package for the new phase of industrialization in the southern states was also launched to decrease the dependence of the southern states on the slave labour.

Moreover, the American civil war brought about an abolition of slavery, blacks were still not provided with the equal voting rights and the segregation in public places also continued which eventually resulted in the American Civil Rights movement of 1950s and 60s.

3.5 Summary:

The American civil war was a result of the conflict among the northern and southern states of America over the question of slavery and the withdrawal of the south from the union, accompanied by the social and economical differences prevalent in the societies of these states.

The southern states, however, lost the ground and were made to turn towards the era of industrial growth and new businesses. The 13th amendment was also made in the constitution which leads to the abolition of slavery in American mainland.

3.6 Multiple Choice Questions:

1. The main reason of conflict in America was:
   a) Prevalence of slavery
   b) Demand of withdrawal from union
   c) Both a and b
   d) None of the above

2. Which crop dominates the interiors of southern states?
   a) Tobacco
   b) Millets
   c) Sugarcane
   d) Cotton

3. Uncle Tom's cabin book highlights which situation:
   a) Brutal bloodshed in America
   b) The condition of slaves
   c) The industrial revolution
   d) Works done by Abraham Lincoln

4. Confederates states of America represented:
   a) The American union as a whole
   b) The northern states
   c) The southern states
   d) African Americans

5. Which amendment is related to abolition of slavery?
   a) 13^{th} amendment
   b) 11^{th} amendment
   c) 1^{st}amendment
   d) 24^{th} amendment

Answers: 1) c 2) d 3) b 4) c 5) a

Chapter 4] The Industrial revolution (1760-1840)

4.1 Background

Towards the end of the medieval era, feudalism was on decline as a model of economic system. It was because of the ideas of Renaissance and the increased growth in trade and the rise of the new towns and cities which stimulated the production of the manufactured goods.

The traditional methods also proved to be futile in fulfilling the demands of the people. Consequently, in the latter half of the 18th century, on this background there began a series of changes that revolutionised the production techniques and organisation. The term 'Industrial Revolution' was used to describe these developments in the production models, which were rapid and had far-reaching effects on the society.

The Industrial revolution primarily began from the textile sector in the 1760s but soon spread, during the 19th century, to other sectors of the British economy like the Iron & steel sector and other consumer goods. The 19th century also saw its spreads to other parts of Europe, e.g. France, Prussia, the USA &Japan, which marked the second phase of the

industrial revolution. It, however, took almost a century to bring a complete change in the methods of mass production.

Many people also were of the view that though the Industrial revolution had profound consequences for the social, political and economic global order; it was more of a revolutionary idea (gradual change) than are evolutionary one.

4.2 Factors responsible for the industrial revolution:

4.2.1. Technological advances:

The machines began to take over some of the work of men and animals in the production of goods and commodities, and due to this reason the Industrial Revolution came to be known as the beginning of a 'machine age'.

The new machines such as the steam engine came to be increasingly used in the factory system in place of manual power and simple tools. This made it possible to produce goods on a huge scale.

Further, the invention of power loom made it possible for England to produce a more delicate and cheaper thread than that could be produced with older techniques. The cotton Gin also could now separate the seeds from cotton over three hundred times faster than that by hand.

With the increasing benefits of the machines, their demand also grew and the blast furnaces became busier. The invention of the blast furnace and later the methods of turning the low-grade iron into steel meant that now the English industries could produce steel at a much cheaper cost. Further, the presence of large amount of iron and steel in the country itself contributed to the rise of industries in England.

4.2.2. Political factors:

Politically, Britain's colonial expansionist policies provided an assured market for the goods produced in the England. This aided the rise of the British capitalist class, apart from providing an assured supply of raw materials. The British political policies also emphasised the rule of law, the right to property and a Laissez-faire approach, ensuring a safe political environment for the rise of Industries. Such favourable political factors were missing in South Asia and China with their largely monarchical set-up and little emphasis on the rule of law or right to property.

4.2.3. Economic affairs:

Europe and primarily Britain dealt with a high cost of labour which was often ten times higher than its South Asian counterpart. This increased production cost and forced them to look for methods to increase the labour productivity, including mechanisation. However, such push factors were not visible in South Asia or China where an abundant cheap supply of labour and raw materials was present. On the other side, with its ample supply of cheap good quality coal near the surface, Britain also had an assured supply of energy sources critical for the industrial revolution.

4.4.4. Social and cultural factors:

The enlightenment thinking often focused upon the rationality and reason to pursue material growth as an end in itself. However, South Asia saw the rise of several culture or religions which emphasised the otherworldly beliefs. For instance, with its emphasis on Confucianism, the Chinese society emphasised textual knowledge and competence over the material growth.

These ideas acted as a bedrock for the technologically growth in Britain in some or the other ways.

4.4.5 England as the first site of industrial revolution

Due to the existence of several specific geographical and political factors, the 18th century England was most favourably placed for an industrial revolution.

Through overseas trade, including the trade in slaves, the Kingdom of Britain had accumulated vast profits, which could provide the necessary capital to finance such ventures. In the trade rivalries of European countries also, England had emerged as a winner. It had acquired colonies all over the world that ensured a regular supply of raw materials.

Further, after the disappearance of the serfdom system, people were no longer tied to the land and master. They were free to do any job they could find. In the enclosure movement during the 18th century, the big land-owners consolidated their land-holdings while small peasants were ousted. This created a situation of unemployment on a vast scale; however, there was no shortage of labour to work in the factories.

As a result of the revolution of the 17th century, a stable system of government had been established. The government was no longer under the domination of the feudal classes.

The capitalist class acquired more political power and the danger of government interference was significantly reduced.

England also had plenty of natural resources, such as iron and coal, essential for the industries. This saved England from many difficulties which the other regions faced. By the 18th century, England had developed a large shipping industry and had no transportation problem.

During those times, no other country enjoyed all these advantages at the time. While some regions suffered from a lack of capital or natural resources, others had an unfavourable political system. Many of the European countries had agrarian economies and lived under traditional political systems. Some regions like Italy and Germany were not even united and suffered from many economic restrictions.

4.3 Impact of the industrial revolution:

4.3.1 Unplanned Urbanisation:

An immediate consequence of the rise of the new industrial sector in Britain was that it gave a significant push to the new urban centres. However, this form of urbanisation was predominantly unplanned and marked by the proliferation of slums, lack of safe water supply, sanitation, and air pollution. All this negatively affected the standard of living in these urban industrial centres, even though the production of consumer commodities increased significantly.

4.3.2 Growth of Railways:

The growth of industrialisation in Britain also witnessed a rapid expansion of the Railway network as a chief instrument to transport the goods and raw materials cheaply over long distances. By 1860, Britain had a 6000-mile long Railway network. Moreover, the spread of the industrial revolution resulted in the rapid rise in the Railway network across major industrial economies as well.

4.3.3 Colonialism:

The colonial rivalry and search for colonies intensified during the 1850s and 1900 between the major European powers such as Britain, France, Italy, Germany and even among the emerging Asian countries like Japan in search of an assured market for their industrial economies.

4.3.4 Agriculture revolution:

During the industrial revolution, several changes were brought in the agriculture sector. The cropping pattern, methods of sowing and harvesting were altogether changed. Consequently, the food production increased and the cash crops now provided essential raw materials for industries.

New farm machine was also invented. It included the steel plough and harrow for breaking the ground, the mechanical drill for seeding and the horse-drawn cultivator to replace the traditional hoe. There were machines for reaping and threshing too.

4.3.5 Transport revolution:

The need to transport raw materials and manufactured products led to the improvement of roads and digging of canals in England and other countries. Mc Adam devised the method of making pakka or 'macadamized' roads. The canals were also come out to be a big help in providing cheaper transportation, especially after steamboats came into use.

4.3.6 Growth of workers union:

Politically, a major push was seen towards the rise of the militant trade unionism. The working class rose in protest against the low wages, long work hours and the absence of pensions. The working class also demanded political voting rights in Britain from 1830s onwards with the beginning of the Chartist movement.

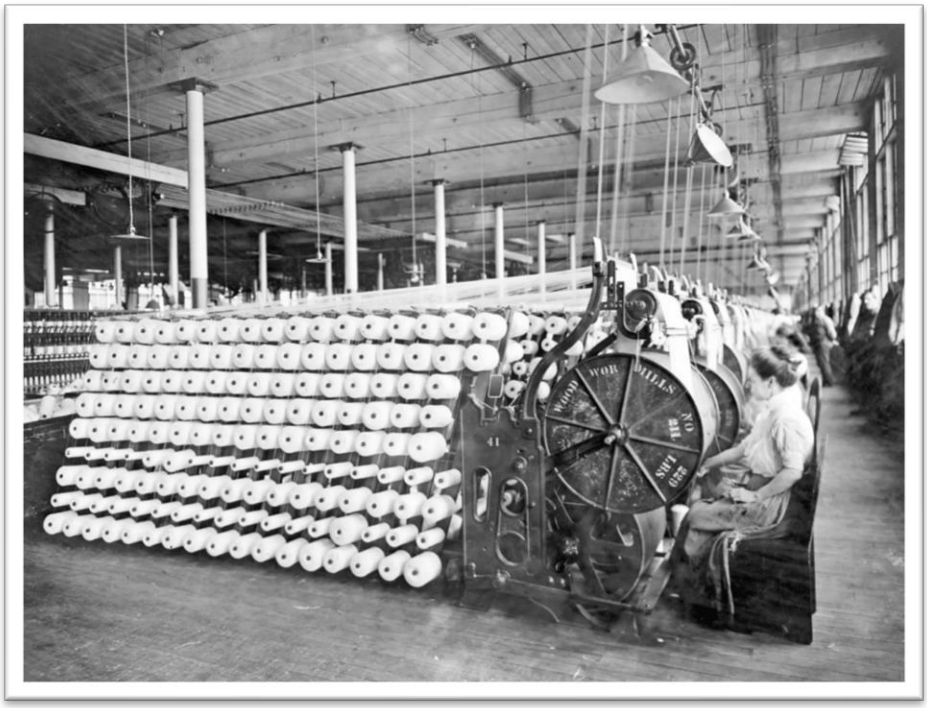
4.3.7 Ethics of consumerism:

The industrial revolution gave a boost to the ethics of consumerism and upheld it as a valuable social ideal that was respected in the western societies.

4.4 Impact of the industrial revolution in India:

Before the beginning of the industrial revolution, India used to shine in the world chart for its cotton textile industry. Its cloth used to get exported to different parts of the world, including today's Europe, America and the Middle East etc. India is documented to have dominated the world's cotton textile markets during the 1750s, as the production was of high quality and low price. It is not a matter of surprise that at the end of the 17th century, Indian calicoes were popular in Britain too. However, things changed after the industrial revolution.

The discovery of steam power and its industrial use from the year 1815 onwards created a threat to the Indian textile industry. The spinning mule and power loom became more efficient and effective because of the steam power. It reduced the cost of British cotton by 85% and made it internationally competitive. Consequently, by the year 1820, Britain became the leading producer of cloth in the world.



However, the industrial revolution was not without severe consequences for the society. Farmers were now forced to grow cash crops in place of food crops. Eventually, this resulted in awfully deadly famines in the subcontinent.

In the industrial sector, to increase the production, the factory owners used to hire unskilled labour, particularly women and children, to run the machine. At the tender age of 6 years, many children were already working 14 hours a day in factories.

As a result of the industrial revolution, the urban cities also started getting overcrowded day by day.

However, there were some positive effects of the industrial revolution as well in the society. The introduction of the assembly line, usage of electricity and the development of railroads etc., contributed to a faster and more economical production of goods. The fund for schools and the enactment of child labour laws also came into place eventually.

The industrial revolution also enhanced both economic production and the new lifestyle of the common people. It introduced modernity to a traditional society. Over the period, the impact of the industrial revolution has not faded and only become more pronounced as we move ahead.

To sum up, in the words of Karl Marx,

*"*The treasures captured outside Europe by undisguised looting, enslavement, and murders floated back to the mother country and were turned into capital."

4.5 Summary:

The industrial revolution began in the late 1760s marks an astonishing change in the patterns of production as well as the socio-economic and political structure of our society. It replaced the age of hand to the age of machines whereby handlooms and steam engines aided the mass production of goods and services.

However, though at one stance it helped the people with the introduction of railways and revolutions in the patterns of transportation and agriculture, on the other hand, it led to unplanned urbanisation and paved way for the forces of colonisation and imperialism to occur as the goods produced needs a large scale market to sell them at profitable prices.

4.6 Multiple Choice Questions:

1. The industrial revolution shifts the production process to:
    a) Machine made mass production
    b) Hand made goods
    c) Both a and b
    d) None of the above

2. The British government adopted which model of growth:
    a) Lassiez faire policy
    b) State controlled
    c) Mixed economic model
    d) None of the above

3. The policies adopted by the British political parties during the age of industrial revolution includes:
    a) Rule of law
    b) Right to property
    c) Both a and b
    d) None of the above

4. What impacts does the industrial revolution posed on the agriculture sector:
    a) Boosted production of cash crops
    b) Achieving self-reliance in food
    c) Degraded production quality
    d) Old methodologies of production were restored.

Answers: 1) a 2) a 3) c 4) a