

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CLASS – 11 HISTORY

CHAPTER- 7 PATHS TO MODERNISATION

Question 1.

Discuss the important part of Meiji reform of the economy.

Answer:

The important part of the Meiji reform was the modernisation of the economy. Following steps were taken for this:

- Japan's first railway line, between Tokyo and the Port of Yokohama was built in 1870-72.
- Funds were raised by levying an agricultural tax.
- Textile machinery was imported from Europe and foreign technicians were also employed to train workers and also to teach in universities and schools. Japanese students were also sent to abroad.
- In 1872, modern banking institutions were also launched.
- Companies like Mitsubishi and Sumitomo were also helped through subsidies and tax benefits to become major shipbuilders so that Japanese trade was carried through Japanese ships.
- The number of industrial labourer in Japan was 700,000 in 1870 CE which reached upto four million in 1913. Most of the labourers worked in units having less than 5 people.
- By 1925, 21 per cent of the population lived in cities. By 1935, this figure had gone upto 32 per cent.

Question 2.

Japan's transformation into a modern society can also be seen in the changes in everyday life. Comment.

Answer:.

Japan's transformation into a modern society can also be seen as the changes in everyday life. Patriarchal system was in practice. The patriarchal household system comprised many generations living together under the control of the head of the house. More people became affluent. New ideas of the family spread. The new home (Homu as the Japanese say) was that of the nuclear family, where husband and wife lived as breadwinner and homemaker. This new concept of domesticity in turn generated demands for new types of domestic goods, new types of family entertainments, and new forms of housing. In the 1920's, construction companies made cheap housing available for a down payment of 200 yen and a monthly installment of 12 yen for ten years. It was at that time when the salary of a bank employee (a person with higher education) was 40 yen per month.

Question 3.

When was CCP founded? What was Russian influence in its formation?

Discuss the role of Mao Zedong in it?

Answer:

The CCP was founded in 1921 soon after the Russian Revolution. The Russian success exercised a powerful influence around the world and leaders such as Lenin and Trotsky went on to establish the Comintern or the Third International in March 1918. It was done to bring about a world government that would end exploitation. The Comintern and the Soviet Union supported Communist parties around the world. They worked within the traditional Marxist understanding that revolution would be brought about by the working class in cities. Its initial appeal across national boundaries was immense. It soon became a tool for Soviet interests and was dissolved in 1943. Mao Zedong (1893-1976), emerged as a major CCP leader. He took a different path by basing his revolutionary programme on the peasantry. His success made the CCP, a powerful political force that ultimately won against the Guomindang.

Mao Zedong's radical approach can be seen in Jiangxi, in the mountains, where they camped from 1928 to 1934, secure from Guomindang attacks. A strong Peasants Council (Soviet) was organised, united through confiscation and redistribution of land. Mao, unlike other leaders, stressed the need for an independent government and army. He was quite aware of women's problems and supported the emergence of rural women's associations. He also promulgated a new marriage law that forbade arranged marriage, stopped purchase or sale of marriage contracts and simplified divorce.

Question 4.

How did Japan re-emerge as an economic power of world after the defeat in Second World War?

Answer:

After its defeat in Second World War, the Japanese efforts of making a colonial empire ended. The nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It resulted in huge destruction of masses. Many people thought that it was done just to shorten the war. Japan was totally demilitarised during American occupation. The new constitution also came into being. Agricultural reforms were also done. Re-organisation of trade unions were also done. Political parties were also revived and the first post-war elections held in 1946 where women voted for the first time.

After the defeat of Japan in the Second World War, Japanese economy also revived. It grew at a fast pace. Constitution was also democratised. There was close relation between the government, bureaucracy and industry. American support to Japan strengthened its economy. Olympic Games were also held at Tokyo in 1964. It was the symbol of maturity of Japanese economy. Bullet trains were also started in 1964. It ran at the speed of 200 miles per hour. The introduction of bullet train added a new feather in its cap. It also introduced better goods at cheaper rates in the market.

Question 5.**Discuss the achievements of Deng Xiaoping.****Answer:**

After the death of Mao in China, the struggle for power broke out in which Deng Xiaoping emerged victorious. During the cultural revolution, he was dismissed from the office of the Secretary General of the party for having too liberal views. His achievements may be summed up in the following ways:

- All the changes made during the cultural revolution were reversed.
- The democratically elected parties took the place of revolutionary committees.
- Confiscated property was restored to the descendants of the actual owners.
- The people were granted religious freedom and intellectuals were free to express their views.
- In the economic sector, Deng and his follower Hu Yaobang took various steps to encourage investment by the western entrepreneurs for the modernization of industries, agriculture, science and technology in China.
- In 1980, China also became the member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Many agricultural reforms were also introduced.
- The state owned collective forms were given more powers in the matters of administration and planning.
- The practice of giving bonus and dividend was encouraged.
- Taxes were reduced to encourage production. As a result of these reforms, there was a gradual increase in food production and the per capita income.

Question 6.**Discuss the features of the nationalist movement in China during the post-First World War.****Answer:**

There were two governments in China after the end of the First World War. One of the government was controlled by Guomindang, at its headquarter in Canton. The president of this government was Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The other government was led by a military general. It had its headquarter at Beijing. Paris Peace Conference's decision to hand over Shantung to Japan led to an anti-imperialist upsurge in 1919. A great demonstration was held in China on 4th May, 1919. It spread into various parts of China. It took the form of a movement. Its main aim was to save China through modern science, democracy and nationalism. They wanted to remove inequality and reduce poverty. Their aim was also to bring economic development. The Russian Revolution had also a great impact on the nationalist movement of China. Communist Party was formed in 1921. Dr. Sun Yat-sen could not garner the support of western countries. Therefore, he took the help of Soviet Union. The Guomindang and the Chinese Communist Party came together in 1924. Military academy was also set up with the help of Soviet military and political advisers. The Chinese national revolutionary army launched its operations against the warlords.

Question 7.

Discuss the causes of the failure of nationalists against the communists.

Answer:

Causes of the failure of nationalists:

- There was lack of unity among the members of Guomindang. They continued to quarrel among themselves and were corrupt too. On the contrary, the Communists were very disciplined.
- Chiang Kai-shek also failed to provide good leadership to the nationalists.
- The government set up by the nationalists failed to control the prices.
- Chiang Kai-shek followed the traditional method of rule. Therefore, his government could not gain popularity.
- Communists organised themselves into trained army. Therefore, they succeeded in defeating nationalists.

Question 8.

Discuss the causes of the decline of the Shoguns.

Answer:

Causes of the decline of the Shoguns were the following:

- Shoguns followed the policy of favoritism.
- Only the members of the Tokugawa family were appointed to the post which spread the feelings of ill-will among other feudal lords, who resolved to bring an end to the Shogun's rule.
- Japan's economy received a severe blow due to the wrong economic policies of the Shoguns.
- The condition of the peasant was very miserable during their rule. Taxes were collected forcibly.
- A new class of merchant came into prominence. Feudal fraternity grew jealous of them. To put an end to their humiliation, the merchants wanted to do away with Shogun rule.

Question 9.

What do you understand by the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution?

Answer:

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of 1965 was the result of the conflict between the Maoists and those who objected his ideology. Students and the army started a campaign against old culture and customs. Students and professionals were sent to distant areas to learn from the common people. It was more important to be a communist. With cultural revolution, there was a complete turmoil in the country. Economic and educational system were disrupted.

Question 10.

The rebuilding of the Japanese economy after its defeat was considered to be a post-war 'miracle'. Why?

Answer:

The rebuilding of the Japanese economy after its defeat was considered to be a post-war 'miracle' due to the following reasons:

- The Japanese had a historic tradition of popular struggles and intellectual engagement how to broaden political participation.
- The social cohesion of the previous years was strengthened. It allowed for a close working of the government, bureaucracy and industry.
- US support, as well as the demand created by the Korean and the Vietnamese wars also helped the Japanese economy.