

# 2 SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Points have to be explained if necessary)

1. Before 1917 in what ways was the working population in Russia different from that of other countries in Europe ? Explain. (2016,2015,2012)

**Ans.** - Russian workers divided into Social groups.  
- They were divided by skill.  
- They had strong ties with their villages.

2. Describe the factors which led to the collapse of Tsarist autocracy in 1917. (2016)

**Ans.** a) Initially the war was popular but as casualties grew, people turned against the war.  
b) The Tsar was very autocratic and refused to consult the other parties.  
c) The Tsarina's German origins and her reliance on a man called Rasputin made the autocracy unpopular.  
d) The Duma was suspended. There were strikes and demonstrations.  
e) The Tsar was advised by military commander to abdicate.

3. What triggered CIVIL War in Russia ? (2016,2012)

**Ans.** - With Bolsheviks ordering land distribution Russian army began to break up.  
- Soldiers, mostly peasants went home for redistribution.  
- Non Bolsheviks socialist, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned Bolshevik uprising :  
- Their leaders moved to south Russia and organized troops to fight the Bolsheviks (The 'reds').  
- During 1918-1919 the 'greens' (socialists) and the 'whites' (Pro Tsarists) controlled most of the Russian empire.

4. Summarize the economic condition of the people in Russia in 20th century. (2016)

**Ans.** 1) At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century the vast majority of Russia's people were agriculturists.  
2) About 85% of the population earned their living from agriculture.

3) Cultivators produced for the market as well as for their own needs and Russia was the major exporter of grain.

5. Describe the political conditions in Russia before revolution. **(2016,2013)**

- Ans.**
- a) Autocratic rule of the Czar not subject to parliament.
  - b) Political parties were illegal.
  - c) Russia was a vast empire consisting of various nationalities and Czar were insensitive to their demand.
  - d) The number of Cattle fell by one third between 1929 and 1931.

6. Who were radicals ? Describe briefly. **(2010)**

- Ans.**
- Government based on the majority of country's population.
  - They supported women suffragette movement.
  - They opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners.
  - They were no: against the existence of private property but disliked concentration of property in the hands of a few.

7. Explain any three differences between the political ideas of Liberals and Radicals in Russia during the early twentieth century. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- Liberals favoured the idea of privileges while radicals were opposed to privileges of land owners and factory owners.
  - Liberals wanted voting rights for rich while radicals believed in universal franchise.
  - Liberals were against giving the women the right to vote while radicals were for women suffragette.

8. Who were the Liberals ? Describe briefly. **(2016,2014)**

- Ans.**
- Liberals wanted to change society.
  - They were religions tolerant.
  - They opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers.
  - Safeguarded the rights of individuals against governments.
  - They argued for a representative, elected parliamentary government subject to laws.
  - They wanted well trained judiciary- independent of rulers and officials.
  - They were not democrats.

9. Explain the Stalin's Collectivization program. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Stalin's collectivization program :

1. Peasants were forced to cultivate in collective farms.
2. The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of the collective farms.
3. Peasants worked on the land, and the 'Kolkhoz', profit was shared.

10. Who were soviets ? What was their role in the revolution ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** Soviets were the collective name used for several organizations in Russia. It consisted of a council of striking workers and soldiers. The main head of Soviet was Bolshevik. The major Soviet leaders got arrested and imprisoned. They came back in 1917. They challenged the power of Nicholas II. The Petrograd Soviet led the revolution. The Petrograd also led the February Revolution to bring down the Monarchy in February 1917.

The second Revolution which is known as the Bolshevik Revolution broke out on October 25, 1917. The four fold program of this party was :

- a) Land to tiller.
- b) Food to the hunger.
- c) Power to the Soviet.
- d) Withdrawal from the First World War.

11. Describe the importance of the battle of Stalingrad in the Second World War. **(2016)**

**Ans.**

- 1) The battle of Stalingrad was fought between Russia and Germany on Russian territory.
- 2) This battle is considered important because it marked the defeat of Germany and Hitler Along with Nazi Party.
- 3) Hitler had signed a non-aggression treaty with Russia in August 1939 AD. Since he did not have faith in Russia he considered Russia as a vital threat to Nazi Germany.
- 4) Hitler also had imperial designs on the fertile Ukraine Basin and its mines.
- 5) He also wanted to Europeanize the area of the Asian steppe.
- 6) Due to the above mentioned reasons, Hitler violated the pact of 1939 and attacked Russia from three sides.
- 7) This led to the battle of Stalingrad near Moscow.
- 8) The Germany failed to capture Stalingrad due to lack of preparation of German soldiers against heavy rains and frosts in month of October.

12. Describe any three steps taken to improve the condition of factory workers and peasants in Russia after the Civil War. **(2016,2013,2012)**

**Ans.** Steps taken to improve the condition of workers :

1. Industries and banks were nationalized.
2. Peasants were permitted to cultivate land.
3. Extended schooling and arrangement were made for the workers and peasants to enter universities.
4. Creches were established.
5. Cheap public health care was provided.

13. Why did the Kerensky Government become unpopular in Russia ? **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- 1) After the fall of the Czar in 1917, a temporary government was set up under the leadership of Prince Kerensky, but soon his government became unpopular.
  - 2) He failed to feel of the nation, the people wanted peace but like the Czar, he too continued the war. He failed to solve the problems of peasants and workers, the peasants did not get any land nor the workers got relief. They had no right no control over the industries.
  - 3) The non-Russians nationalities failed to get an equal status under his government. Moreover, there were better leaders like Lenin who would put forward better programs for the people.

14. What was the contribution of Karl Marx in bringing about the Russian Revolution of 1917 ? **(2016,2012)**

**Ans. Contribution of Karl Marx in Russian Revolution**

Karl Marx was a supporter of socialism and deadly against capitalism and private property. According to him.

- The whole society should have common control over the means of production.
- All the income should be nationalized.
- Capitalism can be voted out only through revolution.
- Workers should be the member of Industrial management.
- Bank should be nationalized and land should be distributed among the peasants.

15. Describe the global influence of the Russian revolution on other countries of world. **(2015,2013)**

**Ans. The global influence of the Russian revolution :**

- 1) In many countries communist parties were formed.
- 2) Bolsheviks encouraged colonial people to follow their experiment to fight against imperialism.
- 3) Many non - Russians participated in the Conference of the Peoples of the East.
- 4) Some received education in USSR's Communist University of Workers of the East.

16. Explain the vision of the Socialists like Robert Owen and Louis Blanc regarding cooperatives. **(2015)**

- Ans.**
- **Vision of Robert Owen :**
    - a) Sought to build a cooperative community called New Harmony in Indiana (USA).
    - b) Demanded that government should encourage cooperatives.
  - **Vision of Blanc :**
    - a) Wanted cooperatives to be associations of people who produced goods together and divided profits.
    - b) Wanted government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises.

17. Mention any three changes that the Bolsheviks brought in Russia after 1917 Revolution. **(2015)**

- Ans.** After the Russian revolution of 1917, many changes were brought by the Bolsheviks :
1. They were opposed to private property.
  2. Industries and Banks were nationalized.
  3. Government took over ownership and management.
  4. Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize land of the nobility.
  5. There was partition of large houses according to the requirements.
  6. Old titles of Aristocracy were banned.

18. Explain any three measures adopted by Stalin to impose restrictions on Kulaks (well to do peasants) in Russia. **(2015,2013)**

- Ans. Measures adopted by Stalin :**
- i. To develop modern farms he eliminated kulaks and established large farms.
  - ii. The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of collective farms.
  - iii. Peasants worked on the land and the profit was shared.

19. Explain any three factors which led to the incident known as 'Bloody Sunday' ? **(2015)**

- Ans.**
- 1) In the year 1904, prices of the essential goods rose so quickly that real wages declined by 20 percent.
  - 2) When four members of the Assembly of Russian workers were dismissed, there was a call for industrial action.
  - 3) Workers in St. Petersburg went on strike demanding a reduction in the working day to eight hours and increase in wages. A procession was led by Father Gabon.
  - 4) When the procession reached the Winter Palace it was attacked by police. Many were killed.

20. State the three demands of 'Lenin's April Theses'. **(2015,2012)**

- Ans. Three demands of Lenin's April theses are :**
- i. The war to be brought to a close.
  - ii. Land to be transferred to the peasants.

iii. Banks be nationalized.

21. Explain any three effects of First World War on the Russia. **(2015)**

**Ans. Impact of the first world war:**

- i. Russian army lost badly in the war between 1914 and 1916.
- ii. It suffered huge casualties.
- iii. Russian army retreated and destroyed crops and building to prevent the enemy from being able to live off the land.
- iv. The war had severe impact on industries.
- v. Due to large number of recruitment in the war there was shortage of labour.

22. Explain any three effects of the February Revolution over Russia. **(2015)**

**Ans.** a) Monarchy was brought down.

b) Restrictions on public meetings and associations were removed.

c) 'Soviets' were set up everywhere.

d) Army officials, landowners and industrialists were influential in the Provisional Government.

23. What was Duma ? How far was it successful in Russia during Tsar regime ? Explain. **(2015)**

**Ans. Duma** is an elected legislative body like the Parliament, having representatives of the third Estate.

Tzar dismissed first Duma within 75 days.

24. Describe the events that led to 1905 Revolution of Russia. **(2015)**

**Ans.** Father Gabon led the procession of workers to Winter Palace.

i. Procession was attacked by police.

ii. 100 killed & 300 wounded.

iii. Incidence known as 'Bloody - Sunday'.

iv. Strikes all over country leading to 1905 Revolution.

25. Explain any three views of the socialists about private property ? **(2015,2013)**

**Ans. Views of socialists about private property :**

a) They were against private property.

b) They saw it as the root of all social ills.

c) Individuals who owned the property were concerned about personal gain only.

d) Those who make property productive are ignored by the owners of the property.

e) They believed that society as a whole should control the property.

26. How did industrialisation change the lives of people in Europe ? Explain. **(2014)**

**Ans. Changes because of industrialisation**

- i. It brought men, women and children to factories.
- ii. Work hours were long and wages were poor.
- iii. Unemployment was common.
- iv. Housing and sanitation were problems in least growing cities.
- v. Liberal and radicals searched for solutions to these issues

27. Describe any three changes introduced in Russia by Czar Nicolas II during the Revolution. **(2014,2012)**

**Ans. Reforms introduced by Tsar Nicolas II**

- Creation of an elected Parliament or Duma.
- Trade unions & factory committees were declared illegal.
- Voting laws were changed and the Duma was packed with conservative politicians and liberals & revolutionaries were kept out.

28. State any three measures undertaken by Stalin to solve the problem of acute shortage of grain in Russia. **(2014)**

**Ans. Measures :**

- To prevent rich peasants & landlords from indulging in speculation, Stalin confiscated supplies.
- Party members supervised & enforced grain collection.
- Kulaks were raided.

29. Explain any three effects of the First World War on the industries in Russia. **(2014)**

**Ans. Effects of First World War on Industries in Russia :**

- a) Got disconnected from other suppliers of industrial goods.
- b) Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly.
- c) Railway lines broke down.
- d) Forced recruitment led to labour shortage.
- e) Large supplies of grains needed to feed the army.

30. Mention the three major demands raised by Russian Workers who went on strike at St. Petersburg in 1904. **(2014,2012)**

**Ans. Demands :**

- i. Reduction in working hours.
- ii. Increase in wages.
- iii. Improvement in working conditions.

31. Describe the different opinions of the people about the government in USSR during 1950s and afterwards. **(2014)**

- Ans.** a) Govt. was not keeping with the ideals of the Russian revolution.  
b) Led to agro - Industrial development.  
c) Denied the essential freedoms to its citizens.  
d) Carried development projects through repressive policies.

32. Explain the difference in the ideology of three major groups of Russia namely, Liberals, Radicals and Conservatives. **(2014,2012)**

**Ans.** • **Liberals**

1. Opposed uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers.
2. Argued for a representative, elected representative government, subject to laws interpreted by a well trained judiciary that was independent of rulers and officials.
3. Vote only for propertied men.

• **Radicals**

1. Wanted a nation in which government was based on the majority of country population.
2. Supported women's suffragette movements.
3. Opposed concentration of property in the hands of a few.

• **Conservatives**

Believed that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.

33. Explain the economic and social condition of Russia before the 1905 revolution. **(2014)**

**Ans.** **Economic and social condition.**

- A vast majority of Russia's people were agriculturist.
- Industry was the private property of industrialists.
- Workers were a divided social group.
- Women were factory labour and were paid less than men.
- Peasants had no respect for the nobility.
- Peasants often refused to pay the rents and murdered Landlords.

34. How did the Revolution of 1905 prove to be a dress-rehearsal of the Revolution of 1917 ? **(2014)**

- Ans.** a) The revolutionary movement in Russia had been growing when a war broke out between Russia and Japan in 1904. The defeat of Russia in this was proved disadvantageous to the Czar. The people turned against him and soon a revolution broke out in 1905.
- b) When a procession of peaceful workers were going to present a petition to the Czar, they were fired at and more than a thousand were killed and many thousands of them were wounded, this

led to the unprecedented disturbances throughout Russia.

- c) Many sections of the army, navy, workers and peasants revolted. Soon the Czar promised to establish a constitutional monarchy.

35. Differentiate between the policies of the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. **(2013)**

- Ans.** a) The Russian Socialist Democratic Party split in 1898 in two groups. The minority group was called Mensheviks. They favoured to organize party on the basis of the parties prevailing in France and Germany and they wanted to establish parliamentary form of government in Russia.
- b) The majority group was called Bolshevik; they favoured revolutionary method for bringing changes in the social order and the state machinery. They also favoured a party of disciplined workers for revolution.

The people were influenced by the idea of Karl Marx and Tolstoy.

36. Describe the theory of Karl Marx. **(2013,2012)**

**Ans. THEORY OF KARL MARX**

- 1) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels argued that industrial society was 'capitalist'. Capitalists owned the capital invested in factories and the profit of capitalists was produced by workers.
- 2) The conditions of workers could not improve as long as this profit was accumulated by private capitalists. Therefore, workers had to overthrow capitalism and the rule of private property.
- 3) Marx believed that to free themselves from capitalist exploitation, workers had to construct a radically socialist society where all property was socially controlled. This would be a communist society. He was convinced that workers would triumph in their conflict with capitalists and a communist society was the natural society of the future.

37. Mention any three main objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries. **(2013)**

**Ans. Main objectives :**

- a) Land to the tiller and banks be nationalized.
- b) Control of Industry by the workers.
- c) Equal Status for Non-Russian Nationalities

8. Mention any three effects of the October Revolution. **(2013,2012)**

**Ans. EFFECTS OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION**

1. The Bolsheviks were totally opposed to private property.
2. Most industry and banks were nationalized in November 1917. This meant that the government took over ownership and management.
3. Land was declared social property and peasants were allowed to seize the land of the nobility.
4. In cities, Bolsheviks enforced the partition of large houses according to family requirements.

5. They banned the use of the old titles of aristocracy.
6. To assert change, new uniforms were designed for the army and officials.
7. Russia became a one-party state.
8. Trade unions were kept under party control.

39. Describe the relationship between peasants and nobles in Russia during early 19<sup>th</sup> century. **(2013)**

**Ans. Relationship between peasants and Nobles :**

- 1) Unlike other peasants in Europe, the peasants in Russia had no respect for the nobility and did not fight war for them.
- 2) In Russia, peasants wanted the land of the nobles given to them. Frequently, they refused to pay rent and even murdered landlords.
- 3) They pooled their land together periodically.
- 4) Their commune (mir) divided it according to the needs of individual families.
- 5) Nobles got their power and position through their service and not through local popularity.

40. Examine three reasons for the success of socialist economy in post revolution Russia. **(2013)**

- Ans.**
- 1) The estates of rich like the Landlords, the Czar and the church were confiscated and handed over to the peasants to be cultivated without hired labour. This act proved very successful and popular.
  - 2) The System of capitalism or the rich exploiting the poor was done away and everybody was forced to work.
  - 3) The right to work became a constitutional right and it become the duty of the state to provide employment to every individual.

41. Explain the contribution of Lenin in Russian Revolution. **(2013)**

- Ans.**
- Lenin was the leader of Bolshevik Party. He and the Bolsheviks opposed the war since 1914.
  - Now he felt it was the time for Soviets to take over power.
  - He declared that the war be brought to a close.
  - Banks should be nationalized and land should be transferred to the peasant.
  - He persuaded the Petrograd Soviet and the Bolshevik Party to agree to a socialist seizure of power.

42. Describe the conditions of the Russian workers on the eve of Russian Revolution in 1917. **(2013)**

- Ans.**
- The Capitalists invested huge sums in various industries to get huge wealth; most of the capital investment was from foreign investors, who were interested in making huge profits than improving the conditions of the workers.
  - Both foreign and Russian capitalists began to exploit the workers for their selfish ends, as a result the workers had to work from 12 to 14 hours a day, their wages were very low and they could not

form trade unions to improve themselves.

- Hence their condition remained very miserable and they had to lead a wretched life. They had no political rights nor any hope of gaining any reforms.

43. Describe any five causes of the February Revolution in Russia. **(2013,2012)**

- Ans.**
- On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, the government suspended the Duma. Politicians spoke out against this measure.
  - Demonstrators returned in force to the streets on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - On the 27<sup>th</sup> Police Headquarters were ransacked. The streets thronged with people rising slogans about bread, wages, better hours and democracy.
  - When the government called the cavalry to control the situation, the cavalry refused. Striking workers had gathered to form a Soviet or Council. The next day the Tsar abdicated on the advice of his military commanders.

44. State any five facilities which were provided to the factory workers and their families by the Bolshevik Government under centralized planning. **(2013)**

**Ans. Facilities provided to factory workers**

- a) An extended schooling system was developed.
- b) Arrangements were made for factory workers and peasants to enter universities.
- c) Crèches were established in factories for the children.
- d) Cheap public health care was provided.
- e) Model living quarters were set up for workers.

45. Describe any five steps taken by Lenin to improve the agriculture and economy of Russia. **(2012)**

**Ans. Lenin`s reforms related to Economy and Agriculture**

- i. The private property was confiscated. Lenin took the land from landlords and distributed it among the peasants.
- ii. The government nationalized all the factories and handed over their management to the workers.
- iii. All debts were exempted.
- iv. The property of church was also confiscated.
- v. It was made compulsory for all to render labour.
- vi. Lenin made New Economic policy.

According to this policy :

The peasants were to pay a Fixed Tax to Government in cash or kind, only big factories were nationalized, foreign investment was increased and private Industrialist were allowed under certain condition.

46. Mention any five effects of Bloody Sunday in Russia ? **(2013)**

- Ans.** a) The incident known as Bloody Sunday started a series of events that was known as the 1905 Revolution.
- b) Strikes took place all over the country.
- c) Universities were closed down when students staged walkouts, complaining about lack of civil liberties.
- d) Lawyers, doctors, Engineers and other middle-class workers established the Union of Unions and demanded a Constituent Assembly.
- e) The Tsar allowed the creation of an elected Parliament or Duma.
- f) There existed a large number of trade unions and factory committees were made up of factory workers.

47. Explain the international consequences of the Russian Revolution ? **(2012)**

**Ans.** Russian Revolution inspired similar revolutions in other parts of the world. Democracy as redefined to include economic and social equality. By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century its international reputation as socialist country had declined, though the Socialist ideals still enjoyed respect amongst its people. In India also by the mid 1920s the Communist party was formed. The revolution helped to hasten the end of imperialism and to promote Internationalism.

48. Describe the conditions of society before the Russian Revolution. **(2012)**

**Ans.** Condition of Society before the Russian Revolution -

- 1) It was time of profound social and economic change.
- 2) New cities came up.
- 3) New industrialized regions developed- it brought men, women and children to factories.
- 4) Work hours were often long.
- 5) Wages were poor.
- 6) Unemployment was common.
- 7) Housing and sanitation were problems.
- 8) Almost all industries were the property of individuals.

49. Explain any five conditions which led to the Russian Civil War in 1918-1920. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- Britain, France and USA were against Russia's withdrawal from World War I.
  - The rising popularity of Bolsheviks alarmed the West.
  - Non-Bolshevik socialists, liberals and supporters of autocracy condemned the Bolshevik uprising as they had been out shadowed by the Bolsheviks.
  - The Bolshevik army became frail when soldiers (mostly belonging to peasant background) wished to go home for land redistribution and deserted the Russian army.
  - Seizure of peasants' property.

- Brutal massacre of local nationalists by the Bolshevik colonists.

50. Explain any five objectives of the Russian Revolutionaries. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- Revolutionaries demanded that Russia should withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> world war.
  - Land to the tillers.
  - Government farms to be established.
  - Industries were to be nationalized.
  - Condition and wages of the workers to be improved.
  - Non - Russians to be given equal status so that they work for the development of Russia.

51. Explain the Lenin's April thesis. What was its effect on the party members ? **(2012)**

**Ans. The three demands comprised the April thesis.**

- War be brought to a close.
- Land be transferred to peasants.
- Banks be nationalized.

**Effects on the Party :**

Initially members were surprised and thought that time was not ripe for socialist revolution, but the developments in the subsequent months changed their attitude.

52. How was the period of early planned economy linked to the distress of collectivization of agriculture in the Soviet Union's ? Explain. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- Government fixed prices for grains.
  - Stalin introduced firm emergency measures.
  - Party members supervised enforced grain collection.
  - Shortages continued, decision was taken to collectivize farms.
  - To develop modern farms it was necessary to eliminate kulaks.
  - Those who resisted for collective farming were severely punished.

The period of the early Planned Economy was linked to the disasters of the collectivization of agriculture. In spite of collectivization production did not increase and it failed.

53. Explain the views of socialists on private property. Name the international body set up to spread and coordinate their efforts. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- \* Socialists were against private property and saw it as a root of all social evils.
  - \* They favoured society as a whole rather than single individuals controlled property, more attention would be paid to collective social interests.
  - \* Marx stated that under capitalists society the main object of the industrialist is to earn profit. He believed the condition of the workers could not improve as long as this profit was accumulated by private capitalists.
  - \* Since the profit of capitalists was produced by workers Marx believed to free themselves from capitalist exploitation. Workers had to overthrow capitalism and rule of private property. They had to construct a radically socialist society where all property was socially controlled. This would be a communist society.
  - \* He was convinced that workers would triumph in their conflict with capitalist. A communist society was the natural society of the future.
  - \* To coordinate their efforts socialists formed the international body namely the 'Second International'.

### PRACTICE CORNER

1. Explain the Stalin's Collectivization programme. **(2016)**
2. State one different idea each of liberals, radicals and conservatives. **(2016)**
3. Describe any three steps taken to improve the condition of factory workers and peasants in Russia after the Civil War. **(2016)**
4. Why didn't Stalin's policy of Collectivization yield immediate results ? Explain any three reasons. **(2016)**
5. Explain any three reasons which led to civil war between the Bolsheviks and the Russian army of Non Bolsheviks ? **(2016)**
6. Explain any three reasons for the fall of Kerensky's Government. **(2016)**
7. Describe the condition of agriculture in Russia at the beginning of the Twentieth century. **(2016)**
8. What were the ideas of radicals to shape society in the twentieth century Russia ? **(2016)**
9. 'Liberals of European states were not democratic.' Justify the statement by giving three examples. **(2016)**
10. Explain any three major changes introduced in agriculture in Soviet Union after 1928. **(2016)**
11. Explain any five effects of the Russian revolution of 1917 over Russia ? **(2016)**

12. 'The First World War left a deep imprint on the European Society and polity'. Elaborate the given statement. **(2016)**
13. Describe the condition of the workers under Tsar in Russia ? **(2016)**
14. Highlight the Social and Political conditions that led to Russian Revolution ? **(2016)**
15. State any five events that led to February Revolution in Petrograd. **(2016)**

o o o o o o

OSBINC BSE . COM