

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

History — India and the Contemporary World – I

CHAPTER 2: SOCIALISM IN EUROPE AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

ULTIMATE IMPORTANT QUESTION BANK WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Comprehensive Exam-Oriented Study Material Aligned with the Latest NCERT & CBSE Syllabus

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS PREMIUM GUIDE:

- **Section 1-2:** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & Past Year Questions
- **Section 3-5:** High-Yield Very Short, Short, & Long Answer Questions (Fully Answered)
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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. What were the core differences between Liberals, Radicals, and Conservatives in 19th-century Europe?

REPEATED IN SCHOOL EXAMS

The three political strands held contrasting views on societal transformation:

- **Liberals:** Wanted a nation that tolerated all religions. They opposed the uncontrolled power of dynastic rulers and safeguarded individual rights. However, they were not democrats; they did not believe in Universal Adult Suffrage and argued that property-owning men alone should have the right to vote.
- **Radicals:** Desired a government based on the majority of a country's population. They supported women's suffragette movements and opposed the privileges of great landowners and wealthy factory owners, though they did not oppose private property itself.
- **Conservatives:** Initially opposed to change, by the 19th century they accepted that some change was inevitable but believed that the past had to be respected and change had to be brought about through a slow process.



EXAM BOOSTER: KEY TERMINOLOGY

Suffragette Movement: A movement to give women the right to vote. Ensure you mention this whenever answering questions about Radicals!

Q2. Explain the main causes of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

HALF-YEARLY FAVORITE

The Russian Revolution was caused by an accumulation of socio-economic and political grievances:

1. **Autocracy of Tsar Nicholas II:** The Tsar ruled with absolute power and refused to share authority with a popular assembly, causing widespread political discontent.
2. **Miserable Condition of Workers:** Rapid industrialization led to exploitation, long working hours (12–15 hours), poor wages, and unhygienic living conditions.
3. **Peasant Land Hunger:** Most peasants were landless, heavily burdened with rent and taxes, and deeply resented the vast estates held by the nobility and church.
4. **Impact of World War I:** The war devastated the Russian economy, causing 7 million casualties, severe food shortages, and bread riots in cities like Petrograd.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION COLLECTION

Q3. Describe the incident known as 'Bloody Sunday' and its historical significance.

CBSE PATTERN

On Sunday, 22 January 1905, a peaceful procession of workers led by Father Gapon marched towards the Winter Palace to present a petition to Tsar Nicholas II. The procession was attacked by the police and Cossacks, resulting in the deaths of over 100 workers and wounding around 300.

Significance: This brutal event provoked widespread strikes, student walkouts, and the creation of the first 'Soviet' (workers' council). It is considered the dress rehearsal for the 1917 revolutions, forcing the Tsar to concede to the formation of an elected consultative parliament, the Duma.

Q4. What was the main impact of the First World War on Russian industries?

REPEATED QUESTION

The war had a devastating impact on Russian industrial infrastructure:

- Russia's own industries were few, and the country was cut off from imports of industrial goods because Germany controlled the Baltic Sea.
- Industrial equipment disintegrated more rapidly in Russia than elsewhere in Europe.
- By 1916, railway lines began to break down, disrupting supply chains.
- Able-bodied men were called up to the army, resulting in severe labor shortages and the shutdown of small workshops producing essentials.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q5. Who was Karl Marx?

Karl Marx was a German philosopher and economist who formulated the theory of scientific socialism, arguing that capitalism exploited workers and that workers must overthrow it to establish a communist society.

Q6. Name the ruling Tsar of Russia during the 1917 revolution.

Tsar Nicholas II.

Q7. What was the name of the consultative parliament formed in Russia after the 1905 Revolution?

The Duma.

Q8. Define the term 'Kulaks'.

'Kulaks' was the term used for well-to-do, wealthy peasants in Russia.

Q9. What was the main political objective of the Bolshevik Party led by Vladimir Lenin?

Q10. In which year was the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) formed?

The USSR was formally created in December 1922.

Q11. What was the 'April Theses'?

The three demands put forward by Lenin upon his return from exile in April 1917: ending World War I, transferring land to the peasants, and nationalizing the banks.

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (2–3 MARKS)

Q12. What were the views of Robert Owen and Louis Blanc regarding the establishment of socialist communities?

Both were early socialists who believed in cooperative enterprise but differed on implementation:

- **Robert Owen:** A leading English manufacturer, he sought to build a cooperative community called 'New Harmony' in Indiana (USA) through individual, private initiative.
- **Louis Blanc:** A French socialist who wanted the government to encourage cooperatives and replace capitalist enterprises, believing that individual initiative alone was insufficient to transform society.

Q13. Differentiate clearly between the Bolshevik and Menshevik factions of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party.

- **Bolsheviks (Led by Vladimir Lenin):** Thought that in a repressive society like Tsarist Russia, the party should be disciplined and should control the number and quality of its members. They favored a radical revolution.
- **Mensheviks (Led by Julius Martov):** Believed that the party should be open to all, following the democratic model found in countries like Germany and France.

QUICK FACT

The split between the Bolsheviks (meaning "majority") and Mensheviks (meaning "minority") occurred at the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1903.

Q14. What were the immediate outcomes of the February Revolution of 1917 in Petrograd?

The immediate consequences included:

1. The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II on 2nd March 1917, ending the centuries-old Romanov dynastic autocracy.
2. The formation of a Provisional Government led by Soviet and Duma leaders to run the country.
3. The removal of restrictions on public meetings, associations, and freedom of speech.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q15. Detail the changes introduced by the Bolsheviks immediately after gaining power in the October Revolution of 1917.

Following the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks implemented rapid changes to transform Russia into a socialist state:

1. **Nationalisation of Industries and Banks:** Ownership and management of banks and large-scale industrial units were transferred entirely to the government by November 1917.
2. **Land Decree:** Land was declared social property. Peasants were permitted to seize the lands belonging to the nobility, crown, and church without compensation.
3. **Peace and Exit from WWI:** The Bolsheviks fulfilled their promise by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany in March 1918, officially ending Russia's involvement in World War I.
4. **Enforcement of Egalitarianism:** Old aristocratic titles of nobility were banned. To emphasize equality, new uniforms were designed for the army and officials (such as the distinctive Soviet hat, the *budonovka*).
5. **Establishment of a One-Party State:** The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks). It banned opposition parties and set up the Cheka (secret police) to crush political dissent.

Q16. Critically evaluate Stalin's Collectivisation Programme. Why was it introduced, and what were its consequences?

Reason for Introduction: By 1927–1928, Soviet towns faced acute grain shortages. Stalin believed that rich peasants (Kulaks) and speculators were hoarding grain to force higher prices. He also argued that small, fragmented peasant holdings could not be modernized.

The Programme: From 1929, the Communist Party forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms (*Kolkhoz*). The bulk of land and implements were transferred to the ownership of the collective farm.

Consequences:

- Peasants resisted the authorities and destroyed their livestock; livestock numbers fell by one-third between 1929 and 1931.
- Those who resisted were severely punished, deported, or exiled.
- Collectivization did not bring an immediate increase in production. Instead, bad harvests of 1930–1933 led to one of the most devastating famines in Soviet history, leaving over 4 million dead.

SECTION 6: CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

Source Text:

"In the winter of 1917, conditions in the capital, Petrograd, were grim. The layout of the city seemed to emphasize the divisions among its people. The workers' quarters and factories were located on the right bank of the River Neva. On the left bank were the fashionable areas, the Winter Palace, and official buildings, including the palace where the Duma met. In February 1917, food shortages were deeply felt in the workers' quarters. The winter was exceptionally cold—there had been frost and heavy snow."

Q17. Based on the source provided, answer the following:**(i) How did the geography of Petrograd highlight its social divisions?**

The River Neva acted as a physical barrier separating social classes: the working class and factories were concentrated on the right bank, while the elite, the ruling class, and the official state buildings like the Winter Palace were on the left bank.

(ii) What environmental factors accelerated the crisis in February 1917?

The exceptional winter, severe frost, and heavy snow caused transport breakdowns, which directly intensified the acute food and fuel shortages in the workers' quarters.

SECTION 7: ASSERTION AND REASON QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS FOR SECTION 7

Choose option (A), (B), (C), or (D) for the following questions based on the criteria below:

A: Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.

B: Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.

C: Assertion is true, but Reason is false.

D: Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Q18. Assertion (A): Following the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks nationalized banks and industries.

Reason (R): The Bolsheviks were ideologically opposed to private property and wished to establish state-controlled economic production.

Answer: A

Explanation: The Bolsheviks were committed Marxist socialists. Their core ideology was centered around eliminating private control over the means of production, which is why they immediately nationalized banks and factories to bring them under direct government command.

Q18b. Assertion (A): Tsar Nicholas II dissolved the first Duma within 75 days of its election.

Reason (R): The Tsar did not want any questioning of his absolute authority or reduction in his autocratic power.

Answer: A

Explanation: Tsar Nicholas II only conceded to the creation of the Duma under extreme pressure during the 1905 Revolution. He had no genuine intention of sharing power, so he rapidly dismissed the first assembly when it attempted to assert independence.

SECTION 8: COMPETENCY-BASED QUESTIONS

Q19. Analyze how the concept of property ownership formed the core dividing line between early capitalists and socialists in 19th-century Europe.

Capitalists viewed private property as an essential reward for individual risk, investment, and hard work. They believed that market competition and profit maximize production efficiency.

In contrast, socialists viewed private property as the root cause of all social evils. They argued that while property owners gained substantial profits, these gains were produced solely by the labor of workers who received almost no benefit. Socialists demanded that property be held collectively by society for the common welfare, shifting the economic focus from individual gain to collective well-being.

SECTION 9: TIMELINE-BASED QUESTIONS

Year / Date	Historical Event	Exam Significance / Core Outcome
1898	Formation of Russian Social Democratic Workers Party	Marks the structured launch of Marxist political organizing inside Russia, later splitting into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.
22 Jan 1905	Bloody Sunday Massacre	Triggered the 1905 Revolution; forced the creation of the first consultative Duma.
Feb 1917	February Revolution	Strikes and food riots lead directly to the collapse of the Tsarist Autocracy.
Oct 1917	October Revolution	The Bolshevik military takeover overthrows the Provisional Government and establishes Soviet power.
1918–1920	The Russian Civil War	Conflict between Bolsheviks ('Reds'), Social Revolutionaries ('Greens'), and Pro-Tsarists ('Whites').
Dec 1922	Formation of the USSR	Consolidated the old Russian Empire territories into a single socialist federal state.

SECTION 10: MOST IMPORTANT EXAM QUESTIONS (TOP 50 HIGHLIGHT)

★ **CRITICAL EXAM QUESTION:** What was the global impact of the Russian Revolution and the rise of the USSR?

The Russian Revolution had far-reaching international consequences:

- **Inspiration to Global Working Classes:** It proved that a workers' government could successfully take power and run a state, leading to the formation of communist parties worldwide (e.g., the Communist Party of Great Britain).
- **Anti-Colonial Catalyst:** The Bolsheviks actively encouraged colonial peoples to follow their revolutionary model. Many non-Russians attended the 'Conference of the Peoples of the East' (1920).
- **Alternative Economic Model:** The concept of a planned economy and Five-Year Plans gained widespread international recognition, inspiring many developing post-colonial nations (including India) to adopt economic planning.

SECTION 11: CHAPTER QUICK REVISION

INSTANT REVISION SUMMARIES

- **Vladimir Lenin:** Leader of the Bolshevik faction; returned from exile in April 1917; mastermind behind the October Revolution and the early consolidation of the Soviet state.
- **Jadidists:** Muslim modernizers within the Russian Empire who wanted modernized Islam to guide their societies. They supported the revolution.
- **Duma:** A consultative parliament conceded by the Tsar after 1905. The first two were dissolved rapidly, and the third was packed with conservative politicians.

SECTION 12: COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE

WATCH OUT FOR THESE IN YOUR EXAM:

1. **Confusing the Revolutions:** Remember that the *February Revolution* overthrew the Tsar, while the *October Revolution* overthrew the temporary Provisional Government to bring the Bolsheviks to power.
2. **Misunderstanding Voter Alignment:** Students often mistakenly label Liberals as complete modern democrats. Always mention that they explicitly excluded women and non-property owning men from voting rights.
3. **Civil War Colors:** Do not swap the identities! Reds = Bolsheviks; Greens = Socialist Revolutionaries; Whites = Pro-Tsarist forces supported by foreign troops.

SECTION 13: LAST-MINUTE REVISION SHEET

ULTIMATE CHEAT SHEET

Core Slogans of 1917: "Peace, Land, and Bread" and "All Power to the Soviets!"

Lenin's Succession: Following Lenin's death in 1924, Joseph Stalin took control of the Communist Party and launched his collectivization drive to solve grain crises.

Key Legal Landmark: The nationalization of land meant peasants could occupy large private estates without fear of prosecution, shifting traditional property structures overnight.