

Lesson 22

THE WORLD IN 1900: THENINETEENTH CENTURY LEGACY

Summary

During 19th century there was growth of industrial society. The capitalist industrialization in Europe led to urbanization and faster growth of population in cities. This led to the emergence of new social classes in town and cities. It led to the formation and solidification of the ideologies. The growth of ideologies like nationalism helped in shaping the struggle of people in non-industrial societies for liberation from the empires. The ideology of socialism also impacted the European and Non-European societies.

STRUCTURE OF WORLD POPULATION: 1900

- In 1900 the human population was about 1.5 billion (150crores).
- China and India were then, as today, the most populous countries.
- Capitalist industrialization led to urbanization and faster growth of population in cities.
- By 1900 Europe has a larger concentration of cities than any other region in the world

INDUSTRIALISATION AND SOCIAL CLASSES

- The process of industrialization began in Western Europe
- By 1900 we see the growth of capitalist industrialization.
- Capitalists were directly engaged in industrial production, trading, administration and banking.
- By 1900 most of Europe, America and Australia had undergone capitalist industrialisation.

URBANISM AND KNOWLEDGE

- Production and sharing of knowledge in society became more closely connected than before with urban life.
- Industrial workers with literacy and numeracy contributed to greater efficiency.

ENERGY AND RESOURCE USE: INDUSTRIAL VERSUS NON INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF THE WORLD

- Most production in the non-industrial world in 1900 was driven by human and animal power.
- Industrial societies required new energy sources to run their factories, light their homes and offices, and power modern means of transport such as railway engines and automobiles.

- Britain, France and Germany in 1900 were largely coal powered societies, while Italy had begun to use hydro-electricity.
- US was relying increasingly on petroleum fuels. By 1915 it was clear that cars would replace horses in transportation.
- These countries began to realize that their economic and political strength depended on sources of energy, and they began to exploit resources in their colonies.

COLONIALISM, ECONOMIC PATTERNS, AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

- Most industrialized nations of the western world in 1900 directly ruled, or controlled economically, territories far beyond their own boundaries.
- The colonial rulers tried to prevent Asians and Africans from acquiring advanced technologies, and carefully controlled railways and telegraph networks in their colonies
- They practiced policies of divide and rule, restricted development of modern economic activity and used education for purpose of creating a social gulf between those educated in the colonial languages and those in the local languages.
- The impact of colonialism and capitalist penetration altered social relations in the colonies.
- They altered the pattern of agriculture to shift its priorities towards the cash crops they might trade in.
- Both production and trade were geared to the interests of the ruling power

Liberalism

- Liberals believed that individuals have some 'natural rights' including the right to resist oppression, accumulate property, freedom of religion, right to express their opinions freely and so on.
- They believed that governments and rulers must be made to respect these rights.

Conservatism

- They were from land-owning classes, or merchants and traders who enjoyed state protection and monopolies which were lost due to free trade policies.
- For them the whole idea of natural rights was disruptive because it destroyed the old traditional order in society, in which each section of society already had its place.
- To them social order and stability were more important than equality.

Socialism

- The socialists represented the interests of the working people, and argued that in industrialist capitalist societies the old tyranny of the monarchy and the aristocracy had been replaced by that of the propertied capitalist bourgeoisie.

Imperialism –

- The process of acquiring or maintaining colonies, territories dependent on the 'parent' country.
- The ideology of acquiring empire.

Nationalism

- Nationalism and national liberation ideology was an explosive force in the world of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- In all parts of the world in 1900 competing nationalisms flourished and became important forms of mobilization of people.

- In contrast, within the industrialized, imperialist countries, nationalism became aggressive and tied with support to colonial policies and domination of other countries

Evaluate Yourself-

- Q. Differentiate between Socialism and Conservatism
- Q. Explain the Nationalism.
- Q. Collect the data state wise of population of India.