

HISTORY OPTIONAL

**Why to choose
History Optional?**

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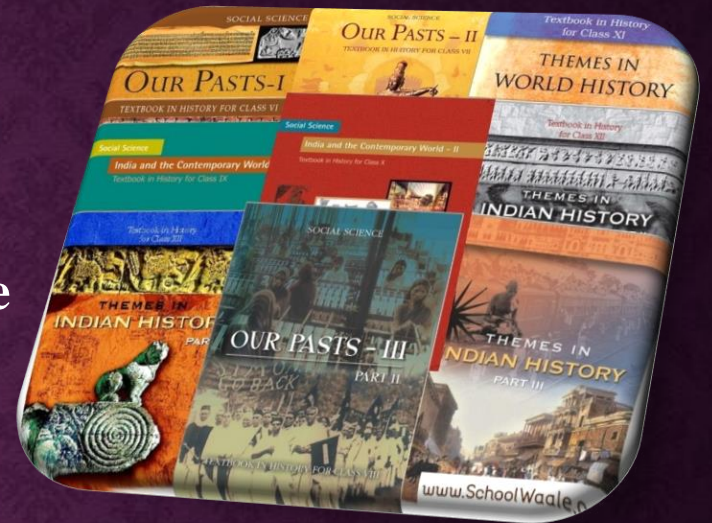


Pros:-

- ✓ Ample study material
- ✓ Direct questions
- ✓ Overlapping with other GS papers
- ✓ Most Important for Prelims
- ✓ Scoring subject

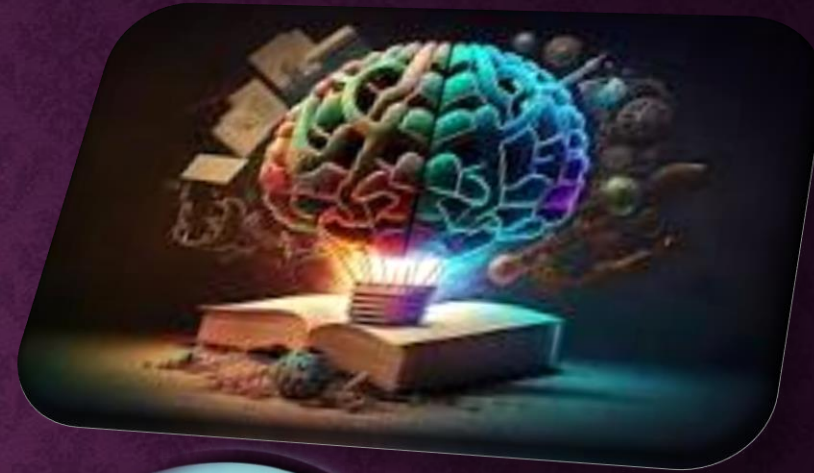
Cons:-

- Vast Syllabus
- Interpretive nature
- Writing skills



Examiner's Expectations:-

- ✓ **In-depth knowledge**
- ✓ **Clear and concise writing**
- ✓ **Structured and coherent answers**
- ✓ **Use of relevant examples**
- ✓ **Understanding of historical sources**
- ✓ **Relevance to the question**



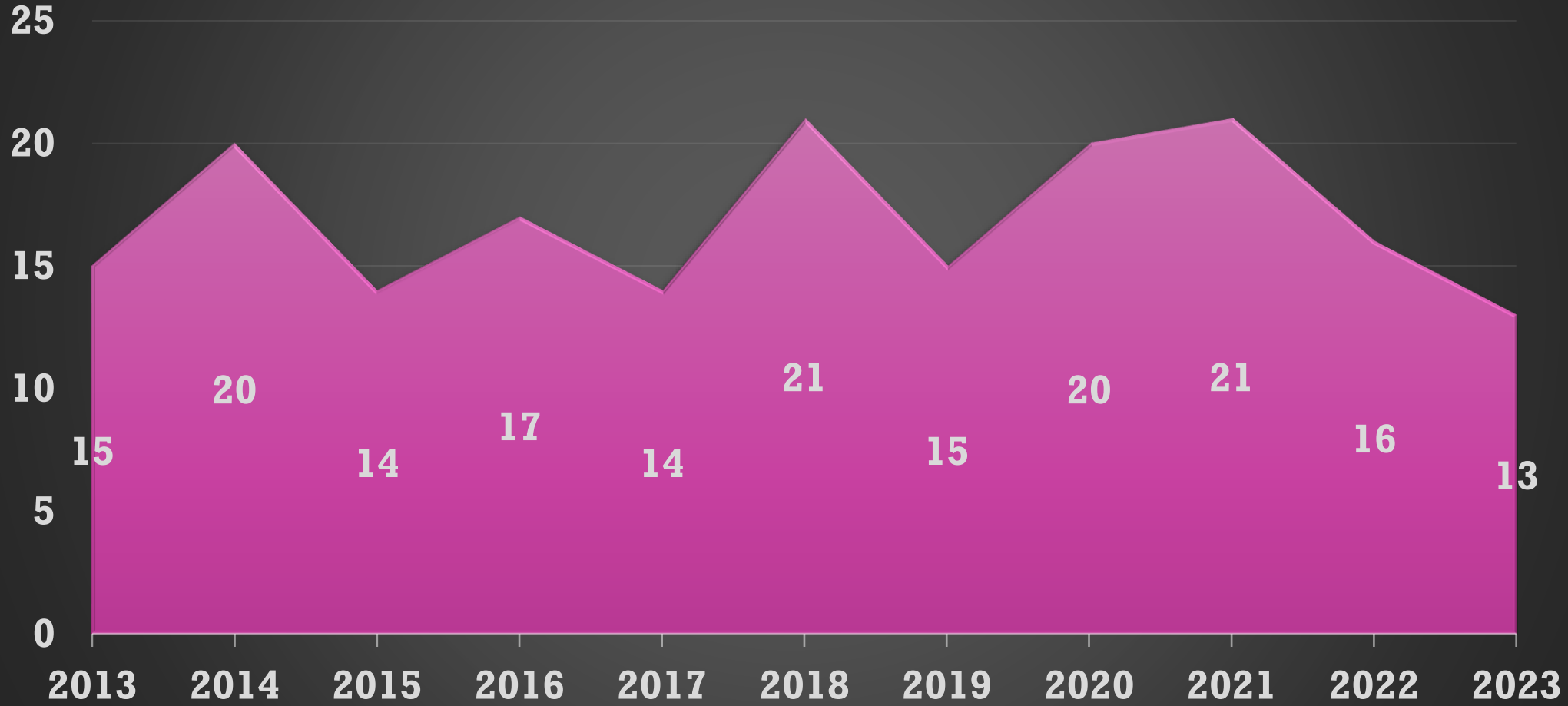
Aspirants' Expectations:-

Good Marks
Selection for Interview

How to start preparation:-

- ✓ **Collect Study Material**
- ✓ **Understand the Syllabus**
- ✓ **Practice Previous Year's Question Papers**
- ✓ **Read, Analyse and Make Notes**
- ✓ **Focus on Time Management**
- ✓ **Develop Conceptual Understanding**
- ✓ **Enhance Your Writing Skills**
- ✓ **Revision**

History Questions in CSE Prelims

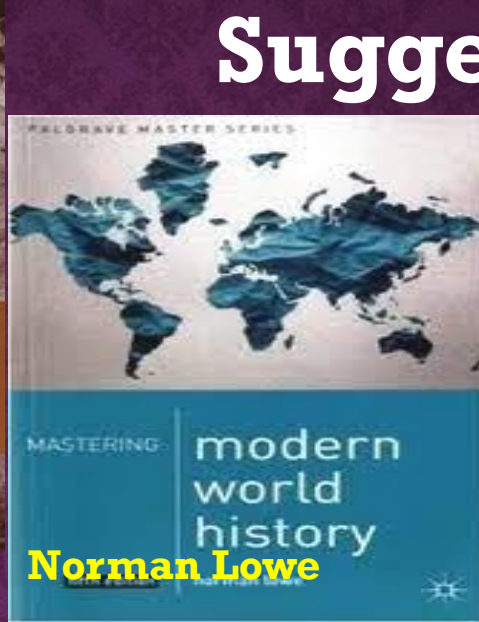
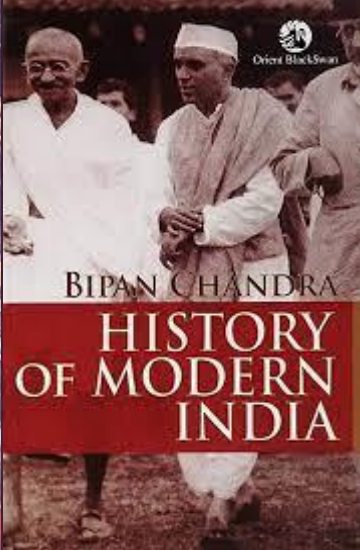
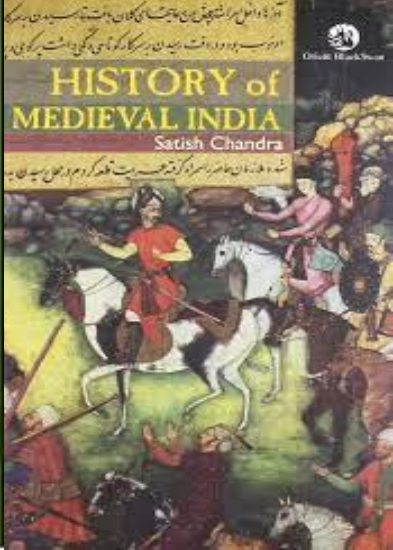
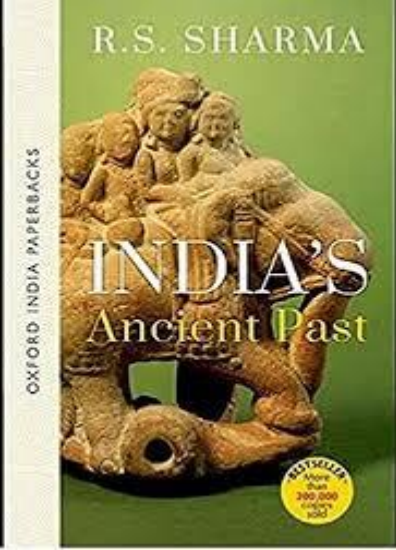


Year	Q
2013	15
2014	20
2015	14
2016	17
2017	14
2018	21
2019	15
2020	20
2021	21
2022	16
2023	13

GS Paper I

Year	Q
2018	5
2019	3
2020	5
2021	5
2022	6

Suggested Books for CSE



UPSC
Civil Services Examination
Previous 10 Years' (2013-22) Mains Solved Papers
5th Edition

HIGHLIGHTS

- Detailed model answers supplemented with current examples
- Questions identified with specific topics of the syllabus
- Includes a comprehensive write-up on the Art of Answer Writing

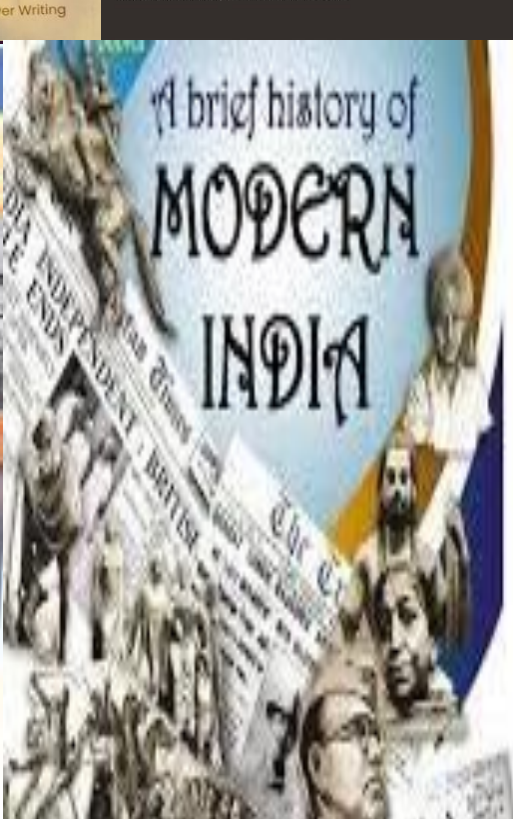
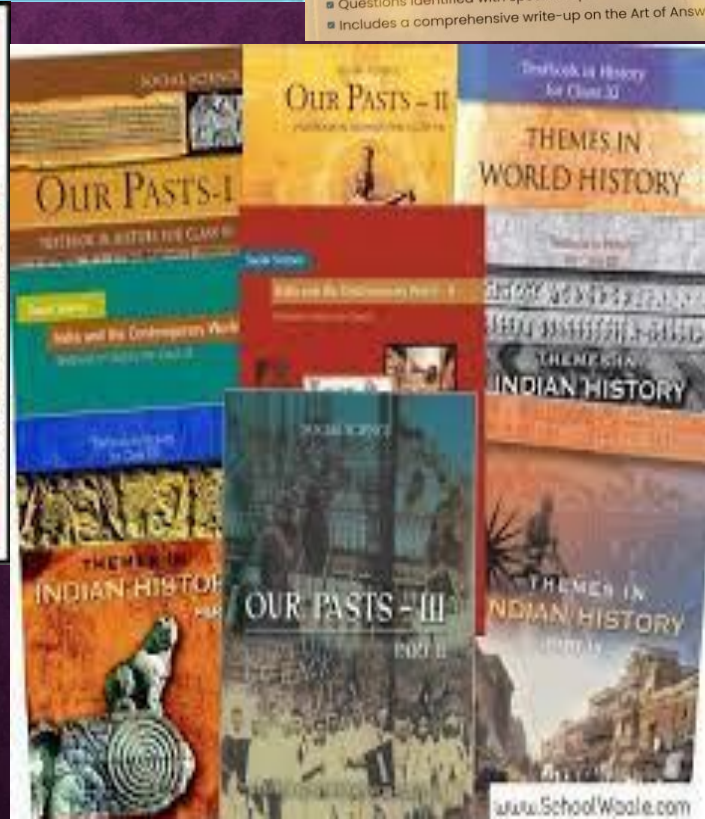
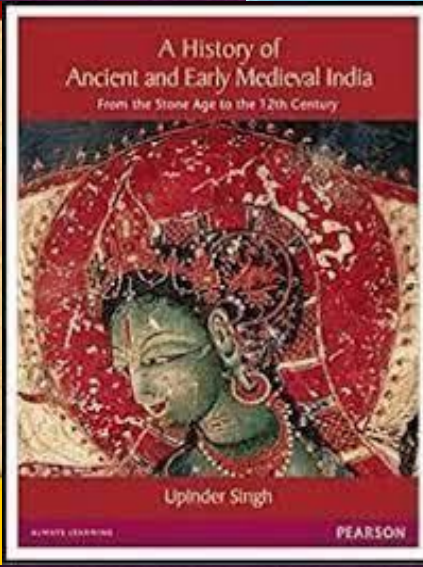
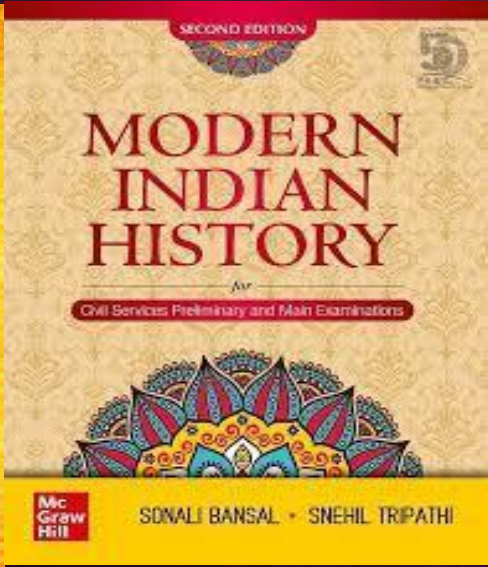
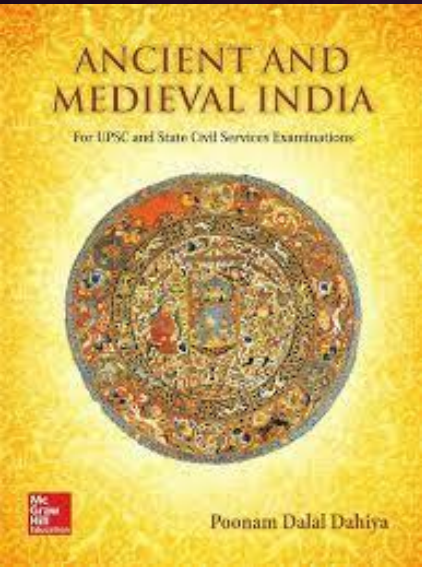
14th Edition
Errorless 29 Years
UPSC CIVIL SERVICES IAS Prelims
Topic-wise Solved Papers 1 & 2 (1995-2023)

Mrunal Patel

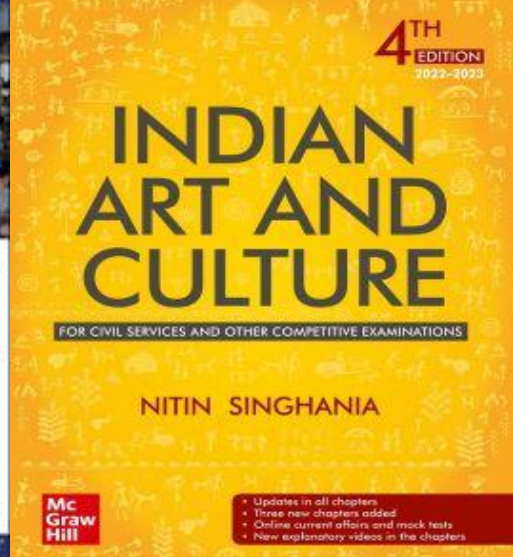
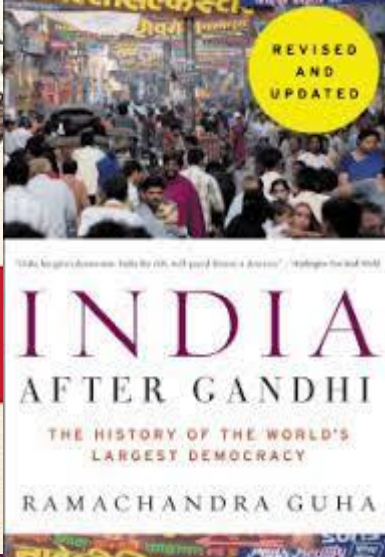
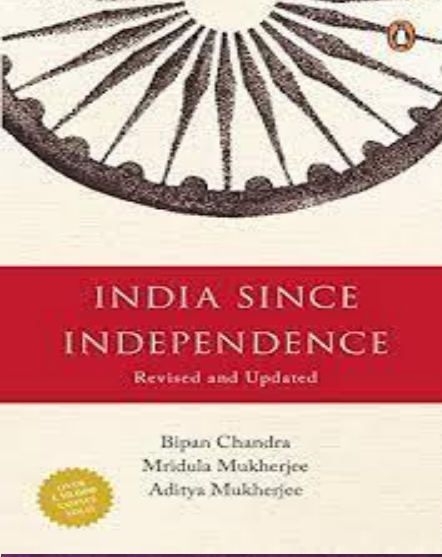
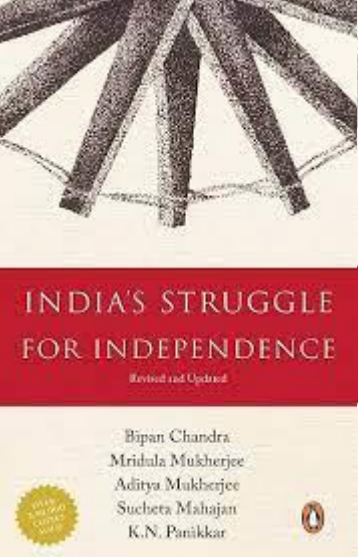
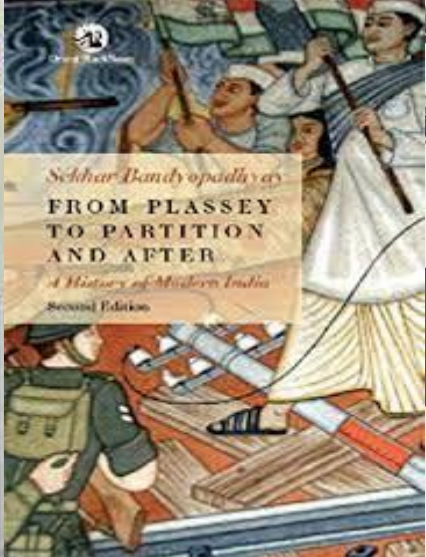
GS Paper 1	43 Topics	3460 MCQs
CSAT Paper 2	9 Topics	1280 MCQs

Mrunal's Strategy & Planning Resources | IAS Mains Unsolved Questions (2013-2022)

DISHA Publication Inc.



Sonali Bansal




PLUTUS IAS
UPSC/PCS



Medieval Indian History

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Modern India

Reference Notes


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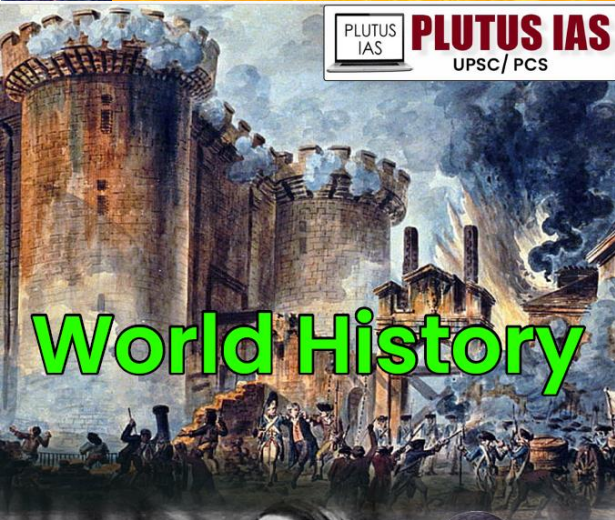


Post-Independent Indian History

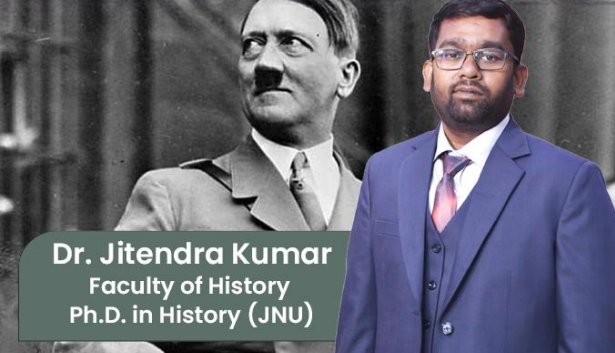


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World History



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Syllabus of History Optional

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

2019-2020

PYQ on Russian Revolution

Q. Account for the overthrow of the Tsarist regime in Russia. (2009)

Q. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a single revolution which developed two phases. Elucidate. (1992)

Q. Examine the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and indicate its significance in world history. (2003)

Q. 'The Russian Revolution (1917) was an economic explosion hastened by the stupidities of the autocratic Government.' Comment. (2005)

Q. Analyse the causes of the Russian Revolutions of 1917. Why was the second Revolution significant in more than one way? (1985)

Q. In Russia, Lenin was "the father of Socialism, organiser of the revolution and the founder of the new Russian society." Examine the statement. (1998)

2018 GS Paper 1 (History Questions)

- Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (150 Words)
- Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (150 Words)
- Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (150 Words)
- The Bhakti Movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Prabhu. Discuss. (250 Words)
- ‘Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation’. Argue with suitable illustrations. (250 Words)

2022 GS Paper 1 (History Questions)

- How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days?
- Why did the armies of the British East Indian Company- mostly comprises of Indian soldiers- win consistently against the more numerous and better-equipped armies of Indian soldiers? Give reasons.
- Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons.
- The political and administrative reorganisation of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples.
- Discuss the main contributions of the Gupta period and Chola periods to the Indian heritage and culture.
- Discuss the significance of lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture.

World History

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2. Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was one of the most significant developments in the history of the 20th-century world. The revolution had affected the world as a whole. In 1917 two revolutions were witnessed in Russia. The first was in March (February), and the second was in November (October). Both of the revolutions were basically of two phases of one revolution of Russia. The first revolution overthrew the Czar and set up a moderate provisional government. When this coped no better than the Czar, it was itself overthrown by a second uprising; the Bolshevik revolution (October/November). The new Bolshevik government was uncertain at first, and its opponents (known as the Whites) tried to destroy it, triggering a bitter civil war (1918-20). Under the direction of Lenin and Trotsky, the Bolsheviks (Reds) won the civil war and started calling themselves communists. Lenin commenced the task of leading Russia to recovery, but he died prematurely in January 1924.

2.1. Background

The Russian defeat at the hands of an Asian country (Japan) in the Russo-Japan War (1904-05), on the one hand, psychologically boosted the Asians in their independence struggle and on the other hand, it diminished the Russian Czarist regime at home. The defeat was a vital factor in the decline of the autocratic rule of the Czar. It culminated in the Russian revolution of 1905 that brought constrained constitutional monarchy and then in 1917 set up the Communist regime. Majorly key issues of revolution and counter-revolution took place during 1917, in which aspects of Bolshevik ideology played a significant role. Revolution and civil war in Russia have had a substantial social, economic, and political impact on Russia and the world.

The process of transformations started by the French Revolution in Europe was carried to its culmination point by the Russian Revolution in 1917.

2.2. Socio-Economic environment

The Russian society was divided into a wealthy and impoverished population. The rich class included nobles, feudal lords, and the wealthy. The poor class included peasants, labourers, and serfs. The peasants

were the majority of the population in Russia. The 'Serfdom' was abolished by Czar Alexander II. The growth of the urban workforce in the form of the industrial working class was another major factor. They had to suffer low wages, poor housing, and many accidents. As a result, many strikes and constant conflicts arose between the workers and the police.

Since agriculture formed a significant sector for the Russian economy and the peasants constituted the majority of its population, the agrarian problems became an essential factor for revolution in Russia. This gave scope for common grievances among many workers, and therefore also for a common struggle. In turn, the Russian working-class movement was against the autocracy and the Russian bourgeoisie, i.e. the capitalists.

The evils of maladministration were affecting economic life as well. Practices like black marketing and hoarding were rampaged. Inflation was very high. The merchant and traders created artificial scarcity to make the maximum possible money at the cost of the common masses.

Nihilism's preachers came out to abolish the current order, culture, and religious faith to establish a new world. Its main goal was to overthrow the Czarist regime in Russia. They used their organisations to persuade people to oppose Russia's current regime.

Series of wars like The Crimean War (1854-56), Russo-Turkish War (1877-78), Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) etc. were the triggering events as they had exhausted all the workforce and resources of the country, leading to the suffering of its citizens and the economy. During the First World War, Germany, Austria, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. On the other hand, Britain and France entered into the Entente Cordiale. Without proper planning, Russia also entered into a pact with Britain and France and went against Germany.

Apart from it, there were numerous causes for the outbreak of the Russian Revolution. Czar's regime was absolute in character. It was based on ideas of the semi-

Julian Calendar

The Russians were using the old Julian calendar, which was 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar used by the rest of Europe. Russia adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1918. The Russians know the events as the February Revolution started on 23 February 1917 (Julian), which was 8 March elsewhere.

Czar or Czar means Emperor of the Romanov Dynasty (a dynasty of Slavs).

revolution had far-reaching effects, shaping the trajectory of economic and political systems in the 20th century.

Q. 'The bold knight, Lenin, having rescued the fair maiden of the Revolution from the evil sorcerer, Kerensky, everyone lived happily hereafter.' Comment. (1983)

The statement provided presents a simplified and somewhat romanticized view of the events surrounding the Russian Revolution of 1917, particularly focusing on the role of Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks. Here's a breakdown of the commentary:

1. Lenin as the Bold Knight: This characterization portrays Lenin as a heroic figure who rescues the Revolution, represented as a fair maiden, from the clutches of the evil sorcerer, Alexander Kerensky. It emphasizes Lenin's leadership and decisive action in seizing power from the Provisional Government.

2. Kerensky as the Evil Sorcerer: Kerensky is depicted as a negative figure, described as an "evil sorcerer" who usurped power and mismanaged the revolution. This portrayal aligns with the Soviet narrative that demonized Kerensky's government as ineffective and illegitimate.

3. The Happy Ever After: The phrase "everyone lived happily ever after" suggests a resolution to the conflict, implying that Lenin's rise to power brought stability and prosperity to Russia. This reflects a triumphalist perspective often propagated by Soviet historians, emphasizing the Bolsheviks' role in bringing about positive change.

However, it's essential to recognize that historical events are often more complex than such simplistic narratives suggest:

1. Contested Interpretations: While Soviet historians portrayed the Bolsheviks as the rightful leaders of the revolution, this view has been contested by other historians who argue that the February Revolution was a spontaneous uprising with diverse ideological motivations. They emphasize that the Bolsheviks capitalized on existing discontent rather than leading the revolution from its inception.

2. Unpopularity of the Provisional Government: The Provisional Government faced challenges and grew unpopular due to various factors, including its handling of the war, economic instability, and failure to address the grievances of the masses. This contributed to the resurgence of popular unrest and ultimately led to its downfall.

3. Role of Bolshevik Agitation: While the Bolsheviks played a significant role in fanning the flames of discontent and orchestrating the overthrow of the Provisional Government, their rise to power was not without controversy. Their tactics, including agitation and propaganda, played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and mobilizing support.

In conclusion, while the statement captures elements of the Soviet narrative of the Russian Revolution, it oversimplifies the complex historical dynamics and contested interpretations surrounding this pivotal event in Russian history.

Q. In Russia, Lenin was "the father of Socialism, organiser of the revolution and the founder of the new Russian society." Examine the statement. (1998)

The statement presents Lenin as a pivotal figure in the history of Soviet Russia and Socialism, credited with being the father of Socialism, organizer of the revolution, and founder of the new Russian society. Let's examine this assertion:

1. Pioneer of Socialist Ideology: Lenin played a crucial role in bringing Socialist ideology to life by establishing the first Socialist country in the world. He adapted Marxist principles to the conditions of pre-industrialized Russia, demonstrating pragmatism and strategic thinking in applying socialist theory to practice.

2. Architect of the Revolution: Lenin's leadership was instrumental in orchestrating the October Revolution of 1917, which overthrew the Tsarist regime and established Bolshevik control. Despite being outside Russia during the February Revolution, Lenin's return and persuasive speeches galvanized support for the Bolsheviks, paving the way for their rise to power.

3. Elimination of Non-Productive Classes: Lenin's policies aimed at restructuring society by eliminating non-productive classes such as capitalists, aristocrats, and clergy. This included redistributing land among peasants, granting voting rights to productive laborers, and confiscating private property of landowners. Lenin's vision was to create a society based on the empowerment of the proletariat.

4. Transition to New Economic Policy: While Lenin initially pursued Marxist socialism, economic difficulties and shortages in the early 1920s prompted a shift towards the New Economic Policy (NEP). This compromise with small-scale capitalism allowed for limited private enterprise and market mechanisms, reflecting Lenin's pragmatic approach to economic management.

5. Comparative Analysis of Revolution

Q. "The impact of the French Revolution (1789) was initially confined to Europe but, that of the Russian Revolution (1917) was global." Critically review. (2012)

The impact of the French Revolution (1789) and the Russian Revolution (1917) have been seen in every sphere of human life.

French Revolution (1789): The French Revolution undoubtedly had a significant impact not only on Europe but also on the broader world. Its ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity resonated beyond France's borders, inspiring revolutionary movements and nationalist aspirations across Europe. The rise of Napoleon and the spread of Napoleonic ideals further disseminated revolutionary principles, leading to the dismantling of traditional monarchies and the emergence of republican governments in various European states.

Moreover, the abolition of slavery in French colonies by the National Convention in 1792 highlighted the global reach of the French Revolution's principles. The revolution's influence extended to distant regions such as Haiti, where the ideals of liberty and equality fuelled the successful slave rebellion and the establishment of the first independent black republic.

Russian Revolution (1917): The impact of the Russian Revolution was indeed profound and far-reaching, extending well beyond the borders of Russia. Unlike the French Revolution, which primarily challenged monarchical rule, the Russian Revolution posed a direct challenge to the established world order based on capitalism, imperialism, and colonialism. By establishing the first communist state in the world, the Russian Revolution presented an ideological alternative to capitalist systems, causing apprehension among Western powers and inspiring socialist movements globally.

The formation of the Comintern (Third International) aimed at promoting worldwide socialist revolution, intensifying the ideological conflict between Soviet Russia and Western capitalist nations. Furthermore, Russia's renunciation of colonial claims in Asia and its anti-imperialist stance resonated with national liberation movements in Asia and Africa, incorporating socialist ideals into struggles against colonial oppression.

Critical Review: While both revolutions had significant global implications, it's essential to consider the nuances of their impact. The French Revolution's

influence on Europe and its colonies, particularly in promoting republican ideals and abolitionist movements, cannot be understated. However, the Russian Revolution's challenge to capitalism and imperialism had a broader and more enduring impact, shaping the course of the 20th century's ideological and geopolitical landscape.

In conclusion, while the French Revolution had a substantial global impact, particularly in promoting revolutionary ideals and challenging colonial oppression, the Russian Revolution's influence was more profound and transformative, ushering in an era of ideological conflict and inspiring socialist movements worldwide.

Q. "If the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia (that resulted in the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or Soviet Union) inaugurated an international competition for the hearts and minds of people all over the globe, the Chinese Revolution raised the stakes of that struggle." Comment.

The assertion that the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the subsequent Chinese Revolution raised the stakes in the global competition for ideological supremacy holds significant merit. Let's explore how these revolutions intensified the struggle between communism and capitalism for the hearts and minds of people worldwide.

Bolshevik Revolution (1917) and the Birth of the Soviet Union

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, which led to the establishment of the Soviet Union, marked the dawn of the first communist state in the world. This revolution transformed Marxist ideology into a tangible political reality, challenging the existing capitalist and imperialist world order. The formation of the Communist International (Comintern) aimed at fostering global socialist revolutions further underscored the Bolsheviks' commitment to spreading communism internationally.

By renouncing colonial claims in Asia and actively supporting nationalist movements across the continent, the Soviet Union popularized socialist ideals among oppressed peoples, posing a direct threat to the capitalist hegemony upheld by Western powers. The Bolshevik Revolution thus inaugurated an era of ideological competition, with communism emerging as a viable alternative to capitalism on the global stage.