UNIT THREE

The Modern World since 1500

3.1. The Renaissance

- Renaissance was an intellectual movement. The word renaissance indicates the “rebirth” of learning. It began in the 14th century and ended in the 17th century.
- Renaissance began in Italy and spread to the rest of Europe, mainly to England, France, Germany, Spain and Holland.
  - First, Renaissance Italy was essentially an urban society.
  - Second, the Renaissance was an age of recovery from the disasters of the fourteenth century. This revival affected both politics and art.
  - Third, a new view of human beings emerged as people in the Italian Renaissance began to emphasize individual ability

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- The Renaissance had the following characteristics:
  - The study of ancient Rome and Greek languages, literature, arts and the use of reason.
  - The support of freedom of thought and questioning mind.
  - The use of the vernacular, or the national language such as the Italian and the English language rather than Latin in writing
- **The outstanding persons of the Renaissance produced great works of literature, painting, sculpture, architecture and science.**

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- **In literature:**
  - **Divine Comedy** was written by Italian Dante Alighieri;
  - **Utopia** by Englishman Thomas More;
  - **Don Quixote** by the Spaniard Cervantes;
  - **Holy Bible** was translated into German by Martin Luther
  - Various great plays by Englishman William Shakespeare.
- **In arts:**
  - Italian Leonardo da Vinci painted **Last Supper and Monalisa;**
  - Italian Michael Angelo painted the **Creation of Adam** and made **statues of David, Moses and the Virgin & the dead Christ**.
- **In science: the Belgian Vesalius studied human anatomy. The Polish Nicholas Copernicus declared that the earth revolved around the sun.**

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- The Renaissance had a profound influence on the development of modern society culture, and since it is a natural extension of both, artistic expression.
- The Renaissance influence in the world brought about a new focus on humanism and, as a result, a subsequent turning away from the dominant ideas put forth by the church. The dawning recognition of human potential and scientific inquiry shaped the course of world history and still influences contemporary societies' culture today

3.2 The Age of Explorations and Discoveries

- **The age of European explorations and discoveries was in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The explorations were, in part, initiated by the need to bypass the Ottoman Turkish blockade of the old long-distance trade route from Europe to the Far East.**
- **Factors that encouraged explorations and discoveries were:**
  - European interest in long-distance trade and new inventions like the compass.
  - the development of better maps and ships and
  - the growing interest in geographical knowledge fueled the idea of exploration.
  - **Prince Henry, the Navigator** (1394-1460) of Portugal and **Queen Isabella** (1451- 1504) of Spain, who supported the voyages of explorers, also inspired the exploration. They sponsored voyages for the sake of their economy, religion and glory.

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- Spain and Portugal were the leaders in the exploration and discoveries in the 15th and thcenturies.
- Portuguese explorer **Vasco da Gama** discovered new sea route to India and the Far East in 1498.
- An Italian **Christopher Columbus** discovered America in 1492 while in service of Spain.
- The Portuguese **Ferdinand Magellan** circumnavigated the world between1519 and 1522 in service of Spain
- The newly discovered lands were later conquered and became colonies of European powers.
- For instance, Spain took Mexico, Peru and other lands in America.
- Brazil and territories in Asia become Portuguese colonies.

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- New Amsterdam became trading colony of Holland in 1623.
- But Britain took it in 1644 and renamed into New York.
- Britain established 13 colonies in present day USA in the 17th century.
- France established colonies along Lawrence River, Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi valley after 1608.
- In 1637 Russia occupied Alaska until USA bought it in 1867

3.3. The English Bourgeois Revolution

- The cause of the revolution can be traced to **social, economic, constitutional and religious** developments over a long period of time**.**
- **The pressing questions were**
  - Sovereignty in the English state and Puritanism in the church
- Serious conflict between the king and parliament began in the reign of Charles I (r. 1625-1649) and co-operation between the king and the ruling class began to break down. The most serious disputes were about foreign policy, then money and religion. Early in his reign, England was involved in two expensive and unsuccessful wars against Spain and France and failure led to criticism of the king and his ministers.

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- The religious problem was the growing suspicion in England that Charles and his French Catholic queen, Henrietta Maria, were taking England away from Protestantism and back to Catholicism.

Beginning of the Revolution

- The revolutionary crisis began in Scotland. Charles was king of Scotland as well as king of England.
- **Cause: -** In 1637, without consulting the Scots, Charles imposed the Church of England Prayer Book for Church services in Scotland.
- The Scots opposed this for nationalist reasons and because to the Calvinist (Presbyterian) Scots the prayer Book really did look Catholic. The Scots rebelled.

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- Charles called a meeting of the English Parliament. However, Parliament refused to approve any taxation and the king quickly dissolved what was called the **Short Parliament**, because its meeting was so brief (April – May 1640). Charles wanted to defeat the Scots without money form Parliament but was unable to suppress the rebellion. The government's authority began to break down in England as well as having broken down in Scotland.
- The king could not avoid calling the English parliament again. It met in November 1640 and became known as the **Long Parliament** because it met from 1640 to 1653.
- At the beginning the members (Lords and Commons) of the Long Parliament were united against the king.

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- Charles was forced to accept laws seriously limiting his powers.
- Then parliament itself became divided. A majority, but only a small majority, of the House of Commons, and a few of the House of Lords, wanted to take away all the powers of the king and make him a puppet of the parliamentary leaders.
- These conservatives turned to the king, who now found he had growing support. The conservatives also opposed the wish of the strict Calvinists in parliament to abolish archbishops and bishops in the Church of England and change the English Prayer Book.
- The parliamentary opposition demanded control over an army which would be raised to suppress this revolt, fearing that otherwise the army would be used against themselves. The king refused this demand

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- The final incident, making civil war unavoidable, was the king's attempt, which failed, to arrest five leading members of the parliamentary opposition. The king then left the capital to raise an army from his supporters in the provinces. Parliament also raised an army and fighting began in the summer of 1640.
  - **A. <u>The first civil war (1642-46)</u>**
- London, the richest part of the country, and the navy supported parliament**.**
- Parliament won the war by raising a new centralized force called the **<u>New Model Army</u>** and putting it under the command of two able generals, **Thomas Fairfax** and **Oliver Cromwell.** The Civil War began Cromwell's military and political career.

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- After the First Civil War the problem was to get a firm political settlement. A settlement involved the king, parliament and the army.
- Almost everyone at first expected and wanted the monarchy to continue with Charles still king. Both parliament and the army leaders negotiated with the king but with no success.
- Parliament apparently had power at the end of the First Civil War. However, the New Model Army had the guns and the army was not willing just to be disbanded (dismissed, demobilized) or sent to suppress the rebellion in Ireland.
- **But the army was itself divided.**
  - Conservative and
  - Radicals

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- Before and during the Civil War radical religious and political ideas had emerged.
- A largely secular political movement called **the Leveller movement** had appeared.
  - wanted democracy
  - religious toleration with no state church and
  - reform of the slow complicated, expensive and harsh legal system
- The Levellers had strong support among particularly, small master craftsmen and wage workers in the towns, especially London.
- **These elements in the army said that they did not want to have shed their blood in the Civil War for nothing**

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- lower ranks of the army were strong enough to force the army leadership to hold a political discussion with their representatives. This discussion, **called the Putney Debates (1647),** Ended without conclusions or agreement
  - **B. the second civil war 1648**
- **Caused by**
  - invasion of England by a Scottish army
  - a Royalist insurrection in England
- The New Model Army quickly defeated the Scots and the English Royalists.
- In December 1648 the army, excluded from parliament all members of the House of Commons who did not agree with the army's programme.

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- The members of the House of Commons who remained were called the "**Rump",** meaning remnant or left-overs.
- The "Rump" and the army then staged a show trial of the king and **Charles I** was publicly beheaded in January 1649. The House of Lords was abolished.
- England was declared a republic, called the **Commonwealth.**
- From 1648 to 1653 the "Rump" of the Long parliament ruled England, upheld by the army. However, the army and its leaders became dissatisfied with the Rump.
- In April 1653, Crowell took soldiers into the House of Commons and dismissed the Rump, and this ended the Long Parliament.

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- **Cromwell ruled until his death in September 1658.**
- **The problem was then what form of government should England have?**
- Restoration of monarchy was more acceptable to more people than any other possible political solution. When general Mock, who commanded a strong section of the army, decided to support a restoration of the monarchy, restoration became certain.
- In May 1660 Charles I's eldest son who was also named Charles, entered London and began to rule as **Charles II.** This event is known as the **Restoration.**
- **Charles II did not come back as an absolute monarch. He had to rule with parliament and with the support of the nobility and gentry.**

Parliamentary Supremacy and the Bill of Rights

- In 1689, when King William III and Queen Mary became joint rulers of England
- Parliament presented to them a declaration that became known as the **Bill of Rights**.
- This famous document assured the people certain basic civil rights
- It stands with Magna Carta and the Petition of Rights as the legal guarantees of English liberty.
- The Bill of Rights listed certain rights that were the “true, ancient, and indubitable rights and liberties of the people” of the English Kingdom.
- It settled the succession to the throne.

3.4 The French Revolution

- The Old Regime government was absolute monarchy with no constitution.
- Society in Old Regime France was still divided into three estates, meaning social groups.
  - The 1st estate was the Catholic clergy,
  - The 2nd estate was the nobility and
  - The 3rd estate was-bourgeois ,petty bourgeois, wage workers and peasants.
- The 1st and 2nd estates had more privileges than the 3rd estate, meaning that their legal position was more favorable.
- In particular, the clergy and the nobility paid less taxes than the 3rd estate. With in the 3rd estate, the peasants were the most oppressed of all;.

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- ✓ they paid more taxes than any other group in relation to their income and
- ✓ They still paid feudal dues to lords and the Church tax called the **tithe** to the Church

❖ **The immediate cause: -**

- ➢ France's participation in the American War of Independence

❖ **The war led to revolution in two ways.**

- First, officers who had served in America returned to France full of ideas about liberty.
- Second, the war was very expensive and resulted in financial crisis for the government.

❖ The States-General met in May1789. The representatives of the 3rd estate were the most numerous. OnJune17, the 3rd estate passed aresolution.

- They declared that, since they represented 96% of the French people, they alone werecompetentto make a constitution.
- They declared themselves alone to be a National Assembly of the **French Nation.**
- There preventatives of the 3rd estate took the name National Assembly and invited the representatives of the other estates to join them which some did.
- The members of the National Assembly then took an oath that they would not end the meetings of the National Assembly, what ever the king ordered until they had given France a proper constitution.
- This event is called the **Tennis Court Oath**

- On14 July1789the people captured the **Bastille**, the royal prison, fortress and arsenal inthemiddle ofParis.
- The Bastille was considered as a symbol of tyranny and oppression.
- **The fall of the Bastille marked:**
  - the end of absolute monarchy in France, and
  - July14, is celebrated by the French people as the anniversary of this liberty.
- Meanwhile, in the summer of 1789, there were mass peasant disturbances in many areas of France.
- The national Assembly, on the night of August 4, 1789 it proclaimed the abolition of all forms of privilege, including tax exemptions. The events of July and August 1789 ended the **Old Regime** in France.

- In October 1789 there was another mass disturbance. The people of Paris heard rumours of more counter-revolution at Versailles.
- The French Revolution was a bourgeois revolution. Most of the leadership was bourgeois and the bourgeois majority of the National Assembly reflected mainly bourgeois interests.
- **However, some of what it did also benefited the people as a whole.**
- In 1790 the National Assembly also voted to put the Catholic Church in France under the control of the state. The measure was not accepted by pope in Rome and many Catholic clergy in France.
- This led to a quarrel between the Revolutionaries and the Church.

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- In September 1791 the new constitution had been completed. It made France a constitutional monarchy.
- The new constitution gave full political rights of voting and being elected only to "**active citizens",** who had enough property. Others were called "**passive citizens"** and did not have full political rights.
- Peoples also rejected the constitution of 1791. Thus, Legislative Assembly dissolved itself for new assembly called the **Convention**.
- The task of the convention was to write a new constitution. Meanwhile, at the war front, the revolution was saved for the moment. The French army won an important victory against the Austrian force victory at the battle of **Valmy** in September 1792.

- In the meantime, political groups and parties had emerged, since the beginning of the revolution.
- The two rival political parties in the convention were the **Jacobins** and the **Girondins.**
  a) The **Jacobins** believed to have represented the middle and petty bourgeisie
  b) The **Girondins** that of the big bourgeoisie.
- However, the real difference between the Jacobins and the Girondins was that the Jacobins were willing to go to more radical extremes to save France and the revolution.

- Until July 1794 the Convention did what the Jacobins wanted it to do. The chief Jacobin leader and theorist was **Maximillien Robespierre**.
- The Jacobins ruled France through a 12-man Committee of **Public Safety.** The Jacobins introduced a new, very democratic constitution in (June 1793), which was to come into effect only at the end of the war.
- Food rationing was introduced and controls on prices and wages called was also enforced. These measures were used to stabilize the economic situation. The reign of Terror was used to crush counter-revolution.

- The Jacobin revolutionary dictatorship, June 1793 – July 1794, was the height of the French Revolution and its bloodiest stage.
- Terrorism meant execution of individuals convicted of being **“enemies of the people”.**

- On July 27-28, 1794 the Convention voted the arrest of Robespierre and other Jacobin leaders and sent them to the **guillotine.**
- This was the end of the Jacobin revolutionary dictatorship and the revolution now became more conservative. The Convention voted a new constitution in 1795. This constitution restricted political rights even more than the 1791 constitution had done.
- The 1795 constitution established a regime called the **Directory.** The Directory was unable to give France a stable, conservative bourgeois republic.
- **Finally, in November 1799, an ambitious, popular and successful general overthrew the Directory in a military coup and took power. This general was Napoleon Bonaparte.**

Democratic Gains

- It introduced democratic ideals to France
- it ended supreme rule by French kings and strengthened the middle class.
- The Revolution abolished serfdom, slavery, inherited privileges and judicial torture.
- Legal equality gradually became the norm in France.
- The French Revolution created the long-lasting foundation for a unified state.
- **Had far-reaching effect on the rest of Europe.**

3.5. American War of Independence

- The American Revolution was also called the **U.S. War of Independence.** The war was the insurrection fought between 1775 and 1783, through which 13(thirteen) of Great Britain's North American colonies threw off British rule to establish the sovereign United States of America.
- The struggle of these European settlers (thirteen colonists) against British colonial rule for independence was coined in world history as the **American War of Independence.**

- The Congress set the Army of the United Colonies and Colonel **George Washington** to be Commander-in-Chief of the Army
- As the British began to impose heavy taxations, the thirteen colonists gathered at Philadelphia - the First Continental Congress. They adopted a non-importation, non-consumption agreement, which virtually cut off imports from Britain.

- The fighting started in the largest cities and trading ports.
- Finally, in 1776, representatives from 13 colonies met in **Philadelphia** to declare themselves independent.
- **Thomas Jefferson** drafted a document called the **Declaration of Independence** (July 14, 1776).
  - It justified the act of rebellion and announced the birth of a new nation **called the USA**.
  - The document also set forth the philosophy of human freedom, which later became a dynamic force in the rest of the western world.
- In 1783, the British government accepted defeat. The majority of delegates signed a constitution on September 17, 1787

Consequences of the war

- The American War of Independence highly influenced many countries like the French and Latin Americans.
  - It was one of the immediate causes for the French Revolution outbreak in 1789.
  - In the case of the Latin American countries, they started to raise arms against their colonial masters, Spain and Portugal.
  - In March 1889, elections were held for the Presidency of the new federal government, and **George Washington** became the first President of the USA.
  - The American War of Independence did not abolish slavery

3.6. The Industrial Revolution and Its consequences

- The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain in the late 1700s but slowly spread across the globe.
- The Industrial Revolution was new manufacturing processes in Europe and the United States that took place between the 18th and the 19th centuries.
- Manufacturing rapidly changed from mainly hand production to the use of machinery.
- This transition from old modes of production to new technologically driven production brought drastic changes in the European way of life.
- Making cloth moved from homes to large factories. Britain also had plenty of coal and iron, which was essential to power and produced machine for the factories.

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- It was essentially the replacement of manual works by the new machine that made the large-scale production of goods possible.
- Capitalism emerged in the 16th to 17th centuries in Northwestern Europe, especially in Great Britain.
- Industrial capitalism is a mode of production consisting of large, centrally controlled accumulations of capital that is used to finance production of commodities.
- One of the biggest factors contributing to the rise of industrial capitalism was technology.
- **Characteristics of capitalism include**
  - capital accumulation,
  - competitive markets,
  - a price system,

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- private property and the recognition of property rights,
- voluntary exchange and wage labour.
- **In addition there were new technologies that helped business:**
- the telephone to coordinate transactions over long distances,
- the typewriter to speed up record-keeping, and
- electricity which made it possible to work safely after dark

- The ethos of industrial capitalism also began to challenge mercantilist doctrines of trade barriers and protective monopolies, and by the mid-19th century, Britain had fully embraced laissez-faire economy
- Liberalism and competition in trade and the development of a free-market economy are now capitalism's main political and economic philosophies.

- the driving forces of industrial capitalism, comparable to those experienced in the Britain, also impacted landscapes in other parts of Europe and North America.
- **Steam engine technology** underpinned the invention in the early 19th century of steam-powered locomotive engines and the development of railways.
- **Railways** made possible the integration of vast continental spaces politically, culturally, and economically.
  - For example, the British began to build railways in India in the 1850s.
  - the first transcontinental railroad opened in 1869.

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- **Politically,** industrialization had effects on the political structure due to the increase of power of the industries that would later become monopolies.
  - The mechanization of labour caused the displacement of thousands of labourers. The rise of industrial capitalism throughout the nineteenth century went hand in hand with the rise of strikes and other forms of labour protests.
- **Socially,** Industrial Revolution drastically changed the social life of Europe and the world. This change was evident in the growth of cities and the emergence of two new social classes: the bourgeoisie and proletariat.
- **Economically,** the Industrial Revolution transformed agriculture and handicrafts economies to large-scale industry, mechanized manufacturing, and the factory system. This transformation resulted in increase in wealth, production of goods and standard of living.

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- In addition, people had access to healthier diets, better housing, better education, and cheaper goods.
- **Industrial Revolution had also many negative effects. Among those were:**
  - **environmental degradation.**
  - poor sanitation.
  - spread of diseases.
  - pollution.
  - poor working conditions and low wage.
  - child labor.