

**MA HISTORY**  
**IIInd SEMESTER 2020**  
**New Syllabus**

**Course VI History of Europe (1789-1919)**

- Unit 1
- a. Europe in 1789, Background
  - b. French Revolution of 1789, Causes, Events & Impact
  - c. National Assembly, National Convention and Directory in France
- Unit 2
- a. Emergence of Napoleon, Expansion, Consolidation and Downfall
  - b. Vienna Congress (1815) and its' Impact on European Politics
  - c. Revolution of 1830 and 1848 in France, Impact on Europe
- Unit 3
- a. Unification of Italy-Role of Mazzini, Garibaldi and Cavour and Victor Emmanuel II
  - b. Unification of Germany, Bismarck
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- Unit 4
- a. Industrial Revolution-Scientific and Technical advancement and Its stages.
  - b. First world War, Causes and Consequences.
  - c. Paris Peace Treaty (1919) and long term consequences

Q.1-Describe the achievements of the National Assembly in France (1789-1791) ?

Ans- Introduction:- On the 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1789, the delegates of Common people in the Estate General declared themselves as the National Assembly. On 27<sup>th</sup> June, the king Louis XVI allowed the delegates of the Noble, Priests and Common people to sit together. Thus the Estate General became the national Assembly. It is also known as National Constituent Assembly, because the most important work of the Assembly was to make a new Constitution of France.

Achievements of the National Assembly :-

1. Abolition of Feudalism in France 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 1789:- On 4<sup>th</sup> Aug., the delegates of Noble and Priests themselves withdrew their all special rights of feudalism. They agreed to pay taxes to the government. The appointment to government posts were opened to all classes of people. All unjust taxes like forced labor and other laws were abolished. Tithe, the religious tax of the Church was also abolished. Thus within week of its beginning the National Assembly abolished the centuries old system of feudalism in France.

2. Declaration of Rights of Man 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 1789:- This declaration was based on the writing of Rousseau. It declared that every man had certain fundamental rights. Some of the important rights were as follows:-
  - a. The Right of Equality
  - b. The Right of Appointment to Govt. post on the basis of merit.
  - c. The Right of personal liberty
  - d. The Right of property
  - e. Freedom of speech & Press
  - f. Religious freedom
  - g. The Right to take part in making laws either himself or through his delegates. (The Right to Vote)

This was only a declaration of Rights. It does not mean that these rights were given to the people. The purpose of this declaration was to give the knowledge to the people about their rights.

Mirabeau “What is need not the declaration of rights but the declaration of duties.”

3. Economic Reforms of the National Assembly:- The National Assembly was faced with the bankruptcy of the government. There was no money in the treasury. To meet these financial problems, the National Assembly took two steps.
  - a. Confiscation of the landed property of the Church. The Roman Catholic Church in France had 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the total land of France as its Jagirs. In Oct 1789, all this landed property was taken by the Government.
  - b. Issue of paper currency of Assignats :-On the basis of the Church property, paper note called Assignats of the value of 200 crore francs were issued. Thus, for some time the problem of meeting the expenditure of the government was solved.
4. The Constitution of 1791:- This was the most important achievement of the National Assembly. After the labour of two years a new Constitution for France was completed in 1791. This Constitution was based on the Montesquieu’s principal of the Separation of Power. According to this principal the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary were separated from each other.
  - a. The Executive :- The King was made the head of the executive. He was the Head of the Army but he could not declare peace or war. He could not make any laws but could only delay them for four years. He could appoint his ministers but his ministers were not allowed to enter the National Assembly. The right of appointment to government posts was also taken from him. Thus the rights of the king were greatly reduced.
  - b. Decentralization of Administration:- The whole country was divided into 83 Departments or Province. These Departments were divided into Cantons (Districts) and 44 thousand Communes or Municipalities. All the elected members were elected by the commoners.
  - c. Legislative Assembly:- A single chamber Legislative Assembly Consisting of 745 members was provided by the Constitution. It was to be elected for 2 years. The right to vote was not given to all people. Only active citizens paying 3 days wages as tax to the government were given the right of vote. All other people were called Passive citizens. Thus the poor in France were not

given the right of vote. This was against the principal of the Declaration of the Rights of man.

d. Judiciary:- The sale and purchase of the posts of Judges was abolished. The Judges were now to be elected by the people.

e. New constitution of Clergy:- In 1790, the National Assembly made a civil constitution of Clergy for the Church according to this constitution:-

(1) There was to be only one Bishop in each Department. Thus there were to be only 83 Bishops in France.

(2) All Bishops and Priests were to be paid their salary by the Government.

(3) The appointment of the priest was not to be done by the pope but by election of the people.

(4) All the priests were required to take an oath of loyalty to the new constitution.

The Pope condemned the new constitution and most of the priests refused to accept the new constitution of the Clergy. Thus the Church became against the revolution & religious conflict started in France.

Thus the National Assembly Completed its work after two year labour. The Constitution was accepted by the King on 21<sup>st</sup> Sep 1791.

Hazen writes, "The Constitution of 1791 was an improvement in France government but it did not work well and did not last long."