

Theme 6 The Three Orders

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The three orders of the European society between the ninth and and sixteenth centuries were:Christian priests,land owning nobles and peasants. The changing relationships between these three groups was an important factor in shaping European history for several centuries.

Sources to understand Medieval European society

1. There is a lot of material in the form of documents,details of landownership,prices and legal cases. Churches had kept records of births ,marriages and deaths .The inscriptions in churches give information about traders' associations,and songs and stories give a sense of festivals and community activities. All these can be used to understand economic and social life.

2.Marc Bloch and his ideas about European feudalism

Marc Bloch(1886-1944) was one of the earliest scholars of France who worked on the concept of feudalism. He argued that history is not all about political history but also includes international relations and lives of great people. He stressed on the importance of geography in determining human history and the requirement to realise the collective activities or approaches of groups of people.

His book **Feudal Society** talks about the European society between 900 and 1300 A.D especially of France. It had significant detailed social relations and hierarchies and land related affairs and cultural achievements of that period.

Condition of Europe on the eve of rising feudalism

There were some socio-political changes that occurred in Europe between the ninth and and sixteenth centuries. After the decline of the Roman Empire, several Germanic groups of people of eastern and central Europe captured areas of Italy,Spain and France. Due to the absence of a single political power, there were regular military clashes in order to gather resources to continue hold on own land. Social institution was therefore revolved around the control of land. Christianity was the religion of land as it was spread in almost whole Europe. The church was not only a religious institution but also a political power. The church was a major land holder in Europe.

Meaning of Feudalism
The term 'feudalism' is derived from a German word ' feud ' which means ' a piece of land '.It refers to the kind of society that developed in Medieval France and later in England and Italy. Feudalism was a system that centred around the principles of land related matters. Historians used the term feudalism to describe the economic,legal,political and social relationships that existed in Europe in the medieval era.

Features of feudalism in Europe

The roots of feudalism can be traced back to the practices that existed in the Roman Empire. Feudalism became an established way of life during the era of French king Charlemagne. It was said to be emerged later and spread in whole Europe later.

Feudalism refers to a kind of an agricultural production which was based on the relationship between the lords and peasants. The peasants cultivated their own land and worked on the lands of the lords also. In lieu of labour service ,peasants received military protection from the lord. The lords also decided the judicial matters of the peasants. Therefore ,that lord was all in all proprietors of lands and peasant's fortunes. Thus ,besides economic aspects,feudalism also began to cover the political and social aspects of life.

History of the name 'France'

There was a province of Roman Empire named 'Gaul' which had extensive coastlines, mountain ranges, long rivers, forests and large plain area suited to agriculture. A Germanic tribe named 'the Franks' gave their name to Gaul and it later came to be known as France. By the sixth century this region was a kingdom under the rule of Christian Frankish or French got strengthened when Charlemagne was given the title of 'Holy Roman Emperor' by the pope around 800 AD

The Three Orders

The French priests were of the view that people were part of the one of three 'orders' according to their occupation. A bishop quoted that, **"Here below some pray, others fight, other still work"**. So the three orders of society were generally the clergy, the nobility and the peasantry.

The First Order: The Clergy

The Christians of Europe were directed by bishops and clerics of church. They made the first order of the feudal society. Above those bishops and clerics was the head of western church, the Pope, who lived in Rome. The Catholic church was the most dominant body which did not depend on the king. The church had its own laws, owned land granted by the king collected taxes of own. Almost all villages had church, where people gathered on Sunday pray and listened to the sermons of the priests. Men who became priest could not marry. Serfs, the physically challenged and women could not become a priest. The Bishops were nobles in religious field. They owned lands like lords, had vast estates and lived in grand palaces.

The church collected one tenth of share from peasants' produce every year called the 'tithe'. The church also got money in the form of donations by the rich for own and their relatives' welfare in the afterlife. Several rites and rituals of feudal nobles were copied by church to increase its influence. The act of kneeling while praying, with hands clasped and head bowed was identical to knights' act to take vow for their lord. The term 'lord' for God was also a debt from feudal customs.

Monks and Monasteries

There were devout Christians in feudal society known as monks. They opted to live isolated in contrast to the clergy who lived in towns and villages. They lived in religious communities called abbeys or monasteries away from human settlements. Monks vowed to stay in the abbey for the rest of their life. They spent their time in worship, study and manual labour like farming. Their life was different from priesthood and was quiet open to both men and women and women became nuns. Most of the abbeys were single-sex communities. There were separate abbeys for men and women. Like priests, monks and nuns did not marry. Two well known monasteries were one established by **St. Benedict in Italy in 529 and another of Cluny in Burgundy in 910.**

Relation between the Church and Society

Christianity entered Europe and influenced most of the people. But they did not forget old beliefs in magic and folk traditions. Christmas and Easter became important dates from the fourth century. They replaced old pre-Roman festival as which were based on solar calendar. The Easter day marked the crucifixion of Christ and his rebirth from the dead and it was celebrated on replaced date of old festival based on lunar calendar. On coming of spring, people used to travel around their village lands on that day. Holiday or holidays were welcomed by overworked peasants as free days, they usually spent more time in fun and feasting rather than prayer.

The Second Order: The Nobility

The nobility possessed a central role in the social processes. They had control over lands, which was the result of old custom known as 'vassalage'. The nobles of kings were big land holders and they used to be vassal of the king whereas the peasants were vassals to the land owners. In France the rulers were linked to 'vassalage', similarly the Franks of Gaul also followed the same tradition. In that tradition a noble accepted the king his seigneur or lord in all matters and

king had to give a mutual assurance that he would protect the vassals. Under that link both seigneur and the noble had to make vows with the Bible in the church. The vassal received a written charter or a staff or even a clod of earth as symbol of land granted by his lord. The nobles enjoyed several privileges. They had judicial powers and even right to issue coins. They also had power to raise their army known as feudal levies. A noble was lord of each and every person settled on his land. He possessed huge tracts of land which included his residences, his personal fields, pastures and the fields of peasant-tenants. The house of noble was known as manor. The peasants cultivated their fields also, worked as cultivators on his fields and as the foot soldiers in time of military need.

The Manorial Estate

A lord house was known as manor-house in feudal society. He would control peasant's villages in the manorial estates either in small number containing few dozen of houses or in large number consisting of around fifty to sixty houses of peasants. The manorial estates were self sufficient economic centres, where each and every requirement of daily life was fulfilled in the estate. The grains were grown in the fields, blacksmiths and carpenters maintained the lords equipments and refurnished the ornaments, whereas stone masons managed their building. The women prepared fabrics and children worked in lord's wine-presses. The estates consisted of woodlands and forests where the lord did hunting. The estates also contained pastures. The church was part of estate and the castle was there for defence, where knights lived. In England, the castles were developed as centres of administration and military strength under the feudal system.

Knights: A Distinctive Group

There were regular localised wars in Europe. The insufficient amateur peasant soldiers and lack of good cavalry had created problems. This led to the evolution of new section of people in society known as Knight. They were under the lord, who were subordinates of the king. The knights paid his lord customary fees and pledged to fight for him in war. The lords granted a piece of land called fief, for knights in lieu of their services as their protectorate. The fief of knight could be hereditary and was of any size from 1000 to 2000 acres or more. A knight's fief consisted of a house for him and his family, church settlements of dependent together with water mill and wine press. The peasants cultivated the land of the fief. In exchange, the knight paid his lord a regular fee and promised to fight for him in war. A knight could serve more than one lord but remained loyal to his own lord.

The Third Order: Peasants, Free and Unfree

The third order consisted of vast majority of people which were mainly cultivators. The cultivators had two categories: free peasants and serfs. The free peasants were those who had own lands but worked as tenants of the land. They had to give military service for least forty days in a year. They had to work on lord's fields for three days generally in a week in the form of labour-rent. Together with this they had to provide unpaid services for works like digging ditches, gathering firewood, building fence and maintaining roads and buildings. Women and children had to do several tasks together with work on fields like spinning thread, weaving cloth, making candles and preparing wine from grapes. The free peasants had to pay a tax 'taille' to king from which clergy and nobles were exempted. The serfs tilled the land of lord. Most part of the produce was submitted to the lord. They had to work on the lands of lord without wages. They were not allowed to leave the estate without prior permission from the lord. The lord claimed several monopolies at the cost of his serfs. Serfs could use only lord's flour mill, his oven to bake their bread and his wine-presses to distil wine and beer. The lord decide whom a serf should marry or might give the blessing to the serf's choice but on a payment of a free.

England the land 'Angles'

The Angles and Saxons came from central Europe and got settled in England during sixth century. The name of the country England is a modification of 'Angle-land' as England was inhabited by Angles.

Factors Affecting social and Economic Relations.

There were several processes which were affecting the social and economic relations.

The Environment

Between fifth and tenth centuries, Europe had undergone an extreme cold climatic change. This shortened growing season for crops and reduced agricultural production. By the eleventh century, Europe entered a warm phase. Increase in temperature had a deep impact on agriculture. Peasants had a longer growing season and soil could be easily ploughed. This resulted in the expansion of agriculture.

Land Use

Agricultural technology used by peasants initially was primitive. They had to use wooden plough drawn by couple of oxen, which could only scratch the surface of earth instead of drawing full fertility of soil. So, fields needed to be dug by hand, regularly once in four years. Agriculture was therefore very labour demanding. An unproductive method of crop rotation was in use; in which the land was divided in two halves. In one winter wheat was grown in autumn and other left fallow and vice versa. Rye was grown in other half. This was a system of destroying fertility of soil and caused frequent famines. Chronic malnutrition occurred and life of the poor became more difficult. The lords were apprehensive to increase their income, as it was difficult to increase output from land. So they forced the peasants to work on his manorial estates more than the legal time.

Technological Changes in the Field of Agriculture

The eleventh century saw several changes in the field of agriculture.

- ◆ The heavy iron-tipped ploughs and mould-boards replaced old wooden equipments. These ploughs dug much deeper and mould-boards turned soil suitable which resulted in better use of nutrients from the soil.
- ◆ The shoulder-harness replaced neck-harness of animals that allowed animals to wield great power. Use of iron horseshoes prevented foot decay of horses.
- ◆ There was increased use of wind and water energy for agriculture. All over Europe wind and water powered mills were established for the purpose of grinding corn and pressing grapes.
- ◆ There was introduction of three field system for land use in place of older two field system. In that, a peasant could use two out of three fields by sowing one crop in autumn and another crop in spring a year and half later. They could grow wheat or rye in autumn in one field then in second field they could grow peas, beans and lentils during spring and could grow oats and barley for horses also. The third field was left fallow and by that they could rotate the use of all three fields every year.
- ◆ With the improvement in agricultural technology there was instant enhancement in food produced from every unit of land. The greater use of plants like peas and beans meant increase in protein diet of Europeans and better source of fodder for animals. Now cultivator could produce more food from small land. The average holding of peasant's farm shrank from 100 acres to 20 or 30 acres. Now small holdings reduced the requirement of labour and could be efficiently cultivated which gave time to peasants for other creative activities.
- ◆ During the eleventh century the personal bonds base of feudalism weakened. The lords asked for rents in cash instead of kind, also peasants found it easy to sell their crops to traders. The increased use of money began to influence prices, which became higher in times of poor harvest.

A Fourth Order? New towns and Towns people

- The advent of new agricultural technology resulted in growth of agriculture which was accompanied by progress in three related areas: **population, trade and towns.**
- The population of Europe rose from 42 million in 1000 to 62 million around 1200 and 73 million in 1300. Due to better food the lifespan increased. An average European could expect to live 10 years longer in the 13th century than 8th century.

- The growth of population resulted into development of towns in the Roman Empire. Peasant needed a place to
- sell their surplus produce and buy tools and cloth. This led to the increase in holding regular fairs and small townships. These townships gradually developed into town with features like town square,a church,streets where merchants built shops and homes,an office where administrators of city could meet. The towns developed along large castles,bishops' estates or large churches.
- Instead of services,people paid taxes to lords who were the owner of the land on which the town stood. Towns offered the prospect of paid work and freedom for young people of peasantry.
- **'Town air makes free'** was a saying popular in medieval Europe. Many serfs escaped from their masters and hid themselves in towns. If they successfully completed one year and a day without being discovered by their masters ,they could become freemen.
- There was a large number of shopkeepers and merchants,later there was a need of skilled individuals like lawyers and bankers. The bigger towns had population of around 30,000 which might form the fourth order.
- **Guilds were the basis of economic organisation in the medieval Europe**. Crafter industry was organised into guild. These guilds controlled the quality,price and the sale of the goods. The guild- hall was part of every town where heads of all guilds met. Due to the expansion of trade and commerce also the town merchants became wealthy and powerful and completed with power of the nobility.

Cathedral -towns

The large churches were called cathedrals. By 12th century onwards, cathedrals were being built in France. The cathedrals belonged to monasteries. Different people contributed to their construction with their own labour,material or money. A cathedral was made of stone and took several years to complete. The area around the cathedrals became more populated and they became centres of pilgrimage. Small towns developed around them. Cathedrals were designed in a way that voice of the priest could reach all people assembled in the hall. Singing sound of monks and the chiming bells reached greater distance as a call for prayer. Stained glass was used for windows of the cathedrals. These glasses, during day time ,made the cathedrals radiant for the people who were inside and during the nights ,the light of the candles made them visible for the people outside. The stained glass narrated the stories in the Bible through pictures. So that illiterates could understand those stories.

The Crisis of the Fourteenth Century

- By the early fourteenth century,Europe's economic expansion slowed down.
- In 13th century the warm summers of the previous years had given way to bitterly cold summers.
- Seasons for growing crops were reduced by a month.
- Storms and oceanic flooding destroyed many farmlands that reduced the income in taxes for govts.
- Population growth caused shortage of resources and the immediate result was famine.
- Trade was hit by a severe shortage of metal money because of the short fall in the output of silver mines in Austria and Serbia.
- The ships came with rats carrying the deadly bubonic plague infection(Black death).
- This catastrophe ,combined with the economic crisis, caused immense social disorder.
- Serious imbalances were created between agriculture and manufacture.

Social Unrest

The income of lords was declining rapidly because of fall prices of agriculture products and rise in wages of labourers. In desperation,they tried to give up the money-contracts and revive labour-services. This was fiercely opposed by all peasants including better-educated and more prosperous one. The peasants revolted in Flanders in 1323,in France in 1358 and in England in 1381.Although the revolts were ruthlessly crushed but one significant thing was that they occurred with more brutal intensity in the areas which experience economic growth. It was a sign of peasant's attempt for securing their gains which they had made in previous centuries. The aggression of peasants made it certain that old feudal order would not be reinstalled. Thus the lords were able to crush the rebellions but were not

able to reinstitute old feudal privileges

Political Changes between 15th and 16th century

Development in the political sphere was parallel to the social processes. In the 15th and 16th centuries, emergence of triumphant rulers in Europe was stimulated by the social changes of 13th and 14th centuries as the feudal system weakened. Both the powerful new states and the economic changes that were occurring were significant for Europe. The historians called these kings' the new monarchs'. The kings like **Louis XI in France, Maximilian in Austria, Henry-VII in England and Isabelle and Ferdinand in Spain** were absolute monarchs. They started the process of organizing standing armies, a permanent bureaucracy and national taxation and, in Spain and France began to play a role in European expansion overseas.

The monarchs dispensed with the system of feudal levies for their armies and initiated professionally trained infantry equipped with gun and siege artillery directly under their control. The resistance of the nobility collapsed in the face of the military efficiency of the kings.

The centralized power did not establish easily confrontation of aristocracies. The nobility managed a tactical transfer from being opponents to the new regime into loyalists. The king was at the centre of an elaborate courtier society and a network of patron-client relationships. All rulers powerful or weak required the assistance of those who could control power which could be arranged or acquired by way of money. The merchants and bankers acquired an important role because they could solve problem of money for the kings by lending it to them. Therefore, they got easy access to royal court. Kings, thus made way for non-feudal constituents in the state scheme. The later history of France and England was to be shaped by these changes in the power structure.

Key words

Medieval Era: The term 'medieval era' refers to the period in European history between the fifth and the fifteenth centuries.

Abbey : Abbey is derived from the Syriac abba, meaning father. An abbey was governed by an abbot or an abbess.

Monastery : The word 'monastery' is derived from the Greek word 'monos', meaning someone who lives alone.

Doon de mayence: A thirteenth century French poem to be sung recounting adventures of Knights.

The Canterbury Tales: A poem written by Geoffrey Chaucer

Piers Plowman: A poem written by Langland

The Black death: Black death or bubonic plague caused the large scale deaths in Europe. It was brought by the rats that come to Europe, along with the trading ships.

Fourth Order : The bigger towns had population of around 30,000. They could be said to have formed a fourth order.

Passage Based Reference

Rules followed by Monks

The monks had to follow many rules. A manuscript with 73 chapters have been found in the Benedictine monasteries. Some of the important rules were:

Chapter 6 said	The consent to speak should be granted to monks only on rare occasions
Chapter 7 said	Humanity means obedience
Chapter 33 said	A monk should never own private property
Chapter 47 said	Idleness is the enemy of the soul, so friars and sisters should be occupied at certain times in manual labour and at fixed hours in readings.
Chapter 48 said	The monasteries should be settled out in the way that all necessities (water, mill, garden, workshops etc.) are found within its premises.

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It was Renaissance that marked the change of cultural traditions in Europe

Sources

There is a lot of material in the form of documents, printed books, paintings, sculptures, buildings, textiles etc. Many of these are preserved in archives, art galleries and museums in Europe and America.

Jacob Burckhardt and his view about Renaissance

Jacob Burckhardt (1818-97) was a Swiss scholar from the University of Basle of Switzerland. To him, politics was not the central concern in history writing. History was also concerned with culture as with politics. In his book 'The Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy', he referred the literature, architecture and painting to describe how a new humanist culture had flowered in Italian towns from the 14th century to seventeenth century. He also wrote the development of new beliefs of this culture as the man of that age was capable of making his own decisions and developing his skills as an individual. He further wrote that man was modern in matters of thinking in contrast to the medieval man whose thinking was controlled by the Church.

Changes that occurred in Europe between 14th century and 17th century A.D

- In Europe from 14th century to the end of 17th century, a number of towns had grown in different countries together with distinctive 'urban culture'.
- The people of towns started to think that they were more civilised than the people of villages.
- Many towns developed as centres of art and education such as Florence, Venice and Rome of Italy.
- The rich and aristocratic class began to patronise artists and writers.
- The invention of printing press made books and other printed materials easily available.
- A new sense of history developed in Europe and people divided history as medieval and modern.
- The developments in science and geography broke all the traditional notions of church like earth was the centre of solar system and Mediterranean sea was the centre of the world.

Factors that led to the revival of Italian Cities

- ◆ After the decline of the Roman Empire, the towns of Italy which were political and cultural centres, were left into ruin.
- ◆ After the fall of Roman Empire, western Europe was restructured by feudal bonds and unified under the Latin Church.
- ◆ Eastern Europe went under the rule of Byzantine Empire and Islam was building a common society further west.
- ◆ At this time, Italy was weak and fragmented.
- ◆ All these developments helped in the revival of the Italian culture.
- ◆ The ports on the Italian coast revived because of the developments of trade between the Byzantine empire and the Islamic countries.
- ◆ From the 12th century, the Mongols started trading with China through the Silk Route and as trade increased with European countries, Italian cities played a vital role. These cities kept their identity as independent city states. Florence and Venice were among the republics.
- ◆ Many cities came into existence because their administration was in the hands of rich merchants and bankers, free from the control of clergy or feudal lords and this helped the idea of citizenship.

Role of Universities in spreading Humanism

In Europe ,earlier universities were established in Italian towns. The universities Padua and Bologna had been centres of legal studies from 11th century. There was a growing demand for lawyers and notaries to write and interpret rules and written contracts as increasing trade and commerce depended over them. There was a change in emphasis and Law became a popular subject of study. Francisco Petrarch represented this change and stressed the significance of a deep reading of ancient authors. The educational programme of that period was a means of study more which religious teaching alone could not give. The term humanist began to be applied in early 15th century for masters who could teach grammar,rhetoric,poetry,history and philosophy. These subjects had no connection with religion. They were developed through discussions and debates of individuals. These ideas influenced other universities also especially in newly established university in Florence ,the home town of Petrarch. By 15th century,Florence became famous as trade and education centre. A city was known not only for its wealth but also for its citizens and Florence had become popular because of Dante Alighieri a layman who wrote religious themes and Giotto ,an artist who painted lifelike portraits. From then it developed as the most exciting intellectual city in Italy and a centre of artistic creativity.

The Humanist view of History

The humanists thought that an age of darkness existed for centuries after the decline of the Roman Empire,which they termed as 'dark age'.Later scholars assumed that 'new age' began after the 14th century. The period of thousand years(a millennium) after the fall of Roman Empire was considered as 'Middle Ages'or 'Medieval Period'.About 'middle ages,they said that religion or church controlled the minds of all men in a way that all the learning of the Greeks and Romans had been washed out. The humanists termed the period from the 15th century as 'modern'.Modern historians were debating over labelling of an age as dark which they thought as an unfair thing.

Periodisation used by humanists	
5 th -14 th century	The Middle Ages
5 th -9 th century	The Dark Ages
9 th -11 th century	The Early Middle Ages
11 th -14 th century	The Late Middle Ages
15 th century onwards	The Modern Age

Developments in Science and Philosophy and Arab's Contribution.

The monks and clergymen were familiar with the works of Greek and Roman scholars from the 'middle Ages' but they did not left them get known to other people. By 14th century many scholars started to read the translation of Greek writers like Plato and Aristotle. They were translated and preserved by Arab translators. Some Europeans read Greek works in Arabic translation and the Greek translated Arabic and Persian scholars work in European languages. These works were on natural science ,mathematics,astronomy,medicine and chemistry. The Almagest of Ptolemy was the work of 140 CE on astronomy in Greek language and was translated into Arabic. It carried in Arabic alphabet 'al'which shows connection with Arabs. Ibn Sina,an Arb physician and philosopher of Bukhara and al-Razi the author of medieval encyclopaedia were considered as men of knowledge in Italian states. The Christian thinkers adopted the method of Arab philosopher of Spain(Ibn Rushd) who tried to resolve the tension between philosophical knowledge and religious faith.

Artists and Realism

Humanism was not only propagated through education but also by art,architecture and books. The artists were inspired by studying the works of the past. The material remains including fragments of art wee found on the ruins of

ancient Rome and other deserted cities. Italian sculptors were influenced with perfectly proportioned male and female figures. Donatello initiated the new ground with his life-like statues. The artists were helped by the scientists by making accurate human figures. The artists went to laboratories of medical schools for studying bone structures. A professor of medicine, Andreas Vesalius at the university of Padua, first dissected the human body, which was the beginning of modern physiology. Painters did not get any older work. So they painted as realistically and their pictures had a three-dimensional effect due to the use of light effect of colours. The use of anatomy, geometry and physics together with logic of 'what is beautiful' created a quality called realism introduced in Italian art which continued up to the 19th century.

Architectural Developments of the Period

In the 15th century, Rome made its mark in a spectacular way. Since the Popes were politically stronger by 1417, after the weakness caused by the election of two rival Popes in 1378, they actively encouraged study of Rome. The new classical architecture was actually a revival of the Imperial Roman Style. The wealthy merchants, popes and aristocrats engaged those architects who were familiar with classical architecture. Artists and sculptors began to decorate buildings with paintings, sculptures and reliefs. Several persons were expert equally as painters, sculptors and architects. Michaelangelo Buonarroti is remembered for his immortal work in Rome such as the painted ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the sculpture called 'The Pieta' and the design of the dome of St. Peter's Church. Filippo Brunelleschi started his career as a sculptor but became famous for designing the Duomo of Florence. By this time artists were famous individually, by their name instead of being a member of a group or a guild.

Development of Printing technology

Europeans borrowed the idea of printing technology from Chinese people because the European traders and diplomats became familiar with it during their visits to the Mongol rulers' courts. Earlier texts were found in hand-written form. Johannes Gutenberg, a German, made the first printing press and printed 150 copies of the Bible in 1455. The same time was taken by a monk to write a single copy of the Bible. All classical texts in Latin had been printed in Italy by 1500 AD. With the availability of printed books, the dependency of students over lecture notes was ended. The ideas, opinions and information spread widely and rapidly. The printed books promoted new views rapidly. This made it possible for individuals to read books, as it was possible to buy a copy for oneself. The printed books were the chief factor to spread humanist culture quickly across the Alps by the end of 15th century.

The New Concept of Human Beings

One of the features of humanist culture was a loosening of the control of religion over human life. Italians remained religious though they were attracted by material wealth, power and glory. A humanist from Venice, Francesco Barbaro wrote a pamphlet in defence of the possession of the wealth and called it a virtue. Lorenzo Valla who thought that the study of history leads a man to attempt for a life of perfection, he in his book *On Pleasure* condemned the Christian restriction against pleasure. There was a concern over good manners that how one should speak politely and dress properly. Humanism stressed that individuals were able of shaping their own lives through resources rather than the mere search of power and money. This belief was linked with the view that human nature was many-sided which went against the three separate orders that feudal society believed in. Machiavelli believed that 'all men are bad and ever ready to display their vicious nature partly because of the fact that human desires are insatiable'.

The Aspiration of Women (Condition of Women)

The new ideas like individuality and citizenship regarding human beings excluded women. Men from aristocratic families led the public life and were the decision-makers of their families. The sons were provided with education to lead a family business or public life. Women had no say in business matters though their dowries were invested in family business, marriages were a means to support business alliances. Those girls whose dowry was not arranged were

sent to convents to lead the life of nuns. The women were looked upon as keeper of households only. The condition of women in families of merchants was in contrast to that of aristocratic families. They assisted their husbands in running the business. The wives of merchants and bankers looked after their business when they were away. The early death of a merchant forced his widow to play a bigger public role rather than the women of aristocratic family. Several women were intellectual humanists. Venetian Cassandra Fedele was one of them. She was known for her proficiency in Greek and Latin language and was invited to deliver lectures at the University of Padua. Her works focus the general regard the general regard for education. Fedele was among those women who criticised the republic for creating a highly limited definition of liberty that favoured the wishes of men over those of women. Another outstanding woman was the Marches of Mantua, Isabella d'Este. She ruled the state in the absence of her husband and the court of that small state got fame for its intellectual vividness. The writings of women of that period revealed their confidence that they should have economic power, property and education to get individuality in a world dominated by men.

Changes within the Christianity

In the 15th and 16th centuries, the north European universities' scholars were attracted by humanist ideas. Like Italian scholars they also paid attention to classical Greek and Roman texts together with the sacred books of the Christians. The professional scholars led the humanist movement which also influenced the members of the church. They discarded the meaningless rites which they considered as later additions and directed the Christians to follow the religion mentioned in ancient texts of their religion.

The Christian humanists like Thomas More of England and Erasmus of Holland assumed that the church in their respective country had become a centre of greed and extortion money forcibly from common men. The selling of 'indulgence' document was one of the method to obtain money. The Indulgences promised the people to free them from the sins committed by them in the past. The printed Bible in local languages disclosed the Christians that their religion did not allow such practises. The peasants, commons and the princes began to rebel against taxes imposed by the Church and their increasing interference in the work of the state.

In 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk, started the protestant Reformation against the Catholic Church. He said that a person did not need priest to set up contact with God. That led to the break-up of German and Swiss Churches with the Pope and Catholic Church.

In Switzerland, Ulrich Zwingli and Jean Calvin followed Martin Luther's ideas. These reformers had greater popular support in towns and rural areas. Other German reformers like Anabaptists were more radical. They blended the idea of salvation to all kinds of social oppression. They argued that God has created all men as equals and therefore, they are not expected to pay tax and have the right to choose their priests. These ideas influenced the feudal oppressed peasantry and they revolted. Martin Luther opposed radicalism and asked the German rulers to suppress the rebellions in 1525. In England, the rulers broke the connection with the Pope. The King or queen was the head of the church from then onwards.

In Spain, Ignatius Loyola organised the Society of Jesus in 1540. His followers were called Jesuits. The aim of the society was to serve poor and to widen their knowledge of other cultures.

The Developments in Science and Astronomy (The Copernican Revolution)

The scientists had questioned the Christian notion of man as a sinner. The Christians believed that the earth was a place of sin and the burden of sin made it stationary. The earth was centre of universe around which celestial planets moved. Copernicus developed a theory that earth together with other planets revolved around the sun. He handed

over his manuscript *De revolutionibus* (The Rotation) to his disciple Joachim Rheticus before his death. People took time to accept the truth.

Johannes Kepler popularised the theory that earth is a part of sun-centred solar system. In his *Cosmographical Mystery*, he demonstrated that planets revolved around the sun not in circle but in ellipses. Galileo Galilei in his work 'The Motion' proved the notion of dynamic world. The revolution in science reached its climax with the theory of gravitation by Isaac Newton. The works of extended rapidly into the forms of physics, chemistry and biology. Historians termed this new approach to the knowledge of man and nature as the Scientific Revolution.

As a result of this, in the minds of sceptics and non-believers Nature replaced God as a source of creation. The believers of God said that their God did not directly control the act of living in the world. A new scientific culture came into existence as several scientific societies popularised distant God's idea. The scientific societies were formed like the Royal Society of London in 1662 and the Paris Academy in 1670. They held lectures and carried out experiments for public viewing.

The concept of Renaissance

Modern writers like Peter Burke of England suggested that Burckhardt exaggerated the sharp distinction between this period and the one that preceded it by terming it as 'Renaissance'. The term implied the rebirth of the Greek and Roman civilizations and the substitution of the pre-Christian world for the Christian world by the artists and scholars of that period. Both these arguments were exaggerated. By terming the Renaissance as a period of imaginative creativity and the Middle Ages as a period of darkness is a easy generalisation. The elements of Renaissance were already seen from 12th and 13th centuries. Even in 9th century in France, same type of literary and artistic efforts flourished.

The archaeological and literary findings of Roman culture show that the technologies and skills in Asia had contributed to the cultural changes of Europe. The expansion of Islam and Mongol invasions linked Asia and North Africa with Europe in trade and learning skills along with political connections. Europe along with Romans and Greeks got knowledge from India, China, Iran, Arabia and Central Asia. The Asian contributions were soon forgotten with the writing of history from the Europe-centred view point.

An important change that did happen in this period was the gradual separation of the public and private life of a person. By 18th century, in political sense all men had equal political rights. Europe which was united earlier, now got dissolved into states, each united on the basis of common language.

Passage Based Reference

I. Important events of the 14th century

- Humanism taught as subject in Padua University in Italy (1300)
- Petrarch given the title of 'Poet Laureate' in Rome (1341)
- Establishment of University in Florence (1349)
- Publication of *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (1390)

II. Important events of the 15th century

- Designing of the Duomo in Florence by Brunelleschi (1436)
- Defeat of the Byzantine ruler of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks (1453)
- Printing of the Bible with movable type by Gutenberg (1454)
- Calculation of latitude by observing the sun by Portuguese mathematicians (1484)
- Columbus reached America (1492)

- The Last Supper painted by Leonardo da Vinci(1495)
- Painting of the Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michaelangelo(1512)

III. Important events of the 16th century

- Publication of Utopia by Thomas More(1516)
- Martin Luther gave the Ninety Five Theses(1517)and translated the Bible into German (1522)
- Peasant uprising in Germany(1525)
- Andreas Vesalius wrote 'On Anatomy' (1543)
- Anglican church with king/queen as head was established in England (1559)
- Gerhardus Mercator prepared cylindrical map of the earth(1569)
- Pope Gregory XIII Introduced the Gregorian calendar(1582)

IV. Important events of the 17th century

- William Harvey linked the heart with blood circulation(1628)
- Academy of sciences founded in Paris (1673)
- Isaac Newton published 'Principia Mathematica'(1687)

Leonardo Davinci (1452-1519)

Leonardo Davinci was a versatile genius who had command over botany, anatomy, mathematics, art etc. He painted the Monalisa and The Last Supper. He dreamed for ability to fly and spent so many years observing birds in flight and designed a flying machine. He used to sign his name 'Leonardo da Vinci' meaning 'disciple of experiment.

Key words

Humanism: The Latin word humanists from which 'humanities' was derived had been used many centuries ago by the Roman lawyer and essayist Cicero. It is not drawn from or connected with religion.

Renaissance Man :The term Renaissance man is often used to describe a person with many interests and skills. They were scholar-diplomat-theologian-artist combined in one

The New Testament:The New Testament is the section of the Bible dealing with the life and teachings of Christ and his early followers.

Theme -8 Confrontation of Cultures

It examines the encounters between European and the people of the America between 15th and 17th Centuries.

Sources

- ❖ Manuscripts, logbooks and diaries of the travelers.
- ❖ Official records, Monuments, Photographs etc.

Types of American Culture

There were two types of culture in the Americas:

1. Small subsistence economies in the Caribbean region and Brazil like Arawaks.
2. Well- developed cultures like the Aztecs (Mexico). Mayas (Central America) and Incas (Peru in West Coast of South America).

Communities of the Caribbean and Brazil

The **Arawaks (Bahamas)** were lived on a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea.

Economic Life	Social Religious Life
1. Produced food collectively 2. Skilled boat builders 3. Lived by hunting, fishing & agriculture 4. Food products include corn, sweet potatoes, tuber and cassava.	1. Polygamy was common 2. Animists 3. Role of shamans as healers 4. No religious Institution like Church
Cultural life	Political Life
1. Averse to conflict 2. Preferred negotiation 3. Generous people 4. Used gold ornaments 5. Art of weaving-hammock-their Specialty	1. Rule by clan elders (oligarchy) 2. No army 3. No King

Tupinamba lived on the east coast of South America and Brazil.

They had no access to iron. So they could not clear forests for agriculture. Plenty of fruits, vegetables and fish in their area enabled them to lead a healthy life.

Brazil-The name Brazil is derived from the brazil wood tree.
Mexico-The name after their god Mexitli

The organized state systems in Central and South America

The Aztecs

The Aztecs had migrated from the north into Central America by the 12th century

- Their society was hierarchical and dominated by the nobility.
- The king was chosen from the nobility.
- King was considered as the representative of the Sun.
- Warriors, priests and artisans, etc. were respected sections of the society.
 - They made reclamations-conversion of wasteland into agricultural land.
 - They built artificial islands called **chinampas** in Lake Mexico.
 - They also constructed canals.
 - They built their capital city of Tenochtitlan in 1325.
 - They built temples which were dedicated to the gods of war and the Sun.
- The rural people produced corn, beans, pumpkin, potatoes etc.
- The peasants were attached to lands of nobles.
- The poor would sell their children as slaves for a limited period of time.
- Slaves could buy back their freedom.
- The Aztecs ensured that all children went to school.
- **Calmecac** was an institution for the military and religious training of children belonged to the nobility.
- Rest of the children went to the **tepochcalli** and learned history, myths, religion and ceremonial songs.
- Boys received training in army, trade and agriculture and girls in domestic affairs.
 - ❖ By the early 6th century, the Aztec empire began to decline.
 - ❖ The conquered people started rebellion that strained the empire.

The Mayas (11to 16th Century)

The Mayan culture developed in Mexico, Central America.

- They had less political power compared to the Aztecs.
- Corn Cultivation provided the basis for their culture.
- Several religious ceremonies were based on agriculture.
- Agriculture generated surplus production.
- Surplus production enabled the ruling class to invest in architecture.
- The Mayas developed a pictographic writing system.

The Incas (12th century)

The largest native culture in South America was Inca Civilization in Peru.

- Manco Capac was the first Inca who established his capital at Cuzco.
- It was under the 9th Inca that the empire reached its zenith.
- The empire extended from Ecuador to Chile covering 3,000miles.
- The Incas established a centralized administrative system.
- King was the highest source of authority.
- All people were instructed to speak Quechua (court language.)
- Each tribe was administered by a council of elders and loyal to the ruler.
- Local rulers were rewarded for their military co-operation.
- The Incas were great builders. They built roads and forts.
- Their forts were built of stone slabs.
- Stones cut from rock did not require mortar.
- Masons shaped the blocks by using an effective method called flaking
- They did not have wheeled vehicles to transport stones and used labour.
- Agriculture was the basis of the Inca civilization.
- They terraced hillsides and practiced agriculture.
- They also developed means of irrigation.
- The Incas produced corn and potatoes.
- Their weaving and pottery were of a high quality.
- They did not develop a system of writing.
- They developed accounting system.

- **Quipu** or cords were used for mathematical calculation.
- Knots were made upon cords which indicate specific mathematical units.

Motives of Voyages of Exploration by Europeans

- ❖ Invention of Magnetic compass helped voyages to unknown areas.
- ❖ Building of larger ships made it possible to carry huge quantity of cargo.
- ❖ Circulation of travel literature gave some knowledge of the world.
- ❖ Declining economy of Europe and shortage of metallic money affected trade.
- ❖ Decline of long distance trade after the conquest of Constantinople by Turks in 1453.
- ❖ Higher taxes imposed on trade with the Turks.
- ❖ Religious motive of adventurous devout Christian Europeans to spread Christianity.
- ❖ Expeditions organized by Henry the Navigator
- ❖ Economic motive to increase resources
- ❖ Rights of sovereignty over newly conquered territories
- ❖ Leaders of expeditions awarded with titles and conquered lands.

The Atlantic Crossing

- Christopher Columbus, an Italian was fond of adventure and glory.
- Sponsored by the Spanish rulers, he set sail from the port of Palos in 1492.
- His fleet was consisted of a small nao(large ship)called Santa Maria and two small ships named Pinta and Nina along with 40 sailors.
- They reached the island of Guanahani in the Bahamas.
- .(He thought that it was India)
- They were welcomed by the Arawaks and they provided food
- Columbus planted a Spanish flag in Guanani (renamed San Salvador) and proclaimed himself as viceroy.
- Then he moved further to the islands of Cubanacan.
- (Cuba, which he thought that Japan) and Kiskeya(renamed Hispaniola)
- They had to face accidents and hostility of the fierce Carib tribes.
- Their ships were worm eaten and the sailors tired and homesick.
- So they returned back to home and it took 32 weeks.

The achievements of Columbus

- ✓ He demonstrates that five weeks sailing with trade wind took one to the other side of the globe.
- ✓ He discovered the boundaries of infinite seas.
- ❖ It is strange that Columbus is commemorated only in a small district in the USA and in Columbia.
- ❖ The two continents were named after **Amerigo Vespucci**, a Geographer and described them as the 'New World'.
- ❖ The name 'America' was first used by a German Publisher in 1507.

Process of the Colonization of America by Spain

- Military might of Spain with the use of gunpowder and horses was the base of Spanish colonization of America.
- The local people were forced to pay tribute or to work in gold and silver mines.
- Local chieftains were forced to explore new lands and sources of gold.
- The Spaniards were greedy and attacked the local people led to the extinction of Arawaks.
- Military repression and forced labour was followed by diseases.
- The Spaniards introduced diseases especially small pox which drastically reduced the indigenous population.

Cortes and the Aztecs

- ❖ **Hernan Cortes** was the conqueror of Mexico
- ❖ In 1519, he set sail from Cuba to Mexico.
- ❖ He made friends with the Totonacs, a dissent group of Aztecs.
- ❖ Montezuma, the Aztec king afraid of gun powder and horses thought Cortes to be the incarnation of exile god to take the revenge.
- ❖ Tenochtitlan, the capital subdued on 8 November 1519
- ❖ Montezuma became captive in his own palace and Cortes ruled through him for months.

- ❖ Cortes installed Christian images in the Aztec temple.
- ❖ Cortes returned to Cuba and left the charge to Alvarado.
- ❖ Incessant demands for gold by Spanish provoked uprising.
- ❖ He ordered a massacre which precipitated rebellion by the people.
- ❖ Mysterious death of Montezuma led to suspicion.
- ❖ Cuatemoc became the newly elected king.
- ❖ The Aztecs believed in omens and them predicting that their fall was imminent and the emperor chose to give up his life.
- ❖ The fall of the Aztec Empire was the key event in the formation of **New Spain**, which would later be known as Mexico.
- ❖ Cortes became Captain General of New Spain in Mexico.

Pizarro and the Incas

- Pizarro reached the Caribbean islands in 1502.
- Pizarro made attempts to reach the Inca kingdom from the Pacific
- The Spanish king offered Pizarro the governorship of the Inca lands.
- In 1532, Pizarro reached the Inca land and captured the King Atahualpa.
- The king offered a roomful of gold as ransom for his release.
- Pizarro executed the king and looted and occupied the country.

Cabral and Brazil

- Brazil was discovered by Cabral in 1500.
- The king of Portugal divided the coast of Brazil in 14 hereditary captaincies.
- Portuguese were given the right to land ownership and right to enslave local people.
- Portuguese began to produce sugar and sugar cane plantation with the use of slave labour.
- Portuguese king established a government with the capital in Bahia/Salvador.
- Jesuits work led to acceptance of Christianity and strong denial of slavery.

Consequences of Voyages

Conquest, Colonies and the Slave Trade

- ✓ Uncertain voyages came to have lasting consequences for Europe, America and Africa.
- ✓ In 15th century maritime projects produced knowledge of Sea routes.
- ✓ The influx of gold and silver helped expansion of international trade and industrialization.
- ✓ Spain and Portugal did not capitalize the profit.
- ✓ England and France took advantage of discoveries.
- ✓ Huge income invested in trade or building up a merchant navy.
- ✓ Merchants formed joint stock companies, sent trading expedition and established colonies.
- ✓ They introduced Europeans with the product of the new world like – tobacco, potatoes, cane sugar Cacao rubber and chillies to other countries.
- ✓ The immediate consequence was the physical decimation of local population.
- ✓ Destruction of native's livelihood and their enslavement in mines, plantation and mills.

Efforts made to abolish slavery in South America

- Slavery accompanied the emerging capitalist system of production
- Exploitation was essential to economic gain
- Philip II of Spain banned forced labour in 1601.
- Law of 1609 abolished slavery, but settlers compelled king to withdraw the law.
- Now African slaves were imported
- Slavery existed in Africa prior to the entry of the Europeans.
- Even Africans helped in the capture of slave in lieu of crops imported from South America.
- Reassessment of the suffering experienced by African slaves is still going on (Eric Williams in his book Capitalism and Slavery).

South America is called 'Latin America'

- ✓ Spanish and Portuguese languages are the main language of the continent.
- ✓ These languages are part of the Latin family of Languages.
- ✓ The inhabitants are mostly native European and African by origin.

- ✓ People are Catholics and its culture has many elements of native traditions mixed with European ones.

Dona Marina

Dona Marina was a woman attendant of Cortes who played a role in the Spanish conquest of Aztec Empire. She was fluent in three local languages acted as an interpreter for Cortes. In his book, *The True History of the Conquest of New Spain*, Bernard Diaz del Castillo (1495–1584) wrote about this woman. He thought that she was a princess, but Mexicans called her 'Malinche' a word meaning 'betrayal'.

Key words

Conquistadores: Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century.

Reconquista: Military reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula by Christian kings from the Arabs in 1492.

Cosmography: A science of mapping the universe. It describes both heaven and Earth.

Reclamation: conversion of waste land into land suitable for habitation or cultivation.

Animism: The belief that natural objects have life and soul

Viceroy: In place of the king

Capitalist system: A system in which the means of production and distribution are owned by individuals or cooperate.

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