



CLASS IX
HISTORY
UNIT I

CHAPTER 2 - THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

NOTES

- As **Industrial Revolution** spread from England to many countries of Europe, the economy of Europe was **transformed from agricultural to industrial economy**. There emerged a new system called **Capitalism** in which there were the employer, the factory owners and the workers. Men, Women and Children were brought to the factories. The condition of the workers was miserable because of long working hour, low wages, lack of housing and Sanitation. **Social Inequality** grew up between the Workers and Capitalists.
- In the mid- nineteenth century Europe, a new System called **Socialism** based on the ideas of many **Social Reformers and Philosophers** emerged demanding the creation of a new society by removing the capitalist System. These Socialist Thinkers were against the private property and they wanted to create a classless Society where there would be no social inequality.
- The First **Socialist Thinker** was a French radical named **Francois Noel Babeuf**. He established an organisation called **Society of Equals** and tried to remove all Social inequality. Other notable early socialist thinkers were **Saint Simon, Charles Fourier, Louis Blanc and Robert Owen**. They were known as **Utopian Socialists**. **Karl Marx and Frederic Engels** propounded **Scientific Socialism or Communism** in Europe. They wanted to establish a **classless socialist society** by overthrowing the capitalism through a revolution.



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- Before the **Russian Revolution in 1917**, Russia was ruled by **Romanov Dynasty**. The Tsarist Russia was arbitrary and autocratic. There was no political freedom in the state. When Russia was influenced by the liberal ideas of democracy and socialism, **Tsar Nicholas II** opposed any reforms. He did not care about the feelings of his people and instead, he suppressed all the political and revolutionary activities. Even without consulting “**Duma**” (**Russian parliament established by the Tsar**), Russia joined the First World War. Russia suffered defeat in the war and as a result, many problems came up in Russia.
- During **the Tsarist Russia**, the peasants and workers lived a miserable life. The serfs were denied of the ownership of the land and at the same time, they were overburdened with **Semi-Feudal** dues and rents. The workers were exploited as they were to **work for 15 hours a day**. Their wages were cut down by the factory owners.
- As a result of **defeat in the First World War**, Russia suffered seven million casualties by 1917. The war destroyed crops, industries and railways lines. It led to **food riots** due to the scarcity of food in the cities. The war really destroyed the Russian Empire and the situation led to the outbreak of two revolutions in Russia in the year 1917. Tsar Nicholas-II was compelled to abdicate his throne after **the February Revolution in 1917** and after the **October Revolution in 1917**, the **Bolshevik party** captured the power and established the first socialist state in Russia.
