



**CLASS IX**  
**HISTORY**  
**UNIT II**  
**CHAPTER 2 – FARMERS AND PEASANTS**

**NOTES**

- After becoming a settled farmer, the primitive man began to use the **hewn stone tools** and then the **iron hoe** for cultivation. He constructed a **small house to live** with his family. He **invented the plough and yoke** was used. He was confined to the **cultivation** to meet requirements of his family. Later, **the King and his Nobles** became the owners of large tracts of lands and the **farmer gave rent in cash** or kind to the Nobles and the King. With the **Introduction of New Technology**, there came **large scale farming**. This was known as the **Agricultural Revolution**.
- With the increasing interest in **improving the breed of sheep**, the rich farmers began dividing the common lands and enclosed their **farms with fencing**. The **Parliament passed laws** legalizing enclosure. There was **requirement of more food grains** due to **increased population**. Land owners were encouraged to enclose their lands for food production. Thus, the enclosure movement led to the **disappearance of open fields** in rural England forcing the **poor farmers out of the villages** and production was increased.
- The use of **threshing machine** in agriculture deprived a large number of farmers and labourers of their employment. There grew up resistance against the rich farmers who used the threshing machine. **Captain Swing** was the symbolic leader of these poor peasants who were alienated from their small fields and turned into landless agricultural labourers. He **threatened the rich farmers not to use the threshing machine**.
- The creation of the **United States of America** led to the west word movement of American white settlers. With this movement, the **forests were transformed into the agricultural fields**, the **trees were cut for exports**, **wild animals were hunted for the skin** and the **mountains were exploited for gold and minerals**. This led to the **displacement of the American Indians** from their homeland. These American Indians resisted but they were forced to retreat. Thus, the **white settlers came and settled** in successive waves and stages.



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- **The Economy of America** was enhanced with the **expanding plantation of cotton and wheat**. More areas were brought under the plantation of cotton and cultivation of wheat. The **production increased** by leaps and bounds due to ever increasing exports. The **use of new technology and machines, introduction of railways and employment of more workers** greatly enriched the American agriculture and thereby it led to the **economic growth of America**.
- The **massive expansion of wheat farming** caused **environmental and ecological disasters in America**. There were **terrible dust storms** across the southern plains in 1930. For many years, people were blinded and choked. **Cattles** were suffocated to death by the dust storm. It affected the farmers, the fields, the rivers, birds and animals and even tractors and machines were chugged with dust and damaged. The whole region became a **dust bowl**.
- In order to compensate the **loss of silver** due to **tea trade with China**, the British introduced **plantation of opium in Bengal**. The peasants were lured to start opium plantation by **offering loans**. The Government distributed money to the village headman who in turn offered advances to the peasants. They **planted opium** and paid the produce to the **Government at low price**. The Government sold the **opium to China at high price**. In this way, the **British introduced opium plantation** in colonial India and it became widespread.

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