



**CLASS IX**  
**HISTORY**  
**UNIT III**  
**CHAPTER 1 – CLOTHES AND CULTURE**

**NOTES**

- Clothing is an aspect of **Society and Culture**. Man put on clothes to cover the human body from the rigours of nature. It also gives **dignity and respect** to the body. All societies have **dress codes** and these norms reflect the **ideas of grace, honour, beauty and modesty**. **The Societies are changed as time changes and these changes are reflected in dresses**. There are changes in the style of clothing in Europe and India.
- **The Sumptuary Laws** were enforced in the Medieval Europe which defined the **use of food, dress and costume for various social classes in Europe**. These laws prevented lower classes from wearing certain clothes, food, beverage and hunting. **Clothing was regulated by births and social class**. The material for the manufacture of cloths was regulated by law. The Royalty and Nobility could wear the materials like ermine, common fur, silk and brocade. But other classes were prevented from wearing these items.
- **The dress of women in the Victorian England was fashioned according to the moral values of the time**. Men were expected to be serious, strong and aggressive while women were seen as frivolous, delicate, passive and docile. Women put on tight fitting cloths to be attractive, elegant and graceful. But women who believed in the equality of man and woman published that the tight fitting dress caused sickness and physical deformities in women. This **Movement for Reforms in Women Dress** reached in the US and by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the styles of clothings were changed.



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- **The Swadeshi Movement and the Khadi Movement** were started all over India as parts of **Indian National Movement**. The Swadeshi Movement was meant for **the Revival of the Indigenous Indian Industries and the Use of *Khadi*** was made a patriotic duty through the Khadi Movement. Women of higher classes threw away their costly silk clothes and glass bangles. But many could not wear khadi as it was costly. **Gandhi used Swadeshi and Khadi as symbolic weapons against the British**. Gandhiji's experiment with clothing also reflected the changing attitude of dress in colonial India.
- In **Manipur**, the **richness of our composite culture** is reflected in the variety of **dresses and clothings** possess by our inhabitants. Their sense of beauty and love of colour, their **social behavior are clearly reflected in their dress code**. Like in Europe, during the heydays of its monarchy the sumptuary laws were also enforced in Manipur. **Certain clothes could be worn when bestowed on by the authority of the King and permission to wear them** was very much coveted. **Despite the influence of the western dress, our people still continue to wear the traditional dress to preserve the cultural identity of the people.**

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