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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh
Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 1 A Period of Transition

Good Morning Students!

This year we will study about modern history in Europe and India. The chapter deals with the changes that took place which classify this period as modern period.

There are two types of sources for the study of the modern period - Primary and secondary sources. The former includes original documents such as letters, government reports, autobiographies, newsreels, newspapers, etc. Historians study the primary sources and interpret them. These interpretations constitute the secondary sources. These are available to us as reports, reviews, etc.

One of the significant changes that took place in Europe was Renaissance (rebirth). It was a cultural movement which began in Italy and aimed to revive classical glory, learning and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. The Renaissance thinkers were rationalists. They laid stress on the dignity of the humans.

Reformation movement was launched against the corrupt practices of the Church. The lead was taken by a German theologian Martin Luther who raised voice against the corrupt practices such as indulgences.

This was also the period of

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voyages and discovery. The European especially Portuguese, Dutch, British led geographical explorations. They discovered new places. This in turn increased the demand for goods due to increased trade.

The Industrial Revolution was another important event of modern world. The domestic system of production was replaced by factory system of production in which the goods were made in bulk. It started in England due to a number of favourable conditions like having good natural resources like iron and coal. The British Government encouraged geographical explorations and provided stability which could lead to Industrial Revolution.

The impact of Industrial Revolution was seen in different areas. It led to the growth of the towns and cities as people from the villages moved to cities in search of jobs. The society became divided into capitalists and the working class. Feudalism declined and capitalism came. The capitalist exploited the workers.

Imperialism is a policy of extending a country's domination and influence through colonization. It involves the use of

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military force. The imperialist country is known as the mother country, whereas the defeated country is called as its colony. As the European countries needed raw material for their industries, they began to make colonies in Asia and Africa. They could get raw material from there in abundance. Britain, France, Belgium and Spain were now the main colonial powers.

The impact of imperialism was not good for the colonies as they were exploited economically. Local industries suffered under colonial rule and even agriculture was modified to suit their demands.

So students we have studied about all important events of modern period. Please give a reading to the chapter.