

Tender Heart High School,

Sector 33B, Chandigarh

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Class IX

Subject:- History and Civics

Ms. Rameet

Chapter 11 The Modern Age in Europe - Renaissance

Good Morning Students!

With this chapter we begin the study of three important events in Europe - Renaissance, Reformation and Industrial Revolution. These events marked a definite change from the Middle Ages to a condition which could certainly be called 'Modern'. Progress in thought and activity was most obvious during those days.

So students we will study about Renaissance in this chapter. The term 'Renaissance' is derived from the Latin word 'renascere'. It signifies rebirth or revival of the freedom-loving thought, which during the Middle Ages had been fettered and imprisoned by religious authority. It was a period characterized by the rebirth of the learning of Greco-Roman classics, revival of art and growth of humanism.

Let us look at the causes of the Renaissance.

- 1) The Capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 led to Renaissance. Its libraries contained manuscripts of world famous Greek and Roman writers. As the siege of the city began, the students and scholars fled with a number of priceless manuscripts. They went to different parts of Europe. Wherever they went, they spread

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their new ideas and spirit.

2. Decline of Feudalism — Under the feudal system huge estates were owned by landlords, who exploited the peasants. The feudal system was opposed to progress and 'social mobility'. There was no freedom or equality of rights under this system. The decline of feudalism favoured the growth of New Learning. That led to the new developments in the fields of art, literature, science and philosophy.

3. New Trade Routes between Europe and the East — The same Turkish invasion that drove the Greek scholars westward made trade in the eastern Mediterranean too risky. Therefore new trade routes to India and the East had to be found. It was in search of these new routes that Vasco da Gama went round the Cape of Good Hope and reached Calicut in 1498 and Ferdinand Magellan went round the Globe between 1520 and 1522. This not only led to fusion of ideas but also broadened the mental horizon or thinking of the people.

4. Spirit of Enquiry — During the medieval period religion played an important role in the life of man. A number of scholars discarded the ideas and beliefs of the medieval age. They

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paid greater attention to humanistic values.

Scholars like Abelard and Roger Bacon were rationalists. Abelard maintained that "a doctrine was not to be believed because God said it, but because we are convinced that it is so". The scholars of the medieval period at times showed scientific attitude and asked students to observe things in nature. This led to inventions and discoveries.

5. Invention of the Printing Press:- It made possible to produce books in large numbers. Printing and distribution of books greatly influenced people's attitude to life and brought about a new awakening in Europe.

The main principles of Renaissance were:-

1. Humanism:- The focus now shifted from divine to human and his dignity, his right to pleasure and earthly desires.
2. Glorification of Human form:- As human became the centre so human body was glorified by the artists and writers of the period.
3. Spirit of Enquiry - They believed in thinking and reasoning, finding new things.

So these were the different features of Renaissance which covered different aspects of life

Home assignment

- 1) Short Questions 1, 2, 7, 8, 9.
- 2) Structured Questions 1(a, b, c), 2(a, b, c).