

# 13. National Liberation Movements in the Colonies

## Improve your learning

### 1. Question

Match the following

- Sun Yat → sen Militarised the nation
- Chiang Kai → shek Environmental movement
- Mao Zedong → Nationalism Democracy and Socialism
- Ken Saro Wiwa → Peasant revolution

### Answer

- Sun yat sen-- Nationalism, democracy and socialism

a) Sun yat sen (1866–1925) came from a poor and rural family background.

b) He experienced all the ill-effects of imperialism which was destroying China. Therefore his political view was based on the socialist ideology which saw “all men equal”.

c) Sun formed the formally organized political party called the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang), in 1912.

d) This party was based on his principles Nationalism, democracy and socialism as fundamental doctrines.

- Chiang Kai-Shek -- Militarised the nation.

a) Chiang founded a military academy at Whampoa, near Canton, in 1924 With Sun yet sen’s support.

b) He made up the Nationalist army, based on methods of Sun Yat-sen.

c) Chinese Communists began to clash with more conservative party elements after Sun’s death.

d) Chiang was Sun’s successor and led a successful military campaign against local warlords in northern China.

e) He expelled the Communists in a brutal coup in 1927 and combined control within his own party.

f) In 1928, he formed a new central government with himself as head of state to form a military nation in China.

- Mao Zedong -- Peasant revolution.

a) The peasants in Hunan Province in China rose spontaneously against their landlords.

b) The conditions were favorable for peasant revolt (1925-27) and Mao organized them.

c) The peasants were forced to pay their taxes years in advance and pay high rents and they were in high debt.

d) Peasants had a hard time surviving and were using "terror with fanfare" with the support of the communist party.

e) Mao wrote, "the peasants had accomplished in a few months what Sun Yat-sen had failed to accomplish in his forty-year effort at revolution".

- Ken Saro wiwa -- Environmental movement

☐ Ken Saro-Wiwa worked for the environmental and human rights of Nigeria's Ogoni people

☐ The Ogoniland which was very oil-rich land had been exploited by multinational oil companies.

☐ He led a non-violent campaign and peaceful movement of the Ogoni people (ethnic minority in Nigeria)

☐ The Nigerian government executed Saro-Wiwa in 1995.

## 2. Question

Trace the changes in the role of women seen in China over the decades. Why is it similar or different from that of USSR and Germany?

### Answer

China can be divided into feudal, colonial, communist, semi-feudal, semi-colonial periods. The women, for no doubt, were inferior in all fields of life. Until the end of 19<sup>th</sup>-century women-conditions were intolerable in social, economic, political and family life.

To trace the changes in the role of women in China, it is important to know the women status before and after the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Women in China- Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century

a) "Women with bound feet" was a compulsory custom for the female gender in China.

b) Small bound feet were considered beautiful while large unbound feet were judged crude in China and girls went through severe pain both mentally and physically throughout the process.

- c) Most of the women were preys in the systems of polygamy and prostitution
- d) Majority of them were exposed to physical and mental torture, being harassed by family.
- e) They had no social roles as they had no political rights.
- f) They were not economically independent and had no source of income.
- g) They had no right in property and inheritance
- h) They totally depended upon father, brother, husband or sons throughout their life.

By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Chinese communist party started a democratic revolution in China. The autocratic monarchy that had ruled China for over 2,000 years was overthrown in 1911 and led to the establishment of the Republic of China. The 1911 Revolution emancipated Chinese women.

#### Women in China- After the 19<sup>th</sup>-century

- a) Large-scale women's emancipation movement was launched.
- b) This historic liberation of Chinese women won worldwide attention.
- c) A succession of movements was launched for women's liberation.
- d) Chinese women waged a fearless struggle that lasted for over a century.
- e) A series of policies on sexual equality was implemented.
- f) The Reform Movement of 1898 leads the way to ban feet binding and establish schools for women.
- g) The 1911 Revolution helped to start a feminist movement which fixed on equal rights for men and women and participation by women in political affairs.
- h) These movements promoted the awakening of Chinese women.
- i) Nevertheless, they all failed to bring about a fundamental change in their miserable plight as victims of oppression and enslavement.

When compared to the life of women in Russia, Chinese women were not at all extroverts in their social lives.

- a) the experiences of women in Russia are significantly different across ethnic, racial, religious, and social lines.
- b) The life of an ethnic Russian woman can be very different from the life of an urban, semi-urban woman because Russia is a multicultural society.

- c) Women of eighteenth-century Russia were luckier than their European counterparts.
- d) By the mid-nineteenth century, European notions of equality took a role in Russian women.
- e) The Russian revolution in 1917 made important changes in the status of women.
- f) Women in Soviet Russia became a vital part of the recruitment into the workforce, education sector, personal development, and training by the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- g) They were a vital part in the armed force in world war second.
- h) The common historical and political context makes women in Russia more political beings, in general.

When compared to women in Germany, Chinese women share similar situations

- a) German women struggled for economic independence and social equality even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- b) The German revolution in 1918-1919 helped in women liberation.
- c) Industrialization resulted in an increase in the number of female workers.
- d) Labour shortage in the second world allowed German female workers to break into previously male-only occupations like driving and metalworking

In short, The struggle for women to conquer their own group was part of a long historical process. The empowerment of women and their elevated social status were by revolutions and social reform movements in China, Germany, and Russia. It varies in a few prospects depending upon the cultural and geographical differences.

### **3. Question**

After the overthrow of the monarchy, China had two different types of regimes. How were they similar or different?

#### **Answer**

The Qing dynasty, (also known as the Manchu dynasty), ruled China from 1644–1912. The Xinhai Revolution is known as the Chinese Revolution or the Revolution of 1911. This revolution overthrew China's last imperial dynasty - the Qing dynasty and established the Republic of China (ROC). The Republic of China was formed in 1912 and became a constitutional republic. It marked an end to 4,000 years of Imperial rule.

#### The formation of regimes

- a) RoCs founder leader was Sun Yat-Sun, and he was succeeded by Chiang Kai

- b) The ROC was riven by internal conflict.
- c) Chiang was associated with the West. Mao with the Soviets.
- d) Chiang Kai Shek spent much of his time building up the Chinese army and struggling with other warlords and the Communists.
- e) Much of the early years of ROC was spent fighting the various warlords.
- f) the monarchy and Communist Party of China (CPC) were formed as two regimes.

#### Similarities between CPC and the monarchy.

- a) Both had total power and authority
- b) Both of them were not elected, they just took over the power.
- c) Their contributions to bring unity to China was very massive.

#### **4. Question**

Countries discussed in the above chapter were all mostly dependent on agriculture. What were the measures taken in these countries to change these practices?

#### **Answer**

China is an example of an agricultural country. In the organization of an agricultural nation, all the production, trade, commerce, and development is based on agriculture. Certain steps are to be taken to remain beneficial with agriculture. They are:

- a) Proper and timely implementation of agricultural reforms ( this may include land reforms and bills which are favorable to farmers)
- b) The accurate class classification of all the farmers and those who are totally dependent on agriculture
- c) Elimination of the Landlord-tenant system
- d) Equal distribution of profit to the agricultural laborers
- e) To take steps to avoid debt and other difficulties of revenue.

Taking China as an example, these features are noted:

- a) Inclusive land reforms were launched in 1950-1951 in China.
- b) About 60% of the poor farmers got back their own land.
- c) 43% of China's cultivated land in rural areas were back into the hands of peasants.
- d) The peasants benefited both economically and in living standards.

e) Vietnam which is famous for its beaches and rivers improved its irrigation system

f) The steps to make irrigation canals, marketing and export of rice etc were very effective.

g) The democratic republic of Vietnam came under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh in August 1945. Soon after the farmers got a reduction in land rents to about 25%.

There were changes in the administrative level also like:

1) Peasant council was organized

2) Discussions and solutions related to the agricultural sector were done with immediate action.

3) Laws were passed to redistribute the land among the working laborers.

4) The power of landlords was demolished.

## 5. Question

Who owned industries in countries discussed above and what policies were brought in to change the systems? Make a table to compare them.

### Answer

#### COUNTRIES, COLONIES, POLICIES AND RESULTING CHANGES

No	Country	Industries Were Owned By	Period	Policies Implemented	Resulting Changes
1	China	Britain	1815-1902	1) Foreign Policies 2) Trade Routes 3) Trade Laws 4) Technology	1) Modernization 2) Increase in export and import 3) Skilled labor 4) Advance in technology
2	Vietnam	France	1787-1954	1) Military alliances 2) Colonial regulations 3) Extensive taxation system 4) Education, architecture, infrastructure policies 5) Technology development	1) Laborers were treated very brutally 2) Burden of taxes 3) Changed the physical structure of many cities 4) Supremacy of French values and culture in study syllabus 5) Economic development through colonial exploitation
3	Nigeria	Britain	1851-1960	1) the policy of indirect rule 2) trade, export and import laws	1) New forms of money 2) New ways of transportation 3) Export of cash crops increased

## 6. Question

Compare the national movement in India and Nigeria - can you explain why it was stronger in India?

## Answer

### COMPARING NATIONAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA AND NIGERIA

FEATURES OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT	INDIA	NIGERIA
1) Ruled by	Britain	Britain (UK)
2) Gained freedom in	15 August 1947	1 October 1960
3) Colonial rule	1858 to 1947	1901 to 1960
4) Ruling policy by British	Divide and rule	Divide and rule
5) Political status and leadership	High political stability and leadership	Low political stability and less powerful leadership
6) Unity	Easy to unite the different social, religious, ethnic groups	Very difficult to unite more than 250 ethnic groups

**The reasons for a stronger national movement in India compared to Nigeria are:**

- a) The cultural and ethnic diversity of India was lesser than Nigeria
- b) India had a common national history
- c) equal natural resource distribution
- d) no promotion of regionalism over a strong central government
- e) Lesser regional competition and violence.

## 7. Question

What are the challenges faced by the independent Nigerian nation? In what ways is it similar or different from the challenges faced by independent India?

## Answer

Nigeria's national movement and freedom struggles were unorganized. After independence, the Nigerian constituency went through similar situations of instability and disorganization. The major challenges were:

- a) Nigeria had large ethnic diversity, and so making a constitution acceptable for all was a huge challenge.
- b) The existing diversity in the social and economic status of the ethnic tribes.
- c) The increasing tendencies of regionalism which often affects the unity.

- d) The building up of the essential judiciary, parliamentary system, and leadership.
- e) The corruption, even from the Government officials which affects the economy.
- f) To compensate for the loss of 5-10 % of Nigerian mangrove ecosystem which had been wiped out during the clearing of oil spills
- g) Over-dependence on oil trade (oil was discovered in the Niger Delta in 1970-s. Nigeria depends solely on oil trade as a source of revenue. They neglected agriculture.)
- h) Non-saving culture, the country's economy went into collapse after the drop in the price of crude oil.

**The major challenges faced by India after independence:**

- a) Refugee problems
- b) Partition issues
- c) Kashmir issues
- d) Reorganization of states
- e) Naxal movements

India faced many problems after independence but was solved effectively by the Indian administrators. They could handle the crisis in a much easier way than in the case of Nigeria because the Indian constitution was well written and implemented effectively by 1950. The constitution written by Ambedkar was so fine that it brought unity among the cultural and socially diverse groups. The Indian bureaucracy had strong leadership, and it gripped the social situation very well.

**8. Question**

Unlike Vietnam or India, Nigeria did not have to struggle so hard for freedom. Can you find some explanations for this?

**Answer**

Nigeria, India, and Vietnam were colonial countries. They definitely undergo severe social, cultural, economic and political exploitations during the colonial rule. India and Nigeria were ruled by the UK. Vietnam was under the control of France. Comparing with India and Vietnam; Nigeria had a less hard struggle for independence because:

1) Nigeria possessed territorial nationalism.

- By definition, "Territorial nationalism describes a form of nationalism based on the belief that all inhabitants of a particular territory should share a



common national identity, regardless of their ethnic, linguistic, religious, cultural and other differences.”

- Ethnicity was so strong that it was superior to citizenship.
- The unity within the tribe was very intense.

## 2) The integrated struggle by ethnic groups

Nigeria possessed more than 250 ethnic groups. It was difficult to bring unity among them. But at the same time, it was easy to make unity within each group. The collaboration of the efforts from each ethnic group to the nationalist freedom movement was immense.

## 9. Question

What role did schooling play in the national movement of the countries discussed above?

### Answer

Schools are the social institution which is capable of making the social and cultural transformation of the whole generation. When a colonial country conquers another country, the whole education system falls into the hands of the superior country.

a) In the first phase of colonialism, the superior country took the necessary steps to suppress and exploit the whole population. Through schooling, they spread their religion, ideologies, and schemes.

b) But later in the second phase, the educated class came up, and they made the necessary changes in the school curriculum, with the help of nationalist leaders.

c) The educated class in the native country made the youth aware of the phase of their dependence on the colonial country also.

### **The role youth played in the national movement are:**

1) The students became aware of the day-to-day social processes and united to form protests against colonialists.

2) They became members of nationalist movements and freedom revolts

3) The ideas of freedom, equality, democracy, etc made immense changes in their mindset.

4) The youth attended political party classes and became aware of the drawback of becoming a fake in the hands of colonial countries.

## 10. Question

Freedom struggle in these countries involved wars against the rulers. Briefly describe its impact.

## Answer

India, China, Vietnam and Nigeria, and many other countries which were the colonies of the colonial countries fought severe battles to win independence.

COUNTRY	RULED BY	WAR (series of wars)	YEAR
India	Britain	The Indian war of independence	1857-1947
China	Britain, Japan	Chinese civil war	1927-1950
Vietnam	France	Indochina wars	1946-1989
Nigeria	Britain	Nigerian civil war	1967-1970

The impacts of wars were:

- 1) Loss of economic balance ( public debt and taxes increase)
- 2) Huge change in laws and policies (export and import vary)
- 3) Loss of human life
- 4) Natural resources decline
- 5) Social stability is lost (Death, mental illness, sexual violence, poverty, etc increase)

## 11. Question

Read page 193 the first five lines of the para under the title 'the civilizing mission' and say, how you agree with it? why?

## Answer

The paragraph is about the civilizing mission of France in Vietnam. Vietnam had the unfortunate fate to be the colony of many countries like British, France, etc. The education sector is the field which is most carefully handled by the colonial country because education was the most effective tool in social and cultural transformation. The colonial country needs their colony to be civilized because it could benefit them in their administrative process.

Civilising the colony is agreeable because:

- 1) Though a small section gets an education, it leaves the probability to extend literacy and awareness
- 2) Education in natives leads to empowerment
- 3) Literacy helps natives to be aware of the ill effects of colonialism
- 4) Reading helps the natives to be updated in the socio-cultural events.
- 5) The early phase of the education will only include glorified text-books about the colonial country, but later freedom to read would enable the

natives with the power of reasoning.

6) Later the educated minority will get more control over freedom movements and nationalist revolts for freedom which can be extended to the majority.