



4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

Ans. The following are the democratic rights which are part of the Indian Constitution having roots in the French Revolution.

i) As per the Indian Constitution, Right to Equality guarantees equality before the law, prohibition of discrimination and equality of opportunity in matters of employment.

ii) In the Preamble to the Constitution, Right to Liberty or Freedom has been expressed as 'freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.'

iii) The Revolution laid the path to social welfare and the spirit of brotherhood. The Indian Constitution has upheld the concept of 'fraternity' to discard the practice of untouchability and local or regional anti-social feelings.

iv) The Revolution was a major inspiration to the many democratic rights that are part of the Indian Constitution.

Right against exploitation, right to life, right to vote, etc. are few of them.



5. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Ans. It seems correct to say that the message of universal rights had severe contradictions in their application. The ideals which were part of the 'Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen' did not have clarity. For example, there was no mention of criminal offences committed against individuals in the passage - The law has the right to forbid only actions injurious to society. Moreover, millions of people did not get the right to vote post the formation of a constitutional monarchy in France. For example, men under the age of 25, and those were not taxpayers above a certain bracket as well as women of all ages and status, remained excluded from the process of voting.

6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon.

Ans. Napoleon was born in Corsica. As a young man, he had joined the French army, and his courage and quick thinking led to his rapid promotion. At the age of 26, he became general. He led a number of successful campaigns, capturing northern Italy in 1797. The Directory



feared he had become too powerful and popular. They offered him the job of invading Britain. Napoleon suggested invading Egypt, to disrupt the British trade route to India. He did invade Egypt, but his plan failed after Nelson destroyed his fleet in 1798. In 1799, Napoleon returned to France and seized control. He dismissed the government, appointing three officials, called consuls, to run the country. Napoleon made himself first consul, and for the next 15 years, ruled France. In 1804, he crowned himself emperor.

Napoleon introduced many lasting reforms, bringing new laws, a better educational system, a reorganised government and a new national bank. He was also a brilliant general, moving his troops quickly and using new battle tactics. He also had a very large army, since Robespierre had introduced a conscription system in which all adult men in France were forced to serve. The army numbered 750,000 soldiers in 1799, and another two million men joined up between 1803 and 1815. Napoleon used this massive force to try and conquer Europe.