

NCERT Solutions Class 10 SST History

Chapter 5 Print Culture and the Modern World

1. Give reasons for the following:

- a) Woodblock print only came to Europe after 1295.**
- b) Martin Luther was in favour of print and spoke out in praise of it.**
- c) The Roman Catholic Church began keeping an Index of Prohibited books from the mid-sixteenth century.**
- d) Gandhi said the fight for Swaraj is a fight for liberty of speech, liberty of the press, and freedom of association.**

Answer:

- a. Around the sixth century, woodblock printing was developed in China. When Italian adventurer Marco Polo returned to Italy in 1295 after spending several years exploring China, it arrived in Europe. He took woodblock printing technology with him.
- b. The religious reformer Martin Luther wrote 95 theses in 1517 that criticized the corrupt actions of the Roman Catholic Church. Soon, thousands of copies of Luther's books were produced and extensively read, which had the effect of disseminating his beliefs. Realizing the potential of printing, which sparked the reformation movement and eventually gave rise to Protestantism, profoundly touched Martin Luther.
- c. Beginning in the middle of the 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church had to deal with numerous dissenters. Popular literature and print media supported a wide variety of unique interpretations of religious beliefs. Italian miller Manocchio started reading the Bible and developed a theology of God and the universe that infuriated the Roman Catholic Church. As a result, the Roman Catholic Church encountered numerous dissenters starting in the middle of the 16th

century. As a result, the church resolved to establish an index of the books that were forbidden and to ban such publications.

- d. These statements were made by Mahatma Gandhi in 1922 during the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22). Mahatma Gandhi believed that the three most effective tools for expressing and shaping public opinion were freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association. These liberties were crucial if the nation was to be liberated from foreign rule.

2. Write short notes to show what you know about:

a) The Gutenberg Press

b) Erasmus's idea of the printed book

c) The Vernacular Press Act

Answer:

- a. Johan Gutenberg was the inventor of the first printing press. He had grown up on a sizable agricultural estate and was skilled at running wine and olive presses. He created a modified design of olive and wine presses around 1448. The first book printed was the Bible. The screw of this press was connected to a long handle. The handle was used to turn the screw, which in turn caused the platen to be pressed down over the printing block that was positioned on top of a sheet of wet paper. The metal types for the letters of the alphabet were produced using lead moulds
- b. The printing of books alarmed the Latin scholar Erasmus, who feared that it would encourage the spread of books with rebellious ideas. He believed that while certain books can provide important information, the majority of literature would only be irrelevant or nonsensical, which would propagate scandalous or irreligious views and eventually provoke insurrection. He believed that as these books proliferated, the value of classic literature would be reduced.
- c. The British administration in India passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1878. The government now has the totalitarian authority to censor articles and commentaries published in the Vernacular Press as a result of this statute. According to this law, the government has the

totalitarian authority to restrict opinions and news articles in the local press. A Vernacular Paper was prohibited from publication and had its printing equipment seized and destroyed if it included any seditious content. Freedom of expression was wholly violated by this.

3. What did the spread of print culture in nineteenth-century India mean to:

- a) Women**
- b) The poor**
- c) Reformers**

Answer:

- a. **Women:** Indian women gained equal importance as readers and authors in the nineteenth century as print culture spread throughout India. Women became more literate as a result. The significance of women's education began to be highlighted in numerous journals. A few educated women began writing novels and autobiographies. Beginning in the 1860s, numerous Bengali women authors, including Kailashbhashini Debi, published writings that emphasized the miserable state of the majority of Indian women. Women who had been restricted to the home for decades now have access to new sources of entertainment.
- b. **Poor:** Many publishers began creating cheap books in the 19th century, which were then sold at crossroads. Printed materials, particularly for pleasure, started to reach even the poor as literacy rates rose in Europe and India. Folktales and stories could be heard by people who couldn't read. Others could read these tales and folklore to them. Some of them published books that focused on the problem of class differentiation. A mill worker from Kanpur named Kashibaba composed and published *Chote Aur Bade Ka Sawal* in 1938 to illustrate the connections between caste and class exploitation.
- c. **Reformers:** Indian reformers used newspapers, journals, and books to draw attention to unethical issues and the social evils that were prevalent throughout society. To draw attention to the condition of

widows, Raja Ram Mohan Roy released the Sambat Kaumudi. Some Bengali women authors, such as Kailashbhashini Debi, have written novels detailing the experiences of women on how they were mistreated by the men in the family, kept in the dark, and made to perform arduous domestic labour. The dismal lives of upper-caste Hindu women, particularly widows, were the subject of writings by Tarabai Shinde and Pandita Ramabai in the 1880s. Jyotiba Phule wrote on the deplorable conditions of the low caste population in 1871. BR Ambedkar wrote vehemently against the caste system in the 20th century.

4. Why did some people in eighteenth-century Europe think that print culture would bring enlightenment and end despotism?

Answer: Many people in 18th-century Europe believed that print culture possessed the ability to spread enlightenment and put an end to despotism. This would promote literacy and knowledge among all social classes. The general public could now more easily understand the concepts of scientists and philosophers. The works of philosophers like Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Thomas Paine were widely printed and had the potential to become popular. As a result, their concepts of science, logic, and reason were incorporated into popular literature. Consequently, enlightenment and the end of despotism would come about.

5. Why did some people fear the effect of easily available printed books? Choose one example

from Europe and one from India.

Answer: Printed books were not welcomed by everyone, and even those who did had fears about them. from the upper class in particular fear the impact of widely accessible printed books

- Many believed that the spread of books and printed words would have a negative impact on people's minds.

- Due to the widespread adoption of literacy among the population, some people are afraid of printed books, especially upper-class educated people.
- They were concerned that they may lose their authority or position. Some people feared that it might encourage the rise of rebellions and irrational ideas.

For example.

(I)The Index of Prohibited Books was an attempt by the Roman Catholic Church to control printed books in Europe.

(ii) The Vernacular Press Act in India placed limits on local publications and the Indian press.

6. What were the effects of the spread of print culture for poor people in nineteenth-century India?

Answer: In India in the nineteenth century, the growth of print culture had the following effects on the country's poor:

1. The availability of inexpensive books and public libraries contributed to the expansion of print culture in India, which helped the country's underprivileged citizens.
2. Beginning in the early 20th century, public libraries were established, increasing access to books. The majority of these libraries were found in urban areas, while several were also found in affluent villages.
3. Many social reformers educated readers about the country's caste prejudice in books and articles. All around the nation, people read these.
4. Poor People now become more aware of their rights and their position in society.
5. Jyotiba Phule wrote on the deplorable conditions of the low caste population in 1871.
6. BR Ambedkar wrote vehemently against the caste system in the 20th century.

7. The caste structure that existed in Madras was written about by EV Ramaswamy Naicker, commonly known as Periyar.

7. Explain how print culture assisted the growth of nationalism in India.

Answer: The print culture assisted the growth of nationalism in India as follows:

1. The government's mismanagement and attempt to restrict press freedom fueled the rise of nationalist ideologies that called for such freedom.
2. Through the publication of a significant number of newspapers in Indian vernacular languages, it became simpler to overcome linguistic barriers between the country's many ethnic groups.
3. Print culture not only promoted nationalist activities but also created links between communities and individuals residing in various regions of India.
4. The Bazar Patrika, The Indian Mirror, Kesri, The Hindu, Bombay Samachar, and other daily publications insinuated nationalist sentiments and revolutionary notions.
5. National leaders have consistently attempted to sway the Indian masses' opinions and unite them behind nationalism through the employment of these newspapers
6. The print culture aided in educating the masses, which later began to be gradually impacted by the nationalist and reformist ideologies of several Indian leaders, like Raja Ram Mohun Roy Tilak, Subhas Bose, Gandhiji, etc.