

HISTORY OF EUROPE

6th Sem.

Causes and Consequences of the February Revolution in France.

Ans: From the beginning the 'July Monarchy' was based on a very weak foundation. There were many political parties which added to the difficulties of Orleanist monarchy. Louis philippe. The Royalists thought of him as an usurper because according to them Bourbons were the legitimate rulers of France. The ~~the~~ Clerical party couldn't support him because according to them, Louis philippe had increased the conflict cleavage (division) between the church and the state. The working class was not satisfied because the ~~the~~ Bourgeoise (middle class) held all the advantages. The Republicans were in favour of abolishing the monarchy. Moreover the development of the new ideology of socialism in the political horizon, also added to the difficulties of the ~~the~~ France King. Therefore,

Louis Philippe couldn't adhere to himself the support of any of the big political parties. He ~~had~~ ~~learned~~ more and more on the French middle class for ~~the~~ support which increased the cleavage between him and his people. Thus the position of Louis Philippe was indeed very difficult.

The Foreign Policy of the new king was not very bold. He couldn't override at whom by a bold Foreign Policy and by satisfying the French People's longing for more and more glory, but ^{he} couldn't do ~~not do~~ so. Though he pursued a vigorous & colonial Policy by occupying ~~at~~ Algiers and conquering Guinea ~~east~~ coast. And the island of Madagascar, yet his failure in other aspects was very ~~app~~ appalling. He was twice employed by the English Foreign Minister 'Palmerstone' in his policy toward

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Greece. His pacifist Foreign Policy dissatisfied the French People.

The internal policy of Louis Phillippe also became 'Bored' for the French People. In his internal policy, the French King followed a conservative line of action. He indeed made some attempts of rule like a constitutional ruler but his reforms could not satisfy either the radicals or the conservative. His fiscal policy disgusted both the capitalist and the bourgeoisie. The condition of France reached a crisis when Guizot, the Minister of Louis Phillippe resisted the proposal for reforms. The people of Paris rose against him and Louis Phillippe fled away from France. And the revolutionary established republic in France. This event has been known as the February Revolution since it took place in the month of February in 1848.

Results:

1) [After deposing Louis Philippe from the throne. The Republicans and the Socialists rose in arms and formed a provisional government and this government declared the universal adult franchise and a new constitution was framed which provided a single-chambered legislature ^{elected} on the basis of universal adult franchise and there was to be an elected President.]

2) The July Revolution of 1830 had established the supremacy of the well-to-do middle class people - the bourgeoisie. Revolution of 1848 on the other hand marked the triumph of the working class people. ~~There~~ Socialist leaders were taking an active part in the new government that was created.]

Repercussion in Europe:

The success of the February Revolution profoundly inspired the European people and everywhere enthusiastic people

rose against their despotic rulers. Revolution took place in Austria, Italy and other places.

Popular rising first took place in Vienna where the revolutionaries forced the Austrian Emperor to grant a constitution. The Metternich, the Chancellor of Austria, arch the chief enemy of all revolutionary ideas fled away from Vienna and took shelter in England. Rising took place in Bohemia and in Hungary and both the countries became independent from Austrian dominance. But with the Russian help Austria succeeded to put the rising in Bohemia and Hungary and thus saved Austrian Empire from the impending dissolution.

Rising took place also in German states and the revolutionaries from all over of Germany met at a conference in Frankfurt ~~and~~ and offered the ~~the~~ Crown of a united Germany to the Prussian King 'Ferdinand William IV'. But the Prussian King refused

to accept the crown from the revolutionaries
Austria again intervened and subdued the
uprising in Germany. But some of the German
states who had granted constitution to
their people do not abolish the constitution
and thus revolution didn't become total
failure in Germany. ~~Like Germany, there~~
~~were wide spread rising in Italy.~~

Like Germany, there were
widespread rising in the Italian state
of Sicily, Naples, Tuscany, Modena,
Parma and Papal territories and
forced their despotic ruler to grant popular
constitution. The king of Sardinia-Piedmont
sided with the Italian people and proceeded
to destroy Austrian power in Italy. Thus
the movement of 1848 in Italy assumed
the character of a war for national
liberation. But Austria soon intervened
in the affairs of Italy and put

down all popular things, but after that, the
struggle for Italian unification centered around
the monarchy of sardinia ~~at~~ piedmont who assumed
the leadership in the movement. Thus revolutions
everywhere put down due to the Austrian intervention
of Austria.