BHIC-114 HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE -II (C. 1780 – 1939)
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS)

Course code: BHIC-114
Assignment Code: BHIC-114/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment-I

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1. What are the important tenets and ideas of Marxist socialism? Explain. 20
2. Discuss the major factors of two world wars. 20

Assignment- II

Answer the following in about 250 words each.

3. Write a note on French colonialism in Africa. 10
4. What was indirect rule? How was it implemented in Latin America? 10
5. Explain the changes in balance of power following the Second World War. 10

Assignment- III

Answer the following in about 100 words each.

6. New Economic Policy 6
7. The Economic crisis 6
8. The terror and the purges 6
9. Definition of colonialism 6
10. Beginning of the cold war 6

1. What are the important tenets and ideas of Marxist socialism? Explain. 20

Answer

Marxist socialism is a theory of society and a programme for social transformation developed principally by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the nineteenth century. It emerged in response to the inequalities, recurring crises and exploitation associated with industrial capitalism. Unlike schemes that depended on the goodwill of wealthy reformers, Marx and Engels argued that socialism would grow out of the contradictions of existing economic relations and the political action of the working class. Their ideas join an interpretation of history to a criticism of capitalism and a vision of a classless society.

Historical materialism

A central idea is historical materialism: to understand a society, we must examine how people produce the necessities of life and how production is socially organised. Every society has productive forces, such as labour, tools, skills and technology, and relations of production, including property ownership and control over work. Together these form the economic structure of society. Political institutions, laws and dominant ideas develop in relation to this structure, although they also influence historical struggles. Change arises when existing property relations begin to restrict new productive possibilities.

Marx described major historical transformations through the development and conflict of social classes. In a feudal order, landlords controlled land and peasants supplied labour or dues; under capitalism, owners of capital purchase the labour-power of wage workers. History is not a mechanically predetermined sequence, but social conflict over production and power provides a decisive force for change. The phrase 'class struggle' therefore refers to real conflicts over wages, land, political rights and ownership rather than simply hostility between rich and poor.

Critique of capitalist production

Capitalism has expanded productive capacity on an enormous scale, built world markets and accelerated technological innovation. Marx nevertheless saw its basic relation as unequal. Workers generally lack independent access to the means of production and must sell their capacity to work. Their labour creates commodities whose value can exceed the wages they receive. The difference is the basis of surplus value, which capitalists appropriate as profit. Exploitation, in this account, is rooted in the wage relation, not merely in unusually harsh treatment by an individual employer.