BHIE 145: SOME ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN HISTORY 1789-1945
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course code: BHIE-145
Assignment Code: BHIE-145/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 factors that prepared the ground for the revolutionary change in France? 20

2. Discuss the development of industrialization in France and Germany from 1750 to 1850. 20

Assignment -II

Answer the following in about 250 words each.

3. Write a note on the contribution of early socialist thinkers. 10

4. What was Metternich system? Why did it fail? 10

5. How did the liberal democracies foster the growth of nationalism in Europe? 10

Assignments 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 factors that prepared the ground for the revolutionary change in France? 20

Answer

The French Revolution of 1789 did not begin because of one sudden incident. For several decades, economic difficulties, unequal social arrangements and new political ideas had weakened the old order. The immediate financial emergency in 1788–89 brought these long-term tensions into the open. The revolution therefore grew out of both structural problems and decisions taken by the monarchy at a critical moment.

Social inequality under the Old Regime

French society was traditionally divided into three estates. The First Estate consisted of the clergy, the Second Estate of the nobility, and the Third Estate included peasants, artisans, labourers, traders and members of the middle class. The first two estates enjoyed important privileges, including exemptions from many direct taxes. The Third Estate, which formed the overwhelming majority of the population, bore much of the burden of royal taxation and feudal obligations. Wealthy commoners could become prosperous through trade or professional work, but they still faced barriers to high offices and political recognition. This gap between economic importance and inherited status caused growing dissatisfaction.

Peasants particularly resented seigneurial dues, tithes paid to the Church and several forms of taxation. Some peasants owned their land, while others were tenants or landless workers, so their experiences varied. Yet the privileges of landlords appeared increasingly unjust. In towns, rising food prices placed a heavy burden on wage-earners. Economic pressure encouraged different social groups to challenge the old arrangements, even when their interests were not identical. When communities prepared their lists of grievances, known as cahiers de doléances, before the Estates-General, they expressed complaints about taxes, seigneurial burdens and local abuses. The petitions were not all revolutionary: many still respected the king and asked for reform. Nevertheless, they showed that criticism had spread beyond Paris. The Church also owned considerable land and received tithes, which some villagers resented while continuing to value parish worship and charity. These overlapping grievances helped turn a government financial problem into a national debate about privilege.