EHI-07/BHIE-107 : Modern Europe Mid-18th to Mid-20th Centuries
Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: EHI-07/BHIE-107
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/ AST/TMA/2026-27
Total Marks: 100

Note: All questions are compulsory.
Section 1: Answer each question in about 500 words.

1. Discuss the major demands for reforms in 18th century Britain. What was the response of state to these demands?

   Or

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

2. Explain the major features of Witte system of industrialization.

   Or

   Write an essay on the political and economic background of Italian nationalism. 20

Section 2: Answer each question in about 250 words.

3. Discuss the secret society movement in Europe in 19th century.

   Or

   Which factors led to the rise of Bonapartism in France or Second empire? Why did it fail? 12

4. Describe the main factors responsible for the British national integration.

   Or

   What are the major theories of imperialism? Explain. 12

5. Write a note on British and French colonialism in Africa.

   Or

   What were the circumstances under which the Nazi party captured power in Germany? 12

6. How did the five-year planning escalate the rapid industrialization in Russia? Answer with respect to the three five-year plans from 1929 to 1941.

   Or

   What were the major factors of two world wars? Explain. 12

Section 3: Answer in about 100 words each.

7. Write short notes on **any two** of the following: 6+6

   i. Reform Act of 1832

   ii. Landed class in capitalist economy

   iii. Indirect rule in China

   iv. New economic policy

1. Discuss the major demands for reforms in 18th century Britain. What was the response of state to these demands?

Answer

In eighteenth-century Britain, Parliament and the monarchy remained powerful, but the political system did not represent the population fairly. Landowners and wealthy families dominated the House of Commons, while many growing towns had little or no representation. At the same time, new ideas about liberty, public opinion and the rights of citizens encouraged demands for change. These demands became stronger as trade expanded, industry began to grow and events in America and France showed that established authority could be challenged.

Demands for parliamentary and political reform

The central demand was for a more representative Parliament. The distribution of parliamentary seats was unequal. Some small and declining boroughs could elect members, while important industrial towns lacked their own members. Voting was restricted by property qualifications, and elections were often influenced by patrons, bribery and local power. Reformers asked for a fairer distribution of seats, wider voting rights, more regular elections and greater accountability of representatives. They also criticised the practice of office-holders using public money and political influence to protect their own interests.

John Wilkes became an important early symbol of these demands. In the 1760s he challenged government interference with the press and opposed the use of general warrants. Although voters in Middlesex repeatedly elected him, the House of Commons prevented him from taking his seat for a time. His supporters raised the cry of 'Wilkes and Liberty', making the right of electors to choose their representatives a national issue. Campaigns connected with Wilkes also helped defend the reporting of parliamentary debates in newspapers. Reform was no longer discussed only inside Parliament; meetings, petitions and printed pamphlets carried it to a wider public.

Groups such as the Society for Constitutional Information, founded in 1780, and the Society of the Friends of the People, formed in 1792, called attention to corruption and unequal representation. Thomas Paine's writings, particularly Rights of Man, argued that political authority should rest on the rights of people rather than inherited privilege. Some moderate reformers wanted only to remove abuses; more radical groups, including the London Corresponding Society, sought a much broader male franchise and regular representation. These positions were not identical, but both questioned the narrow political system.