

the Roman Empire and decline in the influence of the Catholic Church, Europe witnessed the rise of several nations. The history of Europe in the past one thousand years is the history of the rise of, and conflicts among, various nations. These nations extended their empires beyond the European continent and subjugated other independent countries. Nationalism brought Nation and State together resulting in Nation-States. At the same time, the decline in the influence of the Roman Catholic Church gave rise either to national churches or to a complete disappearance of religious influence on politics. Anyway, the concept of a secular State arose out of this situation.

Birth Of Democracy In Europe

A revolutionary concept which made a deep impact on the political life of Europe is democracy. In the beginning, every nation had a king as its head but there was a gradual awakening in the minds of the people against the autocracy of the royalty. The industrial revolution and international trade resulted in the rise of a business community in all nations. Naturally, there ensued a conflict between these new centres of power and the established kings and feudal lords. The fundamental principles of democracy became the pivot around which this conflict revolved. The origin of democracy was sought in the Greek city republics. The common man was attracted by the lofty ideals of equality, fraternity and liberty of every citizen. France witnessed a bloody revolution. In England too, there were periodic movements. The idea of democracy gained a foothold in the mind of the common man. Royalty was either liquidated or its powers were drastically curbed and constitutional governments were established. Today, democracy has been already accepted in Europe. Even those who have suppressed democracy do not denounce it. Dictators like Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, too, paid lip-service to democracy.

Capitalist Exploitation And Marxism

Every individual got a vote in the democratic set-up. But real power stayed with those who had led the revolution. The industrial revolution had generated faith in the new methods of production. Instead of working in the freedom of the home, workers had started working in the factories, taking orders from the factory owners. The worker migrated from his home town to dwell in crowded cities. There was no provision for housing. There were hardly any rules in the factory to protect the worker. He was economically weak and not yet organised. He became a victim of exploitation, injustice