

Class X - Social Science

Print Culture and the Modern World

CBSE NOTES

Print Culture and the Modern World - Quick Look Revision Guide

Your 1-page summary of the most exam-relevant takeaways from 'India and the Contemporary World - II'.



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Key Points

1. First printed books originated in China, Japan, and Korea using woodblock printing.

The earliest print technology was developed in East Asia, where books were printed by rubbing paper against inked woodblocks. This method was used from AD 594 onwards, primarily for reproducing texts like the Diamond Sutra.

2. Printing press invented by Johann Gutenberg in the 1430s revolutionized book production.

Gutenberg's invention in Strasbourg, Germany, allowed for faster and cheaper book production, leading to the print revolution. His first printed book was the Bible, marking a significant shift from handwritten manuscripts.

3. Print culture led to the Protestant Reformation by spreading Martin Luther's ideas.

Martin Luther's Ninety Five Theses, criticizing the Catholic Church, were widely printed and read, fueling the Reformation. This demonstrated print's power to challenge authority and spread new ideas.

4. Print created a new reading public, reducing book costs and increasing accessibility.

The printing press made books more affordable and abundant, transforming reading from an elite activity to a more widespread practice, thus creating a new culture of reading.

5. Vernacular Press Act of 1878 aimed to control nationalist sentiments in India.

This act gave the colonial government extensive rights to censor vernacular newspapers, reflecting fears over nationalist activities. It was modeled on Irish Press Laws to suppress

dissent.

6. Print culture in India began with Portuguese missionaries in Goa in the mid-16th century.

The first printing press in India was brought by Portuguese missionaries, who printed tracts in Konkani and other local languages, marking the beginning of print culture in the subcontinent.

7. Raja Ravi Varma's prints popularized mythological images in Indian households.

Ravi Varma's mass-produced prints of Hindu deities and mythological scenes became widely popular, decorating homes and shaping visual culture in 19th-century India.

8. Women's education and writing were significantly impacted by print culture.

Print enabled women to access education and express themselves through writing, as seen in works by Rashsundari Debi and others, despite societal restrictions.

9. Print played a key role in spreading Enlightenment ideas in Europe.

The works of thinkers like Voltaire and Rousseau were widely printed, encouraging rational thought and criticism of traditional authority, contributing to revolutionary ideas.

10. The Roman Catholic Church maintained an Index of Prohibited Books to control dissent.

To counter heretical ideas, the Church listed banned books from 1558, controlling what could be read and suppressing challenges to its authority.

11. Cheap prints and calendars became popular among the poor in 19th-century India.

Affordable prints allowed even the poor to decorate their homes, influencing their ideas about modernity, tradition, and politics.

12. Print culture facilitated the growth of nationalism in India.

Newspapers and printed materials spread nationalist ideas, connected communities, and criticized colonial rule, fostering a pan-Indian identity.

13. The Bengal Gazette was the first newspaper in India, started by James Augustus Hickey.

Launched in 1780, it was a private enterprise critical of the East India Company, marking the beginning of the English press in India.

14. Print enabled the spread of scientific knowledge and rational thinking.

Scientific texts and discoveries by figures like Newton were widely printed, making complex ideas accessible and promoting rational thought among the public.

15. The Deoband Seminary used print to spread Islamic teachings in 19th-century India.

It published fatwas and religious texts in Urdu, countering colonial influences and preserving Islamic doctrines among Muslims.

16. Print culture led to the rise of novels and new literary forms in India.

Novels and other literary forms reflected contemporary social issues and personal experiences, catering to a growing readership and new tastes.

17. Workers' education and political awareness were enhanced by print.

Workers used print to educate themselves, write about their experiences, and organize, as seen in libraries and publications by millworkers in Kanpur and Bombay.

18. Print censorship was a tool used by colonial powers to suppress dissent.

Laws like the Vernacular Press Act and wartime regulations were used to control and censor print, aiming to stifle nationalist and anti-colonial sentiments.

19. The Battala area in Calcutta was famous for cheap and popular books.

Battala's printers produced affordable religious texts, literature, and even scandalous works, making print accessible to a wider audience, including women.

20. Print culture transformed the way information was shared and consumed globally.

From East Asia to Europe and India, print revolutionized communication, education, and politics, shaping the modern world by democratizing knowledge and ideas.

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