

The Luddite rebellion, 1811-1817, was one of the earliest reactions. Named after its charismatic leader General Ned Ludd, it started from Nottinghamshire during the harsh economic climate of the Napoleonic Wars and spread to other industrial areas such as Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Luddites were a group of English textile workers whose traditional trade and community pattern was threatened by usage of machines. In late 18th century, the conditions of these knitters worsened due to:

- invention of labour-saving machinery
- exploitation by their masters
- change in fashion
- rising population

Coupled with these were the other effects of industrial revolution with larger social impact:

- **Average life span of workers lowered:** due to epidemics caused by pollution of water (Cholera, Typhoid) and air (Tuberculosis).
- **Changing social profile:** Women and children started working in factories to supplement the meagre wages of men.
- **Poor condition of workers:** They had to work for long, with unbroken hours, under strict discipline and subjected to sharp forms of punishments. Machineries were very unsafe, especially for the children. There was no compensation even for life threatening injuries.
- **Glaring social and economic inequalities:** Concentration of economic power in few hands resulted in shocking social inequalities and created wide gulf between rich and poor.
- **Capitalist and worker's segregation:** While workers lived in overcrowded quarters without access to clean drinking water, the rich lived in suburbs with cleaner air and safe water. **Luddites feared that the time spent** learning the skills of their craft would go to waste as machines would replace their role in the industry.

As a result, Luddites started destroying weaving machinery as a form of protest. In this situation, two Combination Acts, 1795 were passed which banned any form of protest against the King, Constitution and the Government.

Due to political and economic compulsions, Luddites turned to direct methods and targeted new machinery and the industrialists. However, Luddites were not afraid of technology and did not attempt to eliminate technology out of fear. Their goal was instead to gain a better bargaining position with their employers and better working conditions. The enactment of various labor regulation laws banning child labor or fixing working hours between 1819 to 1847 can be seen as effects of this movement.

**13. *Fascism and Nazism both emerged in an unstable Europe, not only causing further instability but virtually destroying the continent in their wake. Explain.***

**Approach:**

- Define Fascism & Nazism briefly.
- Discuss how its growth in Europe was related to the prevailing instability in Europe.
- Mention how it caused further instability & destruction in Europe.

**Answer:**

**Fascism** is a form of radical authoritarian nationalism, characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition and control of industry and commerce that came to prominence in early 20th-century Europe. The first fascist movements emerged in Italy during World War I before it spread to other European countries.

Opposed to liberalism, Marxism and anarchism, fascism is usually placed on the far-right within the traditional left–right spectrum. **Nazism** was just an extreme & violent form of Fascism in Germany with extreme hate towards Jews.

One of the main reasons for the growth of Fascism in Italy & Nazism in Germany is attributed to the prevailing instability in Europe i.e.