

Capitalists Democracy

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The 4 freedoms for which the Capitalists Class fought in the real revolutionary days was the 1. Freedom to exploit man and soil. Political power was to stay in the hands of the rich, for whom freedom would be a class monopoly. Not until the workers organised and struggled, did they gain Political rights.

A hundred years after the English revolution, in about 1750, there were six million people in England and Wales, but only 250,000 had the right to vote. In Country districts only Landowners but not tenants had the vote, and not more than one in every twenty voters could freely use his rights without fear of oppression from the rich. In the towns only small groups of property owners and old residents could vote. Electorate or voting areas were called rotten and pocket boroughs names which showed that votes were bought and that the election was controlled by some of the other rich family.

By 1830 the population had grown to 14 million, but parliament was still elected by some small class of property owners. Big new towns had grown up which had no members in parliament. Industry and trade had made a great advance, but factory owners and shopkeepers as well as workers had no say in the government. Capitalists and workers joined hands in a better struggle for a parliamentary reform, and in 1833 forced the ruling class to pass the reform act.

This gave the vote to tenants farmers in the County districts and to occupiers of houses valued at over £10 a year in towns. In other words, the Industrialists had been given the vote but not the working people, who had done most of the fighting for a change.

The workers now saw that they could gain nothing by following the leadership of the Capitalists Class. They began to build up a separate movement known as Chartism movement. The first political working class organisation in world. They their charter or programme had demands, the vote for every man over 21 years of age, rich or poor to be able to stand for Parliament, secret voting; the same number of voters in all areas; a new parliament to elected every year; Great mass demonstrations were held, big meeting took place all over England, and three petitions demanding the vote were put before parliament in the year 1838 to 1848. The Government arrested the leaders broke up meetings and sent ~~robber~~ soldiers against the demonstrators. After long struggles laws were passed in 1867 and 1884 that gave many workers the vote. By 1900 all ~~men~~ ~~men~~ ~~men~~ over 21 years had the vote.

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