

Degree 1 (English Honours)

Paper -1

Lecture- 1

The Romantic Age

The Romantic Age is coincided with French Revolution which was carried against oppression. The literature of this period valued emotions, passion and individuality in place of reason and intellect. The Romantic period in English literature begins with the publication of William Wordsworth and St. Coleridge's Lyrical Ballad in 1798 and ends with the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. This period is coincided with the revolution in France and America and therefore it is also known as The Age of Revolution. The French Revolution was a battle to achieve equality and remove oppression incurred by oppressive king Louis Sixteen. People of France were angered by increased taxation to support their country's involvement in the American Revolution, oppressive feudal system, crop failure and other economic difficulties. The French Revolution began in 1789.

The effect of French Revolution did not confine to fancy only. It started a revolutionary fervour in England. according to David

Cody, The French Revolution was not only a crucial event considered in the context of Western History, but was also perhaps the single most crucial influence on British intellectual, philosophical and political life in the 19th century.

The writers of the Romantic period were inspired by the ideas of French Revolution and tried to translate these ideas into the realm of literature. The diverse political change and the triumph of democracy in the period ended with the passage of the Reform Bill in 1832.

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