

The Spread of Print Technology

Chapter 5: Print Culture and the Modern World · Topic 1

Key Concept

Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the movable-type printing press in the mid-15th century made book production faster and cheaper, leading to wider distribution of knowledge.

Print technology spread across Europe and eventually to other parts of the world, including India, where it arrived through European traders and missionaries.

The availability of printed materials increased literacy rates, spread new ideas (including religious and political ones), and contributed to significant social and cultural changes.

Print culture also enabled the growth of newspapers and pamphlets, becoming powerful tools for spreading nationalist and reformist ideas in societies like colonial India.

Quick Revision Notes

- Gutenberg invented the movable-type printing press in the mid-15th century.
- This made book production faster and cheaper.
- Print technology spread across Europe and worldwide.
- It reached India through European traders and missionaries.
- Printed materials increased literacy rates.
- Print spread new religious and political ideas.
- Newspapers and pamphlets grew from print culture.
- Print helped spread nationalist ideas in colonial India.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Johannes Gutenberg and his invention.
- 2 Discuss how print technology changed access to information.
- 3 Research how print technology arrived in India.
- 4 Explain the connection between literacy and print.
- 5 Research a nationalist newspaper from colonial India.
- 6 Discuss why print was powerful for spreading ideas.