

1. Russia

What was Russia like c.16th Century?

In the late 1800s, Russia was the largest country in the world. Stretching from the Black Sea in Europe to the Bering Straits in the extreme east of Asia.

Compared to Western Europe, the Russian Empire was politically, economically and socially backwards. There was little industry and the vast majority of the population were peasant farmers.

Many citizens existed as serfs (slaves under the control of wealthy landowners).

It had a population of 100 million. Half of these were ethnic Russians. The remainder included large numbers of Germans, Poles, Slavs and Asians. Almost every major religion was represented within this diverse population.



2. Key Words

Democracy	A system of government in which everyone votes the leader or party into power. Values and rights of individuals are respected and in law.
Dictatorship	A system of government in which there is one leader who controls all forms of life. There are no regular elections and if there are, they are corrupt.
Communism	All property is owned by the community and everyone contributes and is looked after by the government.
Capitalism	Privately owned business; little censorship; some more wealthy than others; free voting
Fascism	A form of ultra-national government that maintains power through violence and terror and oppressing minorities.
The Cold War	A state of political hostility between the Soviet Union and the USA. It was characterised by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare.
The 20th century	The years between 1901 and 2000.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Joseph Stalin	The communist dictator of the Soviet Union (USSR) between 1922 and 1953.
Freedom of speech	The power or right to express one's opinions without censorship, restraint, or legal penalty
Benito Mussolini	The fascist dictator of Italy between 1922 and 1943.
Nuclear Weapons	A bomb which uses nuclear energy to cause a deadly explosion which creates radioactive waste

3. Source and Interpretation work

SOURCE A

A memorandum to the Tsar in March 1905 by Serge Witte, Russian Prime Minister.

The government is completely paralyzed. They either do nothing or pull in opposite directions. The rioting grows fiercer by the hour. The revolution is out openly on the streets. It carries all classes of the people along with it.

Interpretation B

Historian writing about the end of the 1905 Revolution in Russia decades after the events.

The disturbances of 1905 ended when the Tsar regained control and seemed to offer an end to autocratic rule. By January 1906, it was all over. The workers were bitter that the middle classes had deserted them. The middle class looked forward to the first meeting of the Duma - they saw this as the great victory of 1905.



SOURCE C

A drawing from a Communist magazine produced in 1906. The name of the drawing is *Now at least my people are free.*

4. The Dumas

First Duma	Second Duma	Third Duma	Fourth Duma
<p>The first Duma was established in May 1906, after the announcement of the Fundamental Laws.</p> <p>It consisted mainly of Kadets and SRs. Hence, it demanded further political reform, including land reform and the release of political prisoners.</p> <p>This was denied by the Tsar. It lasted for just over two months before it was dissolved for passing a vote of 'no confidence' in Prime Minister Ivan Goremykin.</p>	<p>The second Duma was established in February 1907. Following the dissolving of the first Duma, many Kadets were involved in writing the Vyborg Appeal. This criticised the government and demanded the non-payment of taxes.</p> <p>In response, these Kadets were made ineligible to vote. This greatly reduced the power of the Kadets.</p> <p>Liberal Octoberists (those who agreed with the October Manifesto) had more influence as did SRs, Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. The second Duma lasted for five months. It was dissolved when members began promoting revolutionary organisations within the army.</p>	<p>Established in 1907, this Duma was intended to be much more supportive of the Tsar.</p> <p>Arrangements had been made for landowners to have more voting power. This meant only the most affluent third of the population were able to vote in the election.</p> <p>The resulting Duma was less radical and more favourable to the government. Prime Minister, Pyotr Stolypin was able to pass considerable land reform. It lasted until mid-1912.</p>	<p>Established in November 1912, the fourth Duma comprised mainly Octoberists on one side and socialists on the other, This made decision-making increasingly difficult.</p> <p>Both groups found it impossible to unite in order to make progress. The Duma was suspended in 1915, by which time Russia was committed to fighting the Austrians and Germans in World War One.</p>

5. Causes of 1905 Revolution

<p>Weak Tsar The leadership of Tsar was weak and ineffective. He was unable to make good decisions when it came to high pressure situations. He also failed to understand the feeling and discontent amongst the population of Russia. He was also a poor leader in battle.</p>
<p>Bloody Sunday (22nd January 1905) It was a short-lived revolution in which the Tsar lost control of large areas of Russia. The workers were not trying to overthrow the Tsar. They believed that the Tsar did not know of their plight. The demonstration was brutally put down and up to 200 people were killed by rifle fire.</p>
<p>Rural and Urban poverty Russia had no form of income tax. The Tsar taxed the produce of the peasant farmers to raise money to maintain his regime. Famine was a common occurrence at the turn of the century. Living conditions were horrendous as developers struggled to deal with the demand for accommodation. There was limited sanitation and running water in the cities and the mortality rate was high.</p>
<p>Defeat in the Russo-Japanese War Between 1904 and 1905, Russia and Japan fought for control of strategic territories in China. It ended with humiliating defeat for Russia. The embarrassment of defeat to an Asiatic power added to the view that Tsarist government was incompetent.</p>
<p>Growing political opposition From the 1880s, Marxist ideas began to spread through Russia. There was also opposition from Liberals and Radicals.</p>
<p>Revolt on the Potemkin Battleship (June 1905) The Tsar had to agree to a humiliating peace treaty with the Japanese after the destruction of the Baltic Fleet. Defeat in the war led to a mutiny on board the Potemkin battleship in June 1905.</p>
<p>Urbanisation Under the guidance of Tsarist advisers Vyshnegradsky and Witte, came increased urbanisation. The population of Russia's towns and cities multiplied by four. Working conditions were terrible and trade unionism was banned. There was little to protect the pay or safety of workers.</p>
<p>Unpopular Tsarist Policies Many were unhappy with the political conditions in Russia. Ethnic minorities were greatly oppressed by the policies of Russification. Middle class industrialists were unhappy that they had no say in how the country was governed and corruption of officials was high.</p>

6. Rasputin

Who was Rasputin?

Rasputin was from Siberia. Although he went to school he remained illiterate.

He had a reputation for disregarding laws and moral restraints, He was infamous for his drunkenness and for womanising as well as his antisocial behaviour. The name Rasputin is Russian and means "The debauched one".

He was rumoured to be a Khlyst, member of an extreme underground sect that had split from the Orthodox Church.

He failed to become a monk and got married having four children. He later left his family behind and wandered to Greece and Jerusalem, living off donations to the poor. He eventually ended up in St Petersburg with a reputation as a holy man able to heal the sick and predict the future.

Why was he respected by some?

He gained a reputation as a healer, able to perform amazing feats and miracles. Rasputin came to the attention of the royal family. In April 1907, Alexandra called on him to heal her only son, Alexis. He was suffering from painful bleeding as a result of an injury. It was not publicly known but Alexis suffered from the blood disease hemophilia. Rasputin succeeded in easing the boy's suffering (probably by his hypnotic powers) and, upon leaving the palace, warned the parents that the destiny of both the child and the dynasty were irrevocably linked to him. In 1912, Rasputin 'cured' Alexis via Telegram.

He was seen by many as a typical peasant.

Why was he hated by many?

- His perceived ability to heal and have immortal life shocked many conservatives in Russia.
- There were many high ranking officials and ministers such as Stolypin who were jealous in a professional manner.
- There was resentment of his influence over the Tsarina, especially during WWI. After Alexis recovered, Tsarina Alexandra became convinced that Rasputin could control the young boy's illness. While there is still debate over the nature of his powers over the health of Alexis, it is clear that his influence over the Tsarina was considerable. He advised her on appointments to the government, interfered in important decisions.
- He could do no wrong in the eyes of the Tsarina. Excuses were always made for his excessive and antisocial behaviour. To the Russian people, Rasputin symbolised everything that was wrong with imperial government. The court and the royal family became objects of ridicule, to be despised. Rasputin's murder by royalists at the end of 1916, came too late to undo the damage he had caused.
- The Tsar censored many press reports in an attempt to cover up the lifestyle of Rasputin.

Death

On the night and early morning of the 29-30 December, a group of nobles led by the Husband of the Tsar's niece and the Tsar's first cousin lured Rasputin to Youssupov Palace where they murdered him over fears of his growing power.



Homework will be set once a week.

When homework is set listen carefully to your teacher to know which task needs to be completed by when.

If you are unsure of any homework always asks you teacher for further guidance. We look forward to getting to know you and listening to your views.

Task 1:

On a map of Russia annotate the key knowledge and some further information about the Tsars

Good / Exceptional: Why would people begin to get fed up with the Tsarist rule?

Task 2:

Learn the key words, spelling and their definitions for a test.

Good / Exceptional: Write a sentence that uses each of these key words in turn appropriately.

Task 3:

Evaluate the usefulness of SOURCE A as evidence of the problems facing the Russian government in 1905. You may want to comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, why they wrote it, what they say or what has been missed out. How useful is SOURCE C in highlighting the support for the Tsar following the Revolution.

Task 4:

How far do you agree with interpretation B? Why? Explain your answer.

Good / Exceptional: How far does source C support interpretation B? Why?

Task 5:

Using the information in the tables provided, create a Venn diagram detailing the similarities and differences between the **first two Dumas**.

Good / Exceptional: Decide on what the biggest difference is and explain why.

Task 6:

Using the information in the tables provided, create a Venn diagram detailing the similarities and differences between the **third and fourth Dumas**.

Good / Exceptional: Decide on what the biggest difference is and explain why.

Task 7:

Create a diamond nine to rank the causes in order of importance for **CAUSING** the revolution.

Good / Exceptional: Explain what you have chosen as the most important cause and why.

Task 8:

Create a fact file on Rasputin. This make take and form you like.

Good / Exceptional: Why is Rasputin such an important figure in Russian history?

Task 9:

Your teacher will set you an individualised task based on your learning in class.