

Russia 1917-53 Y11 Transition work

- Dear students,

At history A level we study both Russian and Tudor history along with a piece of coursework(20%) on the fall of Rome.

The next slide has some documentaries for you to watch and take notes along with the course contents. The slides after are for a specific task. Dependent on how long school is closed I will send more material.

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- A nice series on Trotsky on Netflix, a good 7 hours for you to binge watch!
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trotsky \(TV series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trotsky_(TV_series))
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXHybEb4b_o bbc doc on the Russian rev
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDz-z92Qc4Q> the fall of Rome
- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/subject-content/2n-revolution-and-dictatorship-russia,-19171953>
- <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/AQA-70412N-70422N-RL.PDF>

Russia, 1917-53



An evaluation of the causes of the 1905 revolution

Summer Transitional Work - Russia

Task 1: Read the following slides:

Make a mind map on A3 of all of the problems with Russia before 1905. This will act as a plan. Focus on what your big points are going to be – Politics, economics, Long Term, Short Term..... Use colour, pictures and things you are unsure of look up: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwxv34j/revision/1>

Task 2: In 1000 words answer the following question:

To what extent was Russia on the Brink of Revolution in 1905?

Try to organise your answer in factors and argue for and against the main idea in the question and come to a conclusion. This question is easier than an A level one and is more like the 16 marker essay (AQA or equivalent) you have practised at GCSE.

Then use the rubric on the next slide to compare what you have come up with – write a www and ebi based on this and perhaps guess what grade it would have been.

Please bring this and all of your completed work to your first A level History lesson **and** submit it as per LSS or your school's instructions and deadlines. The same applies for the Tudor work set by Mr McCallion – this will make a nice start to your A level History folders.

Essay Mark Scheme – use this to self assess and write comments

A*/A – The answer has high level argument, lots of well explained facts, a clear structure and a good conclusion with some original ideas.

B – As an A but the answer perhaps has areas of factual drift and lots of knowledge which might not be addressing the question.

C – A well researched answer, that is mainly factual and relies on the conclusion to get across the argument.

D/E – An essay that only partly researches the facts, may list lots of information without addressing the question, that might lack a structure (introduction, main factors and conclusion) or may be incomplete.

Causes of the 1905 revolution

- Working class discontent
- discontent among the peasantry
- political problems — discontent with repressive government and its policies
- economic problems
- military defeat in the war against Japan
- Bloody Sunday

The 1905 revolution

From the late 19th century through to the outbreak of World War One in 1914, a series of threats to the Tsar's authority developed. At the end of the war these factors led to revolution and brought about the end of 300 years of Tsarist rule.

The first major threat came during the rule of Nicholas II in the form of the 1905 Revolution:

- Strikes spread across the country and illegal trade unions were widespread.
- Grand Duke Sergei, Nicholas II's uncle, was assassinated near the Kremlin in Moscow.
- A mutiny broke out amongst the sailors on the battleship Potemkin.
- There was a general strike in October.
- There are a number of long term and short term causes of the 1905 Revolution.

Long term cause - Economic discontent

- Over three-quarters of the Russian population were unhappy with their position in the Empire.
- Peasants and workers alike suffered horrendous living and working conditions and hence posed a threat to the Tsarist regime. Discontent increased in the years before 1905 in the form of riots, illegal strikes and protests.

Discontent among the peasantry

- Russia had no form of income tax. The Tsar taxed the produce of the peasant farmers to raise money to maintain his regime. The burden of taxation was so great that periodic riots broke out.
- The peasants of Russia had been freed from serfdom in 1861 by Alexander II. However, in order to give the peasants land, the government had to pay the landowners for it.
- As a result, the peasants had to pay this 'loan' back to the state in the form of Redemption Payments. This increased the hardship of peasants. 1903-1904 became known as the Years of the Red Cockerel when peasants seized a great deal of land in the countryside.
- Famine was a common occurrence at the turn of the century. There was widespread famine in 1901. Even though they did not have enough to feed themselves, peasants were expected to produce surplus grain for export.
- Land hunger was a major issue in the countryside. Although some wealthier peasants (Kulaks) did own their land, this was often at the expense of the poorer peasants.
- The majority of poorer peasants were landless.
 - they had no way of improving their situation.
- The amount of land a single peasant had was declining through the practice of dividing land among successive generations of a family.



Discontent among the workers

- Protests and strikes were on the increase in the early 1900s. By 1905 they were severe and widespread.
- With industrialisation, 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. Laws protecting workers brought in under Alexander III and Nicholas II did little to improve the situation as the working day remained at 11.5 hours.
- Living conditions were horrendous as developers struggled to deal with the demand for accommodation. Many lived in communal houses similar to army quarters, where kitchens, toilets and washrooms were shared. Others were forced to sleep in the factories where they worked, with little in terms of bedding.
- There was limited sanitation and running water in the cities and the mortality rate was high.
- There was an economic downturn in the early 1900s, leading to a lack of jobs and regular income. This was disastrous for those migrating to the cities looking for work.



Long term cause - Political problems

Unpopular Tsarist policies

- Many were unhappy with the political conditions in Russia:
- Ethnic minorities were greatly oppressed by the policies of Russification
- Jewish people were persecuted by state-sanctioned pogroms
- The influence of Zemstvas (provincial governing bodies) was reduced
- in 1900 officials criticising the government were purged
- middle class industrialists were unhappy that they had no say in how the country was governed
- increased industrialisation and urbanisation had led to major social and economic problems for workers and peasants
- This discontent provided revolutionary groups with a bed of support that could potentially be used to create change.



What do you think has happened here? (remember why immigrants came to Scotland from Russia)

Sources of opposition

Liberals

- The provincial Zemstvas were often highly critical of Tsarist policies. They cited famine and industrial stagnation as major problems that the government was responsible for.
- The lack of power they had to influence decision-making at a national level also frustrated them. They wanted the introduction of a state Duma (Parliament) which would advise the Tsar.
- The Union of Liberation was formed in St Petersburg in 1904 under the guidance of Liberal politician Peter Struve. The Union pushed for a constitutional monarchy with enfranchisement (the right to vote) for all men.

Sources of opposition

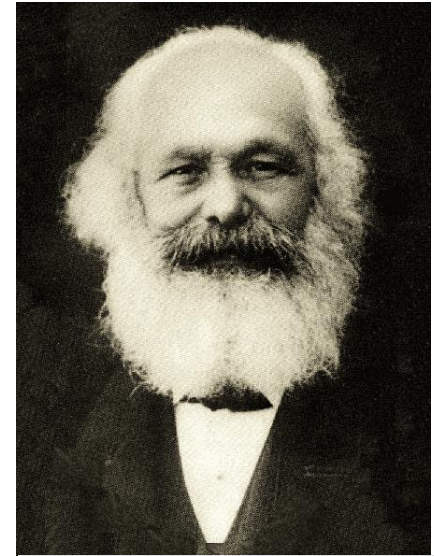
Radicals

- Radical opposition groups often carried out political assassinations. The People's Will tried to assassinate Alexander III in 1887. Populism existed in the universities. The Narodnik socialist movement tried to persuade the peasants to rise against the Tsar and take power for themselves.

Sources of opposition

The development of Marxism

- From the 1880s, Marxist ideas began to spread through Russia. Based on the theories of the German economist Karl Marx, they proposed that the proletariat - the underclass of society - would rise up in rebellion and seize power from the wealthy ruling class and establish a fairer society.



Sources of opposition- Social Revolutionaries (SR)

- The Socialist Revolutionaries adopted a combination of Marxist and Populist beliefs. They wanted to overthrow the government in favour of giving power to the peasants.
- Although they were greatly uncoordinated in their efforts, they carried out approximately 2,000 political assassinations in the years leading up to the 1905 Revolution.



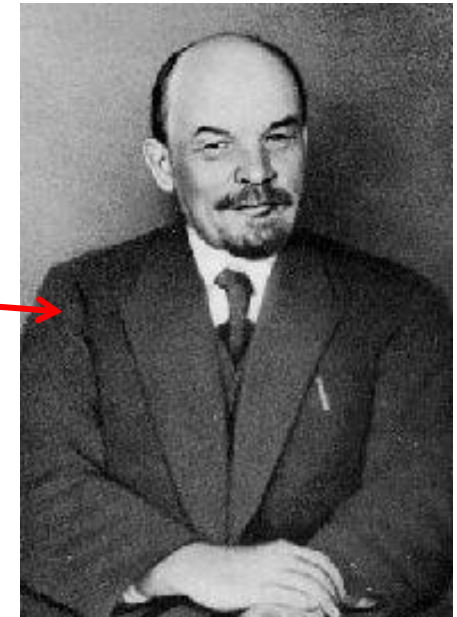
Sources of opposition: The Kadets

- Wanted a Duma (parliament) and the Tsar – (similar to Britain- we have a parliament but still have the royal family!)



Sources of opposition: Social Democrats (SDP)

- Social Democrat beliefs were based on Marxism. They did not consider that the peasants would rise in revolution. They focused on agitation amongst the workers in the cities.
- the group split in 1903 after an ideological disagreement. The **Mensheviks**, led by Martov, wanted revolution by the workers to occur naturally. The **Bolsheviks** led by Lenin, believed revolution should come as soon as possible.
- Although not directly involved in the 1905 revolution, these revolutionary groups had been able to help spread strikes and protests throughout the Empire.



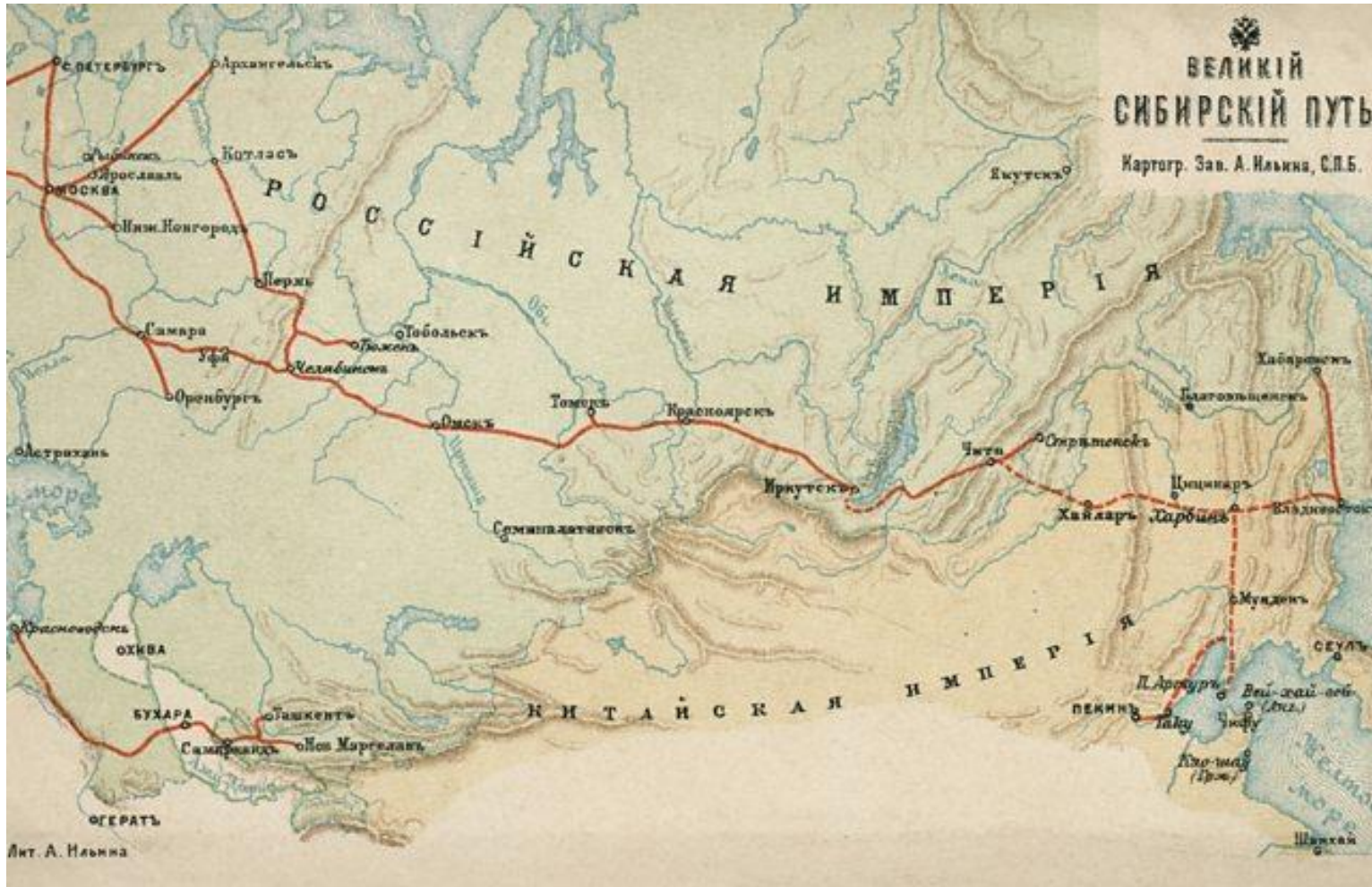
Short term cause -Defeat in the war with Japan

- Between 1904 and 1905, Russia and Japan fought for control of strategic territories in China. It ended with humiliating defeat for Russia. This brought critical attention to the Tsar's regime.

Causes of the war

- Tsar Nicholas II was advised by Plehve, the Minister of the Interior, that a national victory would lessen the growing opposition to Tsarist rule. It was an opportunity to heighten patriotic fervour and national pride.
- Japan was also a threat to Russian interests in Asia. Russia benefited from economic expansion into the Far East and increased access to the Pacific coastline. Japan had become concerned that Russian expansion of the Trans-Siberian Railway into Chinese Manchuria could threaten Korea.
- China was weak and Japan had an interest in acquiring land for herself. Japanese negotiations to avoid war were ignored by Tsarist officials and hence the war began.

Trans-Siberian Railway



The course of the war

- In January 1904, the Japanese besieged Port Arthur, a Russian naval base and attacked the Russian Pacific Fleet.
- Russian forces were left without supplies as the Trans-Siberian Railway was unfinished and there was no effective way of moving troops from the west.
- Russian armies suffered heavy losses on the Yalu River and at Mukden as a result of the vastly superior Japanese forces.
- The Russian Baltic fleet was sent to the Pacific in October 1904. However, after arriving there in March 1905, it encountered the Japanese navy and was destroyed in 45 minutes.



Mutiny on the Potemkin



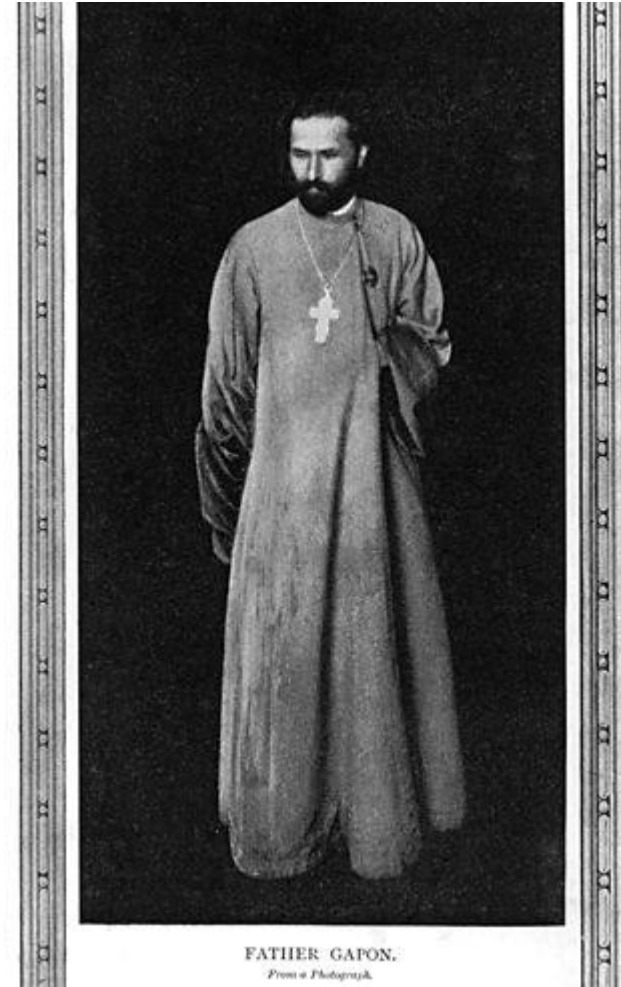
In June 1905, a bloody uprising broke out aboard Potemkin, one of the premier battleships in the Russian navy. Threatened with death for refusing to eat their maggot-ridden rations, the crew turned on their officers, killed their captain and seized control of the ship. After raising the red flag of revolution, they spent the next 11 days prowling the Black Sea in a futile attempt to spark a rebellion against Czar Nicholas II.

Impact of the War

- The embarrassment of defeat to an Asiatic power added to the view that Tsarist government was incompetent.
- 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.
- Resources diverted to the war lessened the already limited supply of grain and fuel.
- In 1904 Plehve was assassinated in a terrorist bomb attack.

Short term cause - Bloody Sunday

- In an attempt to quell economic discontent among the workers, Minister of the Interior Plehve had established a legal trade union in St Petersburg. Called the Assembly of Russian Factory and Mill Workers, it was led by a Russian Orthodox priest, Father Georgy Gapon. It was this organisation that would, unwittingly, set the 1905 Revolution in motion.



Short term cause- Bloody Sunday

- In late 1904, four union members at the Putilov Iron Works Plant in St Petersburg were dismissed. Gapon called for industrial action. Over the coming days over 100 thousand workers in the city went on strike. Although protests were peaceful, troops were brought in to support existing forces in the city.
- Father Gapon organised a petition complaining about working conditions in the city and calling for change. It was signed by over 150 thousand people.
- On 22 January 1905, Father Gapon led a march to deliver a petition to the Tsar. Thousands of workers took part in this peaceful protest. The workers were not trying to overthrow the Tsar. They believed that the Tsar did not know of their plight. Instead they blamed the Tsarist ministers and officials.
- This demonstration of factory workers was brutally put down by Russian soldiers. Up to 200 people were killed by rifle fire and Cossack charges. This event became known as Bloody Sunday and is seen as one of the key causes of the 1905 Revolution.
- The aftermath brought about a short-lived revolution in which the Tsar lost control of large areas of Russia. The revolution failed but it served as a serious warning of what might happen in the future.