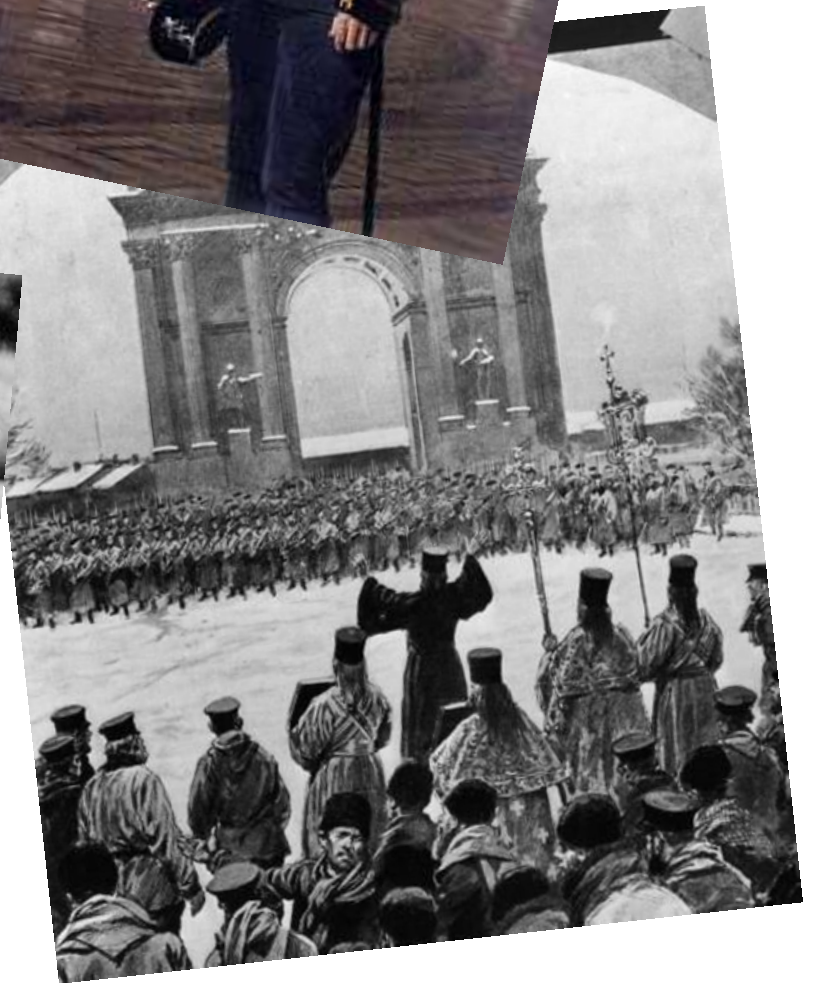


Why did the Tsarist regime collapse in March 1917?



Including:

Life in Tsarist Russia

Bloody Sunday and the aftermath 1905-12

Rasputin

March Revolution 1917

1. What was life like in Tsarist Russia? Why were the people not happy?

Key factors:

- Peasants had no ownership of land and worked for noblemen
- Workers had poor pay, bad working conditions and were unhappy at management
- The middle classes had no say in how the country was run (there were no elections!)
- Censorship meant that there was no free press or speaking out against the Tsar
- If you were seen as a problem the Tsar used his secret police (the Okhrana) to deal with opposition

Russian social hierarchy in 1905 (a CLASS system)

The Tsars (King/Queen/Royal Family): Tsar, Tsarina and family

The Russian Orthodox Church. The Tsar supports them and they say he was made a king by God (Divine right)

Middle classes: Merchants, businessmen and people who have money and/or education

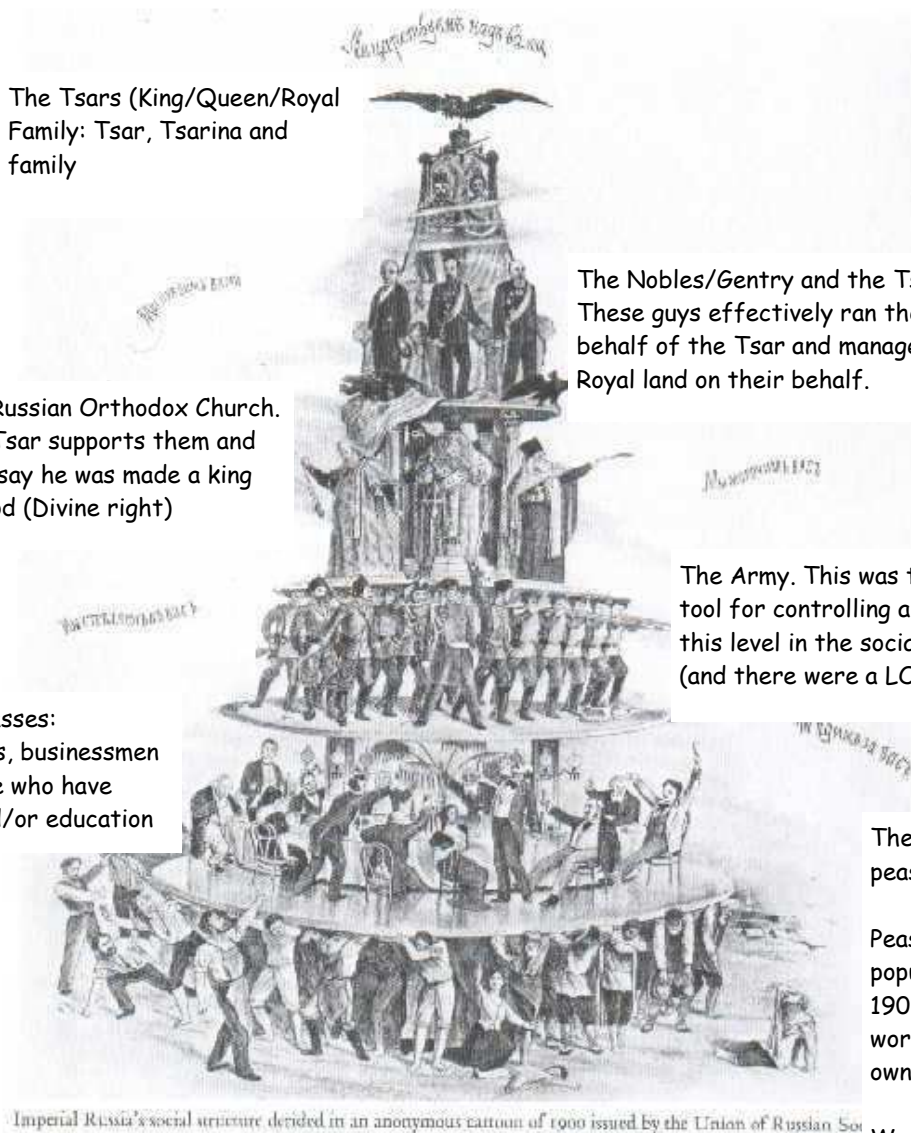
The Nobles/Gentry and the Tsar's ministers. These guys effectively ran the country on behalf of the Tsar and managed large areas of Royal land on their behalf.

The Army. This was the Tsar's main tool for controlling anyone below this level in the social structure (and there were a LOT to control!)

The workers and peasants (the 90%)

Peasants are 82% of the population in Russia in 1905 and are sick of working for free and not owning land

Workers make up approx. 8% of the population and are based in towns and cities



Imperial Russia's social structure depicted in an anonymous cartoon of 1900 issued by the Union of Russian Societies

Think about this. The structure of society at this time benefited a maximum of 10% of the population and, even then, many included in that 10% wanted change. They looked around at the more powerful countries in the world (in the WEST) and saw that they were industrialised (ing) and knew that Russia should be doing the same. In reality the Tsar's base of supporters was shrinking and times were tough for your average Russian citizen.

2. What happened in the 1905 revolution?

Russo-Japanese war: The Russians were competing with the Japanese over an area in China called Manchuria because it had natural resources. Russia fought Japan on land and at sea in the battle of Tsushima and lost both, forcing Russia to beg for peace! This was humiliating for Russia because they were seen as a huge power and Japan were not!

Start: In November 1904 a national gathering of Zemstvos met in St Petersburg to represent the workers of Russia. They wanted change and the Tsar would not agree. This led to an outbreak of strikes and discontent.

Bloody Sunday: This peaceful march was led by Father Gapon and hundreds of workers towards the winter palace (where the Tsar lived) where they were going to present him with a petition asking for better working conditions and pay. The army fired on the crowds and over 200 people were killed. This only made the situation worse and this caused riots and strikes all over the big cities of Russia.

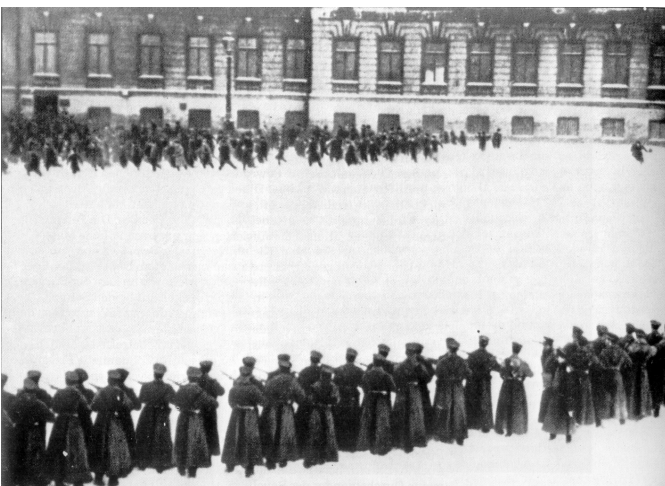
Mutiny on the battleship Potemkin: In June 1905 there was a mutiny by members of the Navy on the battleship Potemkin. The event was supported by huge crowds stood near the ship at the port of Odessa. The Tsar tried to resolve the situation using the army again and over 2000 people were killed in recapturing the ship. This showed that the Tsar had lost support of the people and some of his own armed forces.

As a result: As a result of the events above, different groups were set up to try and campaign for the different groups of people in Russia

St Petersburg Soviet: for the workers in the big cities

Kadets: for the Middle class

Peasants Union: For the peasants



3. How did the Tsar survive the 1905 revolution?

Key events / people:

Russo-Japanese war 1904-05

Bloody Sunday

Mutiny on Battleship Potemkin

Oct 1905: St Petersburg Soviet set up

How/why he survived:

October Manifesto: This promised a constitutional monarchy who would be helped in running Russia by a new Duma (this was similar to a small parliament, made up mostly of people from the middle classes, these people were interested in making changes in their country). This pleased the wealthier people who wanted some say in how the country was run and stopped them being unhappy with the Tsar, for now.

Use of Army: The Tsar used the army to put down protests against his rule (Bloody Sunday/Battleship Potemkin).

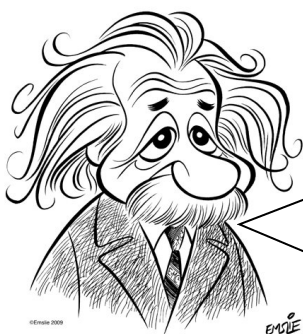
Arrested Soviet leaders: In St Petersburg they arrested the leaders of the Soviet so the workers had no one to coordinate their actions (in Moscow they were bloodily repressed!)

Summary: The Tsar was able to deal with the immediate threat by using the army to help crush protesters, but he knew there was change needed so, through the October Manifesto, he promised changes which would settle the wealthier Russians and give him time to restore order



4. How well did the Tsarist regime deal with the difficulties of ruling Russia up to 1914? (Excluding WWI!)

Problem	Actions taken by the Tsar	S or F?
Peasants wanted land	He didn't give them any! Business as usual	Fail
Many middle/upper class people wanted democracy and the Duma to have more power.	With the 1st (1906), 2nd (1907) and 3rd (1912) Dumas they had suggestions about how to change the country he dissolved them (sent them home without making changes!) and had their leader (Petyr Stolypin) assassinated!	Success And Failure
Rasputin	The Tsar left Rasputin living at home with his wife and the people thought he may be influencing the Tsarina in controlling Russia. Rasputin was also known as a womanizer and a man of mystery/strange powers. The Russian people did not like him being close to a position of power. He was eventually assassinated by some of the Tsar's advisors	Fail
Hunger	Tsar did nothing to change farming methods or modernise agriculture, hunger continued	Fail
Poor working conditions for industrial workers and poor accommodation	The Tsar did very little to change the long hours, dangerous work or living conditions that they were protesting about in 1905. The workers were very unhappy with him	Fail
Political opposition	The Tsar used the Okhrana and a network of informants to kill/torture and repress opposition and his ministers censored the media	Success And



You must be able to describe the difficulties he faced and explain whether the actions taken were successful or not. For the higher levels you must be evaluating which were the biggest problems/successes and failures and why!

Fail

5. How far was the Tsar weakened by the First World War?

Problem	Effect the war had	Effect on Tsar?
Hunger	Got worse as the farming peasants joined army. The army had food priority over other citizens who lived in the cities.	Reduced his popularity amongst the workers
Transport	WWI tested the transport network in Russia seriously for the first time. Many soldiers were left without weapons, food and often arrived late to battle.	Reduced his popularity amongst soldiers
The Tsar led the army	He took personal responsibility for leading the army and the war tested his leadership skills. Russia were losing the war badly and most people blamed the Tsar.	Reduced his popularity overall
Money	The Tsar borrowed money and printed money to pay for the war. The cost of food and goods went up (inflation) for ordinary Russians and many people were left poor and barely able to feed themselves. Alcohol was banned too, and this is where the government used to get 1/3 of their tax.	Russia was not ready financially for war and people blamed these hardships on the Tsar
Jobs	As the cost of things went up people bought less. Many factories went out of business, leading to job losses, leading to lack of money, leading to hunger.	People were suffering, and if not directly affected by the Tsar, they looked to him to fix things.
Duma	In 1915 the Duma suggested they could help the Tsar coordinate the war more effectively, he dissolved them.	He alienated those people who wanted to help

Summary: His position as leader of Russia was weakened significantly by WWI. Many of these problems already existed in Russia, what WWI did was test how capable Russia was at feeding itself, supplying its armies, fighting a war, financing it and keeping the people happy whilst these things were being tested. Unfortunately for the Tsar, his popularity suffered on all accounts

TOP 10 QUIZ

1. Give 3 reasons why people in Russia were unhappy in 1905
2. Name the priest leading the bloody Sunday protest in 1905
3. What did the army do on Bloody Sunday and during the mutiny aboard the battleship Potemkin ?
4. What did the Tsar introduce in his October Manifesto to keep try and keep the people on his side?
5. What happened in 1906, 1907 and 1912 to show the Tsar wasn't keeping his promises?
6. Who was assassinated in 1912? (stopped any political change)
7. Give 2 reasons why the Russian people disliked Rasputin
8. What was the name of the Tsar's secret police?
9. Give 3 reasons why the Tsar was weakened by WWI
10. Which group turned against the Tsar in March 1917, which meant he was forced to abdicate?

IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT
EACH OF THESE KNOWLEDGE
QUESTIONS FEED INTO THE
PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS THAT
COULD COME UP!

WHAT IS YOUR SCORE?



TSARIST RUSSIA: EXAM QUESTIONS

DESCRIBE:

- What happened on bloody Sunday in 1905? **(4 marks)**
- Describe how Russia was ruled at the start of the 20th Century **(4 marks)**
- What were the main grievances of the Russian people in the early 20th century? **(4 Marks)**
- What were the main features of Tsarist rule in the early 20th century? **(4 Marks)**

EXPLAIN:

- Explain why Nicholas II survived the 1905 revolution **(6 Marks)**
- Explain why there was a resolution in Russia in 1905 **(6 Marks)**
- Explain why Nicholas II was able to remain in power 1905-06 **(6 Marks)**
- Why was Stolypin important in helping the Tsar after the 1905 revolution? **(6 Marks)**

EVALUATE:

- 'The main reason why Tsarist rule ended in 1917 was because of the influence of Rasputin'
How far do you agree with this statement? **(10 Marks)**
- How far was WWI the main reason for the Tsar's abdication in March 1917? **(10 Marks)**
- How successfully did the Tsarist regime deal with the difficulties of ruling Russia from 1906-14? **(10 Marks)**
- The following factors were equally important in the March revolution:
 1. Military failures in WWI
 2. RasputinHow far do you agree? Use 1 and 2 only. **(10 Marks)**