

A level History Bridging Work

Introduction

Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1953

Year 12 (Part One)

- 1) Dissent and Revolution, 1917
- 2) Bolshevik consolidation, 1918-1924
- 3) Stalin's rise to power, 1924-1929












RUSSIAN FEDERATION

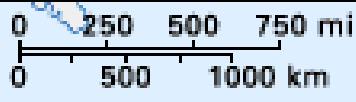
- ★ National capital
- Chief town of federal district
- Previous capital of republic, oblast, krai or krug



An introduction to Russia at the time of the last Tsar.

Can you identify three differences between then and now?

	Russia in 1533
ACQUISITIONS:	
	1533-1689
	1689-1801
	Alexander I (1801-1825)
	Nicholas I (1825-1855)
	Alexander II (1855-1881)
	Alexander III (1881-1894)





**UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

LITHUANIA
ESTONIA
RUSSIA
LATVIA
BELARUS
MOLDOVA
UKRAINE
GEORGIA
ARMENIA
AZERBAIJAN
TURKMENISTAN
KYRGYZSTAN
TAJIKISTAN

RUSSIA

KAZAKHSTAN

MONGOLIA

CHINA





1) Dissent and Revolution, 1917

This is
where we
begin

- a) The condition of Russia before the revolution of February/March 1917
- b) The February/March revolution of 1917
- c) Developments between the revolutions
- d) The October/November 1917 revolution

To understand the problems that were to dominate the reign of Nicholas II, we need to understand the character of the Nicholas II and the nature of the Russia that he ruled



Was he any good as a ruler?
What was the Russia like which he ruled?

a) The condition of Russia before the revolution of February 1917

Who was the Tsar and what was the nature of his political authority?



Hi, I'm Nicholas Romanov. I become Tsar in 1894 – emperor of Russia. However, in 1917 I will abdicate and by the time I am murdered in 1918 the Russian Empire will have collapsed, and a new revolutionary force, the Bolsheviks, will have seized power.

The peoples of the Russian Empire were governed by one person, the tsar (emperor). Since 1613 the Russian tsars had been members of the Romanov dynasty. **By law and tradition, the tsar was the absolute ruler.**

Article I of the 'Fundamental Laws of the Empire', issued by Nicholas I in 1832, declared: **'The Emperor of all the Russias is an autocratic and unlimited monarch. God himself ordains that all must bow to his supreme power, not only out of fear but also out of conscience.'**

Task 1 – Use Article 1 to explain the Tsar powers.



Profile: Nicholas II

- 1868 - Born into the Romanov house
- 1894 - Became tsar on the death of his father, Alexander III
- 1894 - Married Princess Alexandra, the German grand-daughter of Queen Victoria
- 1905 - Granted the October constitution
- 1906 - Opened the first дума
- 1913- Led the celebrations of 300 years of Romanov rule
- 1914- Signed the general mobilisation order that led to Russia's entry into the First World War
- 1915- Took over personal command of the Russian armed forces
- 1917- Tried to return to Petrograd but prevented by rebellious soldiers and workers
 - Advised by military high command and дума to stand down
 - Abdicated on behalf of the Romanov dynasty
- 1918 - Murdered with his family in Ekaterinburg on Lenin's orders



Task – highlight anything which suggests that Nicholas was not suitable to rule Russia

The character of Nicholas II is important in any analysis of revolutionary Russia: his limited imagination prevented him from fully grasping the nature of the events in which he was involved. When he attempted to be strong, he simply appeared obdurate.

The tsar made a number of crucial errors in his handling of the war, the most significant being his decision in 1915 to take direct command of Russia's armed forces. This in effect tied the fate of the Romanov dynasty to the

Task – 'Suitable to Rule Russia'
and 'Not suitable to Rule Russia'

What were Russia's problems when Nicholas II came to power?

Task 1

What can we **infer** about Russia in 1914 from these images?

Inference I can make:

Detail(s) which tells me that:

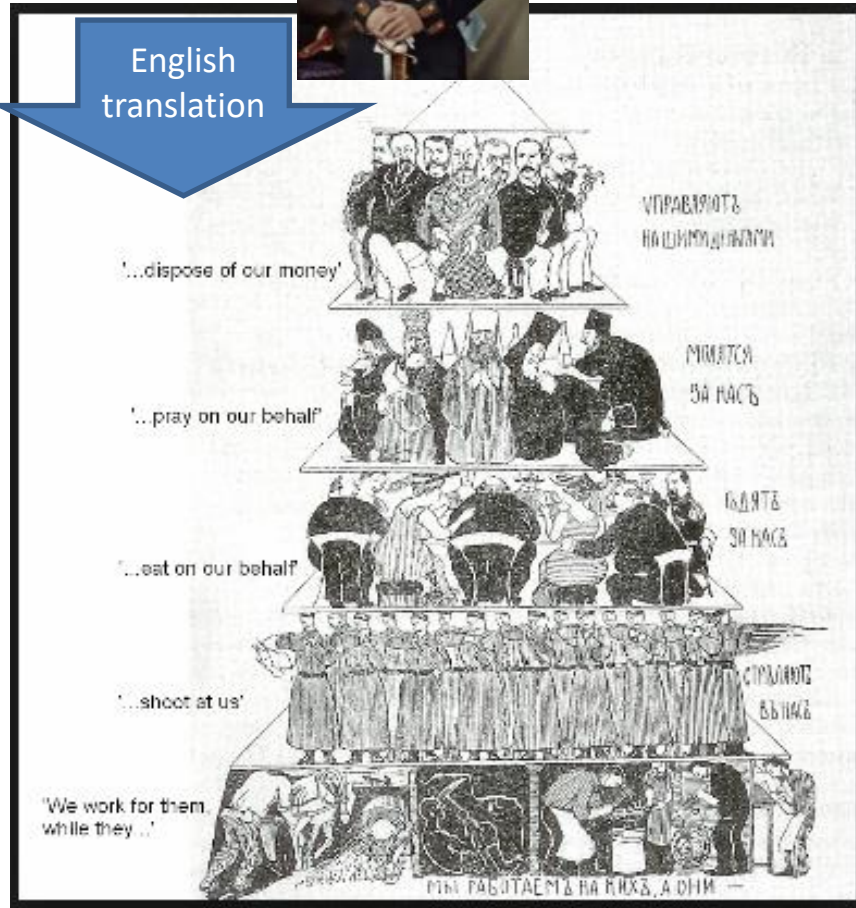


A map showing resources and the one main rail link

A Russian cartoon from the time of the Tsar



English translation



What were Russia's problems when Nicholas II came to power?

The Russian army

Weaknesses of Nicholas II

Poor Agriculture

Poor economy

Poor government and bureaucracy

Extremism

Russia's political backwardness

Problems in society

Russification

The peasant problem

Size and diversity

Poor transport and communications

Task 2

Use the sheet to identify the type of problem Russia was facing (it can be more than one)

Task 3

Conclusion

Explain how serious were the problems which Russia was facing (major, medium or minor).

Challenge – which problems do you think were the most serious? Why?

Task 4

Start a glossary.
Explain the meanings of these words (use google).

Romanov
Liberal ideas
Okhrana
Political activists
Reactionary
Agrarian economy
Dark masses
Russification