

The 1905 Revolution; Tsar and people, 1906-1914

By the end of this spread you should be able to:

- 1 describe and explain the a causes b events c consequences of the 1905 Revolution

2 describe the relationship between the Tsar and his people, 1906-1914

- 3 assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Tsarist regime in 1914

Towards revolution

What happened?

- 1 In 1904-5 Russia fought Japan for control of Korea and Manchuria.
- 2 The Tsar expected a quick victory that would silence his critics.
- 3 Russia suffered a series of defeats on land and sea. Japan destroyed both its Pacific and Baltic fleets.

The war with Japan

The results

- 1 The Tsar became more unpopular because
 - a the defeats humiliated Russia
 - b his government was shown to be weak and incompetent.
- 2 Conditions for working people became worse because of
 - a increased prices and food shortages
 - b shortages of materials which led to factory closures and unemployment.

What happened?

- 1 In January 1905 about 200,000 unarmed workers marched to the Tsar's Winter Palace in St Petersburg to petition the Tsar for
 - a better working and living conditions
 - b an end to the war
 - c a parliament.
- 2 Soldiers fired on the crowd killing 500.

Bloody Sunday

The results

- The massacre
- 1 undermined the Tsar in the eyes of many who had trusted him to help them
 - 2 increased support for revolutionaries
 - 3 sparked off a wave of riots, strikes, and murders.

The 1905 Revolution

- 1905**
- January** Strikes in St Petersburg. Many Government officials killed.
- February** Assassination of Governor-General of Moscow, the Tsar's uncle.
- March** Start of peasant uprisings. Landlords murdered. Many non-Russian areas start to demand independence.
- May** Professional workers (e.g. doctors, lawyers, teachers) support demands for changes in government. News of Japanese destruction of the Baltic Fleet fuels unrest.
- June** Mutiny by crew of the battleship *Potemkin*.
- July-August** Strikes and peasant uprisings continue.
- September** Treaty of Portsmouth ends war with Japan.
- October** General strike brings country to a standstill. The Tsar issues the October Manifesto. Many strikers return to work. Liberals welcome the Manifesto and end their opposition. Revolutionary groups form Soviets (workers councils) in major cities.
- December** Police and army break up the St Petersburg and Moscow Soviets
- 1906**
- January-March** The Tsar's forces crush remaining opposition in town and countryside.

- The October Manifesto** The Tsar promised
- 1 freedom of speech and the right to form political parties
 - 2 a Duma, or national parliament, elected by all adults
 - 3 to make no new laws without the Duma's approval.

Why did the Revolution fail?

- 1 The end of the war with Japan released troops to help the Tsar deal with the disturbances.
- 2 despite some mutinies the armed forces stayed loyal to the Tsar.
- 3 The October Manifesto divided the opposition. It pleased
 - a many workers who ended their strikes
 - b the Liberal's who ended their support for the Soviets.
- 4 The workers' strikes and peasants' uprisings were not co-ordinated.

Repression

Thousands of terrorists and revolutionaries are executed, exiled or imprisoned.

Results

- 1 Reduction in terrorism and revolutionary activity.
- 2 Richer peasants (kulaks) run profitable farms. This
 - a restores their loyalty to the Tsar.
 - b provides more food for the cities.
- 3 Some improvements for city workers but many remain discontented. 1912-1914, frequent strikes.

The rule of Stolypin

1906, the Tsar appoints Peter Stolypin as Prime Minister. Stolypin aims to achieve stability by

- 1 repressing revolutionaries
- 2 introducing reforms to improve people's lives.

1911, Stolypin assassinated by a revolutionary terrorist.

Reform

- 1 The countryside.
 - a Abolition of peasants' annual payments for their freedom (page 112).
 - b Peasants helped to leave their village communes, buy their own land and set up farms.
- 2 The cities. Health insurance scheme set up for workers.

The impact of Rasputin

- 1 Rasputin was a peasant who
 - a claimed to be a Starets, or holy man
 - b appeared able to stop the bleeding of the Tsar and Tsarina's haemophilic son, Alexi
 - c became a trusted member of their court and a confidant of the Tsarina, Alexandra.
- 2 Dislike for him grew because
 - a he was known to be a drinker and womaniser
 - b after Stolypin's death his influence over the Tsar's political decisions increased.
- 3 Rasputin's activities

Tsar and people, 1906-1914

Broken promises

- 1 The voting system for the Duma was rigged to give landowners and property owners more influence than peasants and workers. Despite this the first two Dumas were left-wing.
- 2 The Fundamental Laws (May 1906) showed that little had changed. They announced that
 - a the Tsar remained an autocratic ruler
 - b the Duma had no say in most areas of government
 - c it had limited power to introduce new laws.
- 3 When the first two Dumas (1906 and 1907) demanded reforms, the Tsar dismissed them.
- 4 Further changes to the electoral laws excluded Socialists. The next two Dumas were loyal to the Tsar.

- a brought scandal to the court
- b caused hostility which reduced people's loyalty towards the Tsar.

- 1 What do the events of the 1905 Revolution tell you about the a weaknesses b strengths of the Tsarist regime?
- 2 What were the a immediate b long-term results of the 1905 Revolution?
- 3 Use pages 112-115. What a economic b social c political problems faced the Tsar between 1900 and 1914? How successfully did he deal with them?