

History

The History course consists of two units:

- All students study *Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603–1702*
- Students have the choice of studying **either** *Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1917-1953*
 or *Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-1945*.

At enrolment, you will be asked which option you wish to study.

To help you to make this choice, we have set summer work on both topics. If you are unsure which option to choose, read through the work for both options. This may help you to decide which topic interests you more. However, **you only need to complete the work for the option you plan to study**.

The Summer Work:

You do not need any prior knowledge of the topic to complete the **three tasks** set – just use the information in the texts provided.

- The first task is designed to show us how well you can use several sources of information (text and film) to identify key strengths and weaknesses of a country, and summarise these clearly.
- The second task requires you to read more carefully and answer questions that are more closely focused on the text. This is designed to show us how well you can:
 - extract information from a piece of extended writing
 - use this information to provide answers to questions

Answer the questions for this second task in the spaces provided on the chart.

- The third task is designed to show us your ability to express your ideas in extended writing. Instructions for this task are on page 11. You should use your own paper to complete the essay (handwritten or word-processed).

Task:	Pages:	Marks:
1	2	12 marks
2	3-9	15 marks
3	10-14	18 marks
TOTAL:		45 marks

RUSSIA: SUMMER WORK

Task 1

After reading the information about Russia on pages 3 and 4 (you may also use the video clips on page 5), identify three strengths and three weaknesses of Russia prior to World War One. Then answer the questions below the table.

Strengths	1. 2. 3.	3 marks
Weaknesses	1. 2. 3.	3 marks

1.	Do you think Tsar Nicholas II was a good leader of Russia? Explain your answer.	2 marks
2.	Prior to World War One, was the Russian economy strong or weak? Explain your answer.	2 marks
3.	Given what you have learnt about Russia before World War One, what impact do you think the war may have had on Russia? Explain your answer.	2 marks

RUSSIA: THE ECONOMY

At the start of the 20th century, although Russia could not in any way rival the great industrial economies of Western Europe, it was no longer the agrarian society it had been in the mid 19th century.

The Russian empire was huge and whilst this brought advantages in terms of the resources and raw materials within it, its sheer size presented a challenge to the movement of goods and people. Russia lagged behind

Western Europe and the USA in terms of connecting centres of population together by national road or rail networks. Decent roads were few and far between. Less than one tenth of one per cent of Russian villages had local telephones and no public telephone line connected the Russian empire to the outside world.

Farming methods in many villages were very old fashioned and this was a limiting factor on Russia's industrial growth as cities could not be fed. Most Russian were peasants farming the land in small farms that were on average 38 acres in size. Agricultural output was held back by the smallness of fields and old-fashioned farming methods that had changed little in 200 years.

Russia's industrial growth in the early twentieth century was concentrated in only a few areas: 1) around St Petersburg, 2) Moscow and the surrounding area, and 3) the Donbass area. Vast areas remained undeveloped. Industrial output had risen, and by 1912 Russia's industrial output was four-times what it had been in 1890 but it was still producing very little in comparison with other countries. For example, it produced only 3% of the worlds' steel production despite its vast resources in coal, and iron.

By 1910, 2.7 million Russians were employed in factories. This was still small in comparison with the total population of approximately 125 million but showed there had been significant change since 1860. Nearly half of Russia's industrial workforce worked in factories employing 1,000 men or more. There were very few regulations governing these factories as the government was reluctant to intervene. Workers were often poorly paid for long hours worked in dangerous conditions. It had only been in the 1890s that the employment of children under 12 was forbidden, and the use of female labour in coalmines banned. Many problems remained such as overcrowding in factory barracks, and payment of wages in kind. Strikes were illegal until 1905 but occurred frequently. There was discontent that the wealth generated by the factories was not fairly shared.

Both the industrial workers and the peasants were immensely poor, and this was in great contrast to the wealth of the royal family and nobility.



RUSSIA: THE TSAR



Tsar Nicholas II and his family

In 1894 Nicholas II became Emperor (Tsar) of Russia. He belonged to the Romanov family that had ruled Russia since 1613.

He was an autocrat and ruled Russia on his own, choosing ministers and deciding policy. There was no parliament, and only after serious disturbances in 1905 did Nicholas agree to the creation of a State Duma – a parliament. But it had no real power. Nicholas was determined to maintain his traditional powers and resisted all attempts at reform.

Historians agree that Nicholas II lacked the qualities needed in a Tsar at the start of the century. The historian Hans Rogger wrote:

“Nicholas had no knowledge of the world or of men, of politics, or government to help him make the difficult and weighty decisions that the Tsar alone must make. The only guiding stars that he recognised were an inherited belief in the moral rightness of autocracy and a religious faith that he was in God’s hands, and his actions were divinely inspired.”

One of the main influences on Nicholas was his wife, Alexandra, who was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. She believed that the Tsar should rule Russia on his own (as an autocrat) and encouraged Nicholas to ignore the advice of ministers who advised him to introduce reforms.

He and his family lived in great luxury with no idea of the poverty of ordinary people. Nicholas spent even more time with his family following the birth of his son, Alexei, in 1904, he was a sickly infant, and it was uncertain if he would live. He had the inherited condition of haemophilia.

RUSSIA: OPPOSITION TO THE TSAR

There were political groups that looked to improve the conditions of workers and peasants. The Liberals believed in slow gradual change. However, by 1910 they had failed to persuade the Tsar to create a regular Parliament or any significant social change. Not surprisingly other political groups believed improvements would only come through ‘revolution’. Communists and the SRs (Social Revolutionaries) believed that only a revolution would redistribute wealth and political power and give the workers and peasants the improved conditions they deserved. These two parties were relatively small in number and banned. The Tsar used his security police, the Okhrana, to crack down on these two groups.

VIDEO LINKS

This link is to a programme called 'Last of the Czars'. It gives you an excellent idea of the power of the Russian Tsar and his family, and the problems they faced, including the haemophilia of their son. The focus is very much on royalty – but you are introduced to Lenin as well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYo8SEvnsrM	Part 1 – the whole episode provides useful background information.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQSiLOgFNcg	Part 2 – most useful from 30 mins 30 secs: Russia in WW1.

Task 2

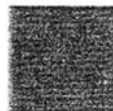
On pages 8 and 9 is a copy of the introduction to a textbook on this topic. It provides an overview of the period you will study. Read the introduction and use it (and not your own knowledge) to answer the questions below. Try to put your answers in your own words, rather than copying from the text. The marks for each question are shown on the right.

	Question:	Marks:
1.	According to the first sentence of the extract, why could it be argued that the Russian Revolution of October 1917 was the most important event of the twentieth century?	1 mark
2.	How did other countries respond to the creation of a Communist state in Russia?	1 mark
3.	Which two leaders helped to create and develop the Communist state in Russia in this period?	2 marks
4.	Lenin was a follower of the teachings of Karl Marx. What did Marx believe about: a. How human history developed? b. How Communism would be achieved?	2 marks
5.	Who were the Bolsheviks?	1 mark

6.	In 1917, Lenin and the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia. How were they able do this?	1 mark
7.	After Lenin's death, Stalin became leader of Russia. How and why did he want to transform Russia?	2 marks
8.	List three ways in which Stalin's policies changed Russia.	3 marks
9.	<p>According to Corin and Fiehn (the authors of this textbook), what different roles were played by Lenin and Stalin in this period?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenin ... • Stalin ... 	2 marks
TOTAL MARKS AVAILABLE:		15 marks

From:

**Communist Russia under
Lenin and Stalin, Chris Corin
and Terry Fiehn (2004)**



Introduction

The Russian Revolution of October 1917 is arguably the most important event in the twentieth century, since it led to the creation of the world's first Communist state which lasted for over 70 years and had a huge impact on world affairs for the greater part of the twentieth century. From its very beginning, Communist Russia represented a philosophy and worldview that terrified countries in the West. The governments of Western Europe and the USA regarded COMMUNISM as a kind of virus that could, if unchecked, infect their countries. Fear of Communism affected the internal politics and foreign policies of numerous countries. For example, in Germany, it helped Adolf Hitler come to power. It also made some governments unwilling to stop the aggressive Nazi rearmament programme because they saw a strong Germany in Central Europe as the best bulwark against the expansion of Communism from the East.

After the Second World War, the Soviet Union emerged as a superpower vying with the USA for influence in the post-1945 world. The Cold War between these two great powers – the propaganda, spying, intrigue and interference in the affairs of other countries which this entailed – dominated international relations over five decades and nearly brought the world to the point of self-destruction. The Communist model was exported to Eastern Europe, China, South-Eastern Asia and parts of Africa and the Caribbean. So there is little doubt that the Bolshevik, or Communist, Revolution of 1917 had a major impact on the course of the twentieth century.

The aim of this book is to tell the story of how this Communist state came into being and how it developed under the leadership of two major historical figures – Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known as Lenin, and Joseph Dzhugashvili, better known as Stalin. Lenin and Stalin are among a very small group of individuals who have had real influence over events that have changed and shaped the world.

Lenin was a follower of the teachings of Karl Marx who believed that human history passed through a series of evolutionary stages leading to SOCIALISM and then on to Communism, the highest form of society. Marx thought that this would be achieved by a revolution of the working classes in highly industrialised countries. Lenin brought to Marxism a specifically Russian tradition in revolutionary thought. He developed the notion of a disciplined revolutionary party run by professional, hard-working revolutionaries who would seize power in Russia and set in motion a world revolution. In 1917, Lenin and his party, the Bolsheviks, hijacked a revolution that had been generated by the Russian people desperate to rid themselves of an AUTOCRATIC regime run by Tsar Nicholas II. Lenin used the momentum of this 'revolution from below' to set up a Communist state which he was sure would be the precursor to Communist revolution throughout the world.

The world revolution never materialised, and Lenin only lived long enough to see his new regime secure in power. The Soviet Union remained isolated from other countries as the only Communist state in the world. After Lenin's death, the mantle of power was taken up by Stalin who was determined to build socialism in one country – Russia. He equated the building of the socialist state with national pride and achievement.

Stalin envisaged nothing less than the complete economic and social transformation of Soviet Russia that would help it catch up with and overtake the industrialised capitalist countries of the West. With the ruling elite of the Communist Party, Stalin planned a 'revolution from above' which would not only change the way people lived but also their fundamental attitudes and

COMMUNISM

Last stage in Marx's notion of the evolution of history where there would be no state; everybody would be equal and share in an abundance of goods produced by machinery rather than by workers' labour; more leisure and people would take what they needed from central pool of goods. Never clearly defined.

SOCIALISM

Workers' control of state. At first exercised through the dictatorship of the proletariat, a period of strict control necessary to deal with counter revolution and to root out non-socialist attitudes. Factories, machines owned collectively and run by state; everybody equal, class system brought to an end; wealth and goods shared out fairly; equal entitlement to good housing and standard of living.

AUTOCRAT

All-powerful ruler.

TOTALITARISM

A state in which power is concentrated in the hands of one man or small group, exercising excessive control of individuals and denying them fundamental civil and political liberties; monitoring and control of aspects of individuals' lives carried out by secret police who are accountable only to the political élite.

CAPITALISM

Economic system based on private enterprise and the profit motive in which the market determines the price of goods and regulates the supply and distribution of raw materials and products.

values. There was a high price to be paid for this revolution - millions of deaths, including leading figures in the Bolshevik Party, and immense suffering which resulted from Stalin's policies and the operation of the new command economy. In the process of carrying his policies out, Stalin created a TOTALITARIAN state that provided the models for George Orwell's *1984* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

By the end of the 1950s, Stalin had changed a backward agricultural country into an industrialised country, one that was able to take on the might of the Nazi war machine and defeat it in the Second World War. He had also given shape and form to the institutions of the Soviet state and economy which remained largely unchanged until the 1980s. It was Lenin who made the October Revolution happen and it was Lenin who laid the foundations of the Communist state. But it was Stalin who shaped it into the Soviet totalitarian system that competed with the democratic countries of the CAPITALIST world until the collapse of Russian Communism in 1991. Whether Lenin would have approved of the Soviet state that emerged under Stalin, and how far he was responsible for the shape it took, is an issue that is dealt with at the end of this book.

Task 3

Write an 800 – 1000 word essay in answer to the following question:

How far was Tsar Nicholas II responsible for the weaknesses in Russia in 1914?

[18 marks]

This essay title requires you to consider what factors caused Russia to be weak in 1914. You must consider not only the factor in the question (Tsar Nicholas II), but also other factors that caused weakness. Then you can assess which was most important.

Before you write this essay, you must plan it. On pages 12 to 14 is another introduction to a textbook on modern Russian history. It summarises the condition of Russia just before World War One. Use this information, and the information from Task 1, to complete the table below:

Cause of weakness:	Two specific examples of how this factor caused weakness:
The character and actions of Tsar Nicholas II	1. 2.
The geography of Russia	1. 2.
The economic situation in Russia (industry and agriculture)	1. 2.
The political situation in Russia	1. 2.

Now use this table to write your essay. You should write it or type it on a separate piece of paper. You must write a minimum of 800 words, and ideally 1000 words or just over. The essay will consist of:

- *The question.*
- *A brief introduction.*
- *Four paragraphs, one on each of the factors listed in the table.*
 - *Begin each paragraph by stating the point you will discuss (e.g. 'One reason for the weaknesses in Russia in 1914 was...').*
 - *Then provide your two examples to support this point.*
 - *Then explain how this factor caused weakness (e.g. 'This factor made Russia weaker because...')*
- *A conclusion in which you explain which factor was most important and why.*

You will be marked based on the:

- Focus on the question.
- Relevance and detail of your examples: add statistics, dates and reference to specific events wherever possible.
- Explanation of how each factor created weaknesses.
- Quality of your judgement about which factor was most important.

Introduction



Fig. 1 *Russia was considered backwards in the early twentieth century*

The nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had seen huge industrial and political advances in Western Europe. The development of new forms of energy, the spread of railways and the expansion of trade together with advances in medicine and improvements in public health had helped raise living standards for an increasing proportion of the population. Alongside such change, social and political advances had occurred. Standards of literacy had increased, the old social hierarchies had broken down and an increasing number of people had gained the right to vote for a law-making assembly.

Russia, although considered a 'great' power because of its size and structured society, had trailed behind in every one of these developments. Serfdom, whereby the peasants at the bottom of the social hierarchy were 'owned' by their landlords, had disappeared from Western and Central Europe after a spate of revolutions in 1848; but it was not until 1861 that serfs finally acquired their freedom in Russia. Even after this their civil rights and status in society were very much determined by their position as 'former serfs', and this continued right up until 1917.

There are good reasons for Russia's backwardness. Russia was a vast empire of roughly 8 million square miles, twice the size of Europe and a sixth of the globe's surface. It had been acquired through military conquest and colonisation, much of it in the nineteenth century. However, large swathes of this Russian territory were inhospitable (over two thirds lay to the north of the 50th parallel), comprising tundra, forests and vast barren areas especially to the north and east. Consequently, both size and climate placed severe strains on economic development. Furthermore, within this vast land mass lived many different ethnic groups, each with its own culture, customs, language and, in some cases, religion. Of the total population of just under 185 million people, less than half was Russian by 1917, and around three quarters of the total population lived within European Russia – to the west of the Urals.

Nevertheless, although it was still a predominantly agricultural country, the rate of industrialisation in Russia since the 1890s had been rapid, with an annual industrial growth rate of more than 8 per cent a year between 1894 and

1904, and again, after a European trade recession, between 1908 and 1913. By 1917, Russia was the world's fifth largest industrial power (after Britain, USA, Germany and France) with c25,000 factories employing c3 million workers. There was strong growth in coal, pig iron and oil and some cities, particularly around Moscow and St Petersburg and in the 'Baku' area by the Caspian Sea, grew phenomenally. The Empire's urban population quadrupled from 7 to 28 million between 1867 and 1917. St Petersburg, which already comprised just over a million inhabitants in 1900, grew to 2.4 million by 1916. Communications, including the roads and railways, were also much improved, although the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 revealed continuing transport deficiencies.

The countryside also saw changes, particularly after 1905 when the peasants were given more opportunities to leave the *mirs* (or communes) in which they farmed and schemes were launched to encourage them to buy their own land and develop larger farming units. This was an ambitious project which was cut short by the coming of war in 1914. By 1915, hereditary peasant ownership of land had increased from 20 per cent in 1905 to nearly 50 per cent, while 3.5 million peasants had been encouraged to move away from the overpopulated rural districts of the south and west to Siberia, which consequently grew as a major agricultural region. Nevertheless, the changes to land tenure arrangements were slow and by 1914 there were still only around 10 per cent of peasant holdings that had moved beyond the traditional and inefficient strip-farming.

Such industrial and agricultural change also came at a social cost. It brought a growing and frustrated middle class, whose economic gains were not matched by equal political advancement, and an urban working class which suffered harsh conditions – with long hours, low pay and limited machinery to lighten their physical labour. Factories and mines were all too often unsafe, while living quarters were cramped and dirty, with factory barracks and lodgings shared between families. Although some efforts were made in the years before the war to improve conditions by introducing insurance schemes for those who fell ill or who were injured by machinery, the workers' lot was grim. While trade unions were allowed after 1905, strikes were theoretically forbidden, although they occurred nonetheless. When the goldminers working on the Lena River in Siberia went on strike in 1912, the government used troops to fire on the workers, killing 200 of them. There were over 2000 strikes in 1913 and although they fell back with the outbreak of war, by 1917 their number had increased again.

There was also unease in the countryside as the reforms there produced a growing class of alienated, poor and landless peasants. While some peasants rose in rank and became '*kulaks*' (small peasant proprietors with sufficient wealth to employ others to help work their farms), for every family that improved its status, another 'sold out', descended into deeper hardship and joined the wandering bands of those who drifted to the towns in search of work. Until 1916, Russia had no form of income tax, so the burden of taxation had fallen on the peasantry producing periodic riots.

Politically, any change had been slow in coming. Until 1905, Russia had remained the only country in Europe (except Turkey and Montenegro) without a parliament. Even in 1917, the Empire was, in essence, an **autocracy** headed by a tsar who still regarded himself as possessing **divine right** to rule. The Tsar was also the titular head of the Russian **Orthodox Church**. The land of Russia was his private property and the Russian people his children. The structures of Church and State were thus entwined, as archbishops and bishops at the head of the church hierarchy were subject to tsarist control over appointments, religious education, most of the Church's finances and issues of administration.

KEY TERM

autocracy: rule by one person who had no limits to his power (as opposed to democracy, which means 'rule by the people')

divine right: this refers to a monarch appointed by God and answerable to God alone for actions

Orthodox Church: the Eastern Orthodox Church, with Moscow as its spiritual capital; it had its own beliefs and rituals, following a split in the Christian Church in the eleventh century

Introduction

KEY TERM

bureaucracy: the state's administrative officials

Okhrana: the secret police force of the Russian Empire; its name comes from the initial letters (in Russian) of its full title – the Department for Protecting Public Security and Order

A CLOSER LOOK

The 1905 revolution

In 1904 Russia went to war with Japan as the result of imperial rivalry in the Far East. Russia's catastrophic defeat sparked the 1905 revolution. The revolution was not a coordinated attack on the regime but a series of dramatic events that took place over several months. They included 'Bloody Sunday' in January, which saw the massacre of workers peacefully marching to the Tsar's Winter Palace in the capital, plus innumerable strikes and mutinies. In several cities, including the capital, workers set up elected 'soviets' (the Russian word for council) and tried to assume control.

zemstva: elected councils responsible for the local administration of provincial districts

socialist: supporting a political and economic theory of social organisation which believes that the means of production (e.g. factories), distribution (e.g. railways), and exchange (e.g. what buys what), should be controlled by the whole community

constitutional monarchy: a form of democratic government in which a monarch acts as the head of state within the boundaries of a constitution giving real power to a representative assembly

The Tsar ruled through imperial edicts, or *ukase*, and was advised by ministers, who were chosen by the Tsar himself and unable to act without his approval. He also depended on the provincial nobility and imperial **bureaucracy** (a highly stratified and conservative group, riddled with internal corruption and incompetence) and the world's largest army (which consisted of 6 million in 1914 and rose to a force of 12 million during the First World War). To maintain the autocracy, Russia had developed into a police state with curbs on freedom of speech, of the press and of travel. Censorship existed at every level of government and was carried out by the State and the Church as well as by the police. A strict surveillance was maintained over the population, ensuring that any subversive activities were exposed. Political meetings were forbidden and the **Okhrana** had unlimited powers to carry out raids, arrest and ensure the imprisonment or exile of anyone suspected of anti-tsarist behaviour, sometimes merely on the word of an informer.

This autocratic system of government had not been without critics. These ranged from the moderate 'liberals' (many drawn from the professional middle classes) who had gained some influence over local government since 1864 when the *zemstva* were created (as were elected town councils or *dumas* from 1870), to more extreme **socialists**, many influenced by Marxism. In 1905, the disparate **opposition groups** had combined to pressurise the tsarist autocracy in the wake of defeat in war with Japan. Riots and strikes caused an almost total breakdown of control, forcing the Tsar to concede his 'October Manifesto'. This promised an elected representative assembly or State Duma, appeasing the more moderate Kadets (in favour of a **constitutional monarchy**) and Octobrists (who saw the manifesto as the first step towards responsible government). However, in April 1906, before the First Duma met in May, the Tsar issued the 'Fundamental Laws', reaffirming his autocracy. He made it clear that the State Duma had no control over state ministers or parts of the state budget. Furthermore, the Tsar's power to dissolve the Duma and rule by decree when it was not sitting undermined what had at first appeared a significant change.

The four State Dumas that met between 1906 and 1917 offered a forum for debate about politics and legislation but were constantly muzzled by tsarist interference. Furthermore, they became the preserve of the liberal moderates and well-to-do, driving the more radical opposition to acts of terrorism, including frequent political assassinations and subversion. Although the most prominent radical leaders were forced into exile, there was an underlying restlessness and discontent among peasants and industrial workers. This was easily exploited by the radical groups and would rise to the surface with the disruptions caused by the coming of the First World War in 1914.

In the 50 years up to 1917 there was constant struggle between progress and control. The gains of industrialisation were offset by an escalation of workers' discontent created by over-rapid urbanisation, and the transition to a modern society brought into prominence revolutionary movements which went even further than the moderate liberals in their criticisms of autocracy. Successive governments were forced to choose between modernisation and maintaining political control over society in order to protect themselves, and the greater the concessions, the louder became the voices demanding more. This conundrum would remain a constant force in the development of Russia even after 1917.