

Introduction

What is a Revolution? What causes a revolution?

- Different ideology
- Change and overhaul to current system
- Eradication to old system usually through violent means

Why can a revolution happen?

- Unhappiness towards old system, flawed system
- Unhappiness with living conditions
 - Govt not supporting peasants
- Inequality
- Economic strain
 - War
 - Excessive government spending
 - Accidents/natural disasters
 - Military blunders, govt is seen as incapable
- Ineffective old leader that is not inclusive of entire population
- Better system proposed

How can a revolution happen?

- Protests by few (demonstration)
- Revolt, riots
 - Overthrowing of current system (including government, monarch and everyone on the succession)

What is an uprising rebellion?

- Not about oppressing old order
- Changing of conditions for the better
- Old order still remains

Causes of 1905 Revolution

1. Socio-economic grievances and challenges posed by social groups

- **Peasantry**

- ☐ Made up **almost 80%** of the population
- ☐ Many slogged out their lives on small patches of land that they owned and worked on estates of the elite
- ☐ Lived in poverty as they could not afford to pay for the yearly **redemption payments** and **taxes** that the government had demanded from them. (Exacerbated by Witte; see below)
- ☐ Although **23 million** serfs were **emancipated** (i.e. given the right to

marry without consent, own **property**, own **businesses**) in **1861**, the peasants were subject to **restrictions on the freedom** placed by their village commune (**mir**) that they lived in. Punishments for breaking the mir's rules included **conscription** of young males in the village.

- ❑ Backward nature of agricultural methods (outdated strip system of farming; **outdated tools** like **wooden ploughs** and **sickles** with a lack of modern fertilisers and machinery) This led to **poor harvests** and thus widespread **starvation**. In part caused by **communalism** which discouraged peasants from innovating.
- ❑ **375,000-500,000** died in the **Russian Famine of 1891-92**, causing a reawakening of Russian **Marxism** and populism and fomenting **discontent** against the Tsar, because **grain exports were not stopped** until mid-August during the famine and **merchants had months' warning** so they could **export their reserves**.
- ❑ Poor living and working conditions, disease was widespread, with regular epidemics of **typhus** and **diphtheria**
- ❑ Huge debt (forced labour for landlords)
- ❑ Therefore, increased resentment. (Posed threat due to sheer population size)

- **Middle classes**

- ☐ Comprised of skilled workers (doctors, lawyers, teachers), business owners
- ☐ Desired **a say in the government** to push policies that would bring them benefit, as they were not a part of the nobility
- ☐ Some already held **significant positions in local government**
- ☐ Therefore, yearned to actively participate in politics (Posed threat of political awakening)

- **Urban workers**

- ☐ By 1900, urban workers numbered at 3 million, 2.5% of the population, many of them being ex-peasants
- ☐ Poor working conditions → long working hours, **over 11 hours a day**, with **10 hour day** on **Saturdays**, faced a harsh environment where they were **disciplined** and **fined** for the **smallest infractions**, and little concern was shown for the workers' health caused by accidents and safety. Attempts by workers to form **trade unions** were **resisted** by the factory owners.
- ☐ Poor living conditions → Overcrowded cities/unsanitary/cramped due to rapid population growth: appalling living conditions, many shared rooms in tenement blocks or in barrack-style buildings next to factories or mines. There was a high rate of disease and rarely any privacy as rooms were only divided by curtains
- ☐ Low wages not enough to live on
- ☐ By 1903, only 23 of the 35 blast furnaces were functioning and mines were being shut down, the lack of facilities resulting in greater unemployment
- ☐ Thus, increased resentment as they were being exploited. (Posed threat due to high literacy rates, thus were receptive to revolutionary ideas that prompted them to go on strike)

- **National Minorities**

- ☐ Russia at the time was made up of an estimated 200 different nationalities, with a majority of the population being Slavs.

- ❑ However, there was much ethnic and religious diversity, and coupled with the defeat in the Crimean War in 1856 and the **Polish Rebellion in 1863** (caused by the **Polish attempting to gain autonomy/independence** from Russia) prompted Tsar Alexander II to undertake the policy of Russification to quell and reduce future threats of similar rebellion and to unite the peoples living in the Russian Empire
- ❑ To quell demonstrations and strikes, the Tsarist regime had to keep a force of **300,000 soldiers** in Poland that they **needed in the Russo-Japanese War**
- ❑ Russification: Included forcing non-Russians to use the Russian language instead of their own, adopting Russian customs and habits (illegal to teach Polish in schools of Poland) Russian officials were brought to run regional governments in parts of the empire like Poland, Latvia and Finland.
- ❑ Subject to frequent pogroms (organised attacks on their homes and businesses by nationalists)
- ❑ Religious sects such as the **Catholic Church in Poland**, the **Georgian Orthodox Church** resented **governmental interference**, and **Jews** were subject to anti-semitic policies of **relocation**.
- ❑ Thus, increased resentment. (Posed a threat as they revolted in **large numbers** and were **receptive to revolutionary ideas**)
- Sergei Witte's policies (finance minister)
 - ❑ **Modernisation and industrialisation** were key to play a **major role** on the **world stage**. Russia's industry was **lagging behind** world superpowers like the **USA** and **Germany**, thus calling for the need for industrialisation (for warfare, infrastructural facilities etc.)
 - ❑ Witte funded this through increasing **taxes** and **foreign investment**
 - ❑ Witte devoted himself to the construction of **railways**, which he believed were **agents of industrial growth**, pushed for the **construction of Trans-siberian railway** (started 1891, finished 1904) to improve connectivity of East/Western Russia
 - ❑ Impacts:
 - ❑ (E.g. 6% annual economic growth compared to 2% in Britain and France)
 - ❑ By 1900, Russia had become the **4th largest producer of steel**
 - ❑ However, the Russian people, who mainly comprised peasants, are **taxed heavily** to fund this industrialisation, for everyday

items such as **salt, kerosene and alcohol**. Russia imposed high tariffs on **foreign industrial commodities**, making **goods expensive for the people**. **Peasants** and **urban workers** especially were being squeezed intensely, to pay for the fledgling industry.

- ❑ Furthermore, Witte's ignorance of the underinvested agricultural sector which the peasants relied on for income only served to be detrimental for the peasants.

2. Tsar Nicholas II

- Policies

❑ Repressive, suppressing dissent

❑ Denying freedoms

- **Exile** of political opponents
- Suppression of political parties through the **Okhrana**, the secret police
- Censorship of **newspapers** and **mass media**

- ❑ Russification: Nicholas' firm belief in the continuation of this policy, which was introduced to try and unite those living in the Empire, had conversely brought about widespread dissatisfaction. This is because several of these nationalities wanted regional control away from the influence of the Tsar, thus increasing tensions.

- Personality

- ❑ Unprepared to rule (weak, indecisive), had religious convictions and a deep sense of affection for his wife and children, even having their photos in the lavatories, displayed a great indifference towards the world around him. (E.g. Deeply moved by the death of his favourite dog, but gave little attention to 1905.)
- ❑ Firm belief in autocratic rule, absolute monarchy, unwilling to share power/ grant concessions and ruled with his own idea of duty without constraint. His legitimacy as appointed by God himself, justified by the clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church, which advocated for the divine right of rule by the Tsar

- ☐ Neglecting affairs of the state, appointing grand dukes and members of family to high positions in state affairs and the army despite their incompetence
- ☐ Resulted in a lack of representation for the interests of the people, unpopular policies were implemented, the plight of people were not alleviated
- ☐ Tsarina: German wife of Tsar was rather unpopular → shy and appeared aloof and cold. At crucial moments argued against efforts of establishing a constitutional monarchy, urging Nicolas to assert his autocratic will
- ☐ Resistant to change at a point when Russia, along with the rest of Europe, was modernising

3. Russo-Japanese war

- Context: Russia and Japan were in conflict over Korea
 - Japan proposed a compromise where Russia would be ceded predominance in Manchuria if they allowed Japan to control Korea, but Russia treated Japan with disdain.
 - This incited the Japanese to launch a surprise attack on Russian ships at Port Arthur on 26 Jan 1904
- Thus, Russian government sought a war with Japan in order to:
 - ☐ Pursue expansionist policies in the East (Wanted to exploit this resource-rich area, control the ice-free Port Arthur in Manchuria)
 - ☐ Divert attention from domestic troubles by rallying the nation in a patriotic struggle in a “short, swift, victorious war”
- Humiliation and defeat
 - ☐ Defeat at Mukden, along with naval defeat of the Russian Baltic fleet, sailed halfway around the world for 6 months to join the battle to be destroyed in an hour.
 - ☐ Extra degree of humiliation as Japan was perceived as weak, yet Russia was still defeated

- ☐ Battle of Tsushima prompted the Tsar to desire peace
- ☐ Withdrew from Manchuria, recognised Korea as within Japan's sphere of influence, surrendered their leases in Port Arthur and the Liaodong Peninsula, ceded South Sakhalin

Impacts

- Decreased Political Legitimacy
 - ☐ Lost of faith in the Tsar, exposed his incompetence
 - ☐ Catastrophic defeats only lowered morale
 - ☐ Exposed the autocratic government's recklessness and irresponsibility
- Economic disruption
 - ☐ Huge cost of waging war (paying soldiers, producing munitions)
 - ☐ Men conscripted in the army, less farmers, decreased agricultural output
 - ☐ Cost of paid reparations to Japan
 - ☐ Trade disruptions
 - ☐ Industrial production diverted to producing war material

4. Revolutionaries

- Social Revolutionaries
 - ☐ Devoted to the creation of a socialist state: key tenet being the people
 - ☐ Wealth is distributed, along with land redistribution (distributing the land of the landlords to the poor), greater rural support,
 - ☐ Garnered the support of peasants, represented their interests in its pledge to return the land to "those who worked it"
 - ☐ Methods to achieve change included agitation and terrorism, including assassination of government officials
- Social Democrats
 - ☐ Socialist as well, but had a urban support base, focused on revolutionary tactics and preparation of the working class for revolution

- ❑ Bolsheviks: believed in a radical and elitist revolution, operating under a central, more disciplined leadership, more difficult for police infiltration. Attracted militant workers who liked the disciplined and firm leadership
 - ❑ Mensheviks: believed in progressive change in collaboration and liaison with the middle class and bourgeoisie (democratic, attracted a broader range of supporters)
Attracted different types of workers → non Russians, Jews and Georgians
- Kadets/liberals: believed in a constitutional monarchy, where the monarch still holds his position, but powers are checked and limited by democratically elected government/parliament, namely the Duma.
 - ❑ Believed in civil rights and freedom of the individual, the rule of law, free elections, parliamentary democracy. Reform rather than violent action, political channels through zemstvas (district councils), reform banquets
- Enlightened the people to their own plight and oppression, granting them optimism and desire to change by setting a shared version of an alternative brighter future without the autocratic government of the Tsar. They thus mobilised the masses, inspired meaningful action(e.g strikes, protests) in opposition of the Tsar.

1905 revolution

- Bloody Sunday:
 - ❑ Peaceful protest led by an orthodox priest, Father Gapon. The march set off peacefully on 9 January 1905, Sunday toward the Winter Palace, the Tsar's residence. The crowd, estimated at between 50,000 and 100,000, included women and children. People were holding icons of the Tsar. (Thus, the people still believed in the sacred bond between Tsar and themselves)
 - ❑ The organised petition had demands for the welfare of workers(8-hr workday), minimum wage (1 rouble per day) , dignified treatment and an end to the Russo-Jap War (in general, calling for reform)
 - ❑ As the crowd approached the winter palace they were charged by cavalry and the troops opened fire, killing 130 and seriously wounding 300.

- ☐ In reaction, strikes broke out in St Petersburg and spread to other cities and towns, end of Jan, 400,000 were on strike
- Mutiny of sailors on Battleship Potemkin
 - ☐ Crew revolted against the officers for the poor working and living conditions they endured (served rotten meat) and threw them overboard
 - ☐ Sailed the ship to Odessa, which was in a state of turmoil with strikes and demonstrations, warmly received by radicals.
 - ☐ Police had to retreat when the sailors threatened to fire upon them
 - ☐ The tsar sent in the troops to quell the situation but indiscriminately killed 2000 civilians who had gathered there
- St Petersburg soviet
 - ☐ Created by the Soviet of Workers' Deputies after prompts by the Mensheviks
 - ☐ An organisation to coordinate the activities of workers in the general strike, made of representatives elected from a variety of factories(directed strikes, sorted out food supplies and essential tasks)
 - ☐ E.g (Informed workers through its newspaper Izvestia)
 - ☐ Indicated the power of urban workers to develop an effective form of organisation to run their own affairs
- October Manifesto
 - ☐ Following the pressure of the strikes, Nicholas had to make reforms to give in to the demands, that Nicholas had to reluctantly accept, of the workers in order to dispel unrest
 - ☐ Freedom of speech and conscience
 - ☐ Freedom of association and unwarranted arrest
 - ☐ Elected Duma which could block laws coming into force
 - ☐ This effectively isolated the radicals by giving in to the liberal

Significance of 1905

- Significance
 - ☐ Concessions were made, e.g. freedom of assembly, ppl able to partake in the formation of political parties, Duma was established in the October manifesto

- ☐ Tsar's troops had fired on the people who were respectful in spite of their act of begging the Tsar for change, exposed the cruelty and indifference of the Tsar, shattered the myth of 'the little father'. The Tsar was not benevolent, not a father figure to the Russian people
- Insignificance
 - ☐ Russia was still under Tsarist rule, a lack of change in regime. No fundamental change occurred in the political and social fabric of Russia
 - ☐ Ineffectiveness of Duma → 4 Dumas were dissolved from 1905-1917 → the Tsar could not work with them, wanted to consolidate all the power for himself
 - ☐ Role played by revolutionaries was limited → the SRs and SDs were fragmented

Why did the Tsar survive 1905

- Military was still loyal to the Tsar
 - ☐ Were **paid well** enough and employed to reassert authority in spite of a rash of mutinies
 - ☐ Army consisted of nobles who were loyal to the Tsar, especially the Cossacks
 - ☐ The **Russo-Japanese war came to an end**, troops could be brought back to quell uprisings
 - ☐ Troops were sent out on **punitive expeditions** to re-establish order, employing brutal and repressive measures to intimidate the peasants and beat them into submission
 - ☐ Troops were given concessions with their service length reduced; promised better food
- Opposition fragmented
 - ☐ October Manifesto split the opposition
 - ☐ Liberals had attained their goal of establishing a constitutional monarchy and urged people to be in support of the Tsar
 - ☐ Yet the SRs and SDs, the socialists, still desired a socialist nation, still in opposition to the Tsar in the means of social revolution
 - ☐ Various socio-groups divided: They all had different aims and purposes and thus did not combine to provide a coordinated and effective opposition.

- Witte secured loans
 - ☐ Economic crisis of financial collapse, stemming from the cost of war and falling tax revenues, was averted when Witte secured loans from French bankers in April 1906
 - ☐ **Stabilised the economy** and gave the government money to pay for its functions for a year
 - ☐ Funded the troops who put down uprisings and restored order.

Between 1905 – 1914

World War I (1914-1917)

Military Impacts on front:

- Deaths: 8000 killed
- No supplies
- Officers were incompetent
- Change in composition in the Army: More peasant recruits were disgruntled and radical

Nicholas II's decision to go to the front:

- Personally blamed for the defeats
- Left administration to Tsarina and Rasputin who mismanaged the country

Middle class were frustrated by incompetence and insistence of government

- NGOs formed to aid war effort, but regarded with suspicion by Tsar
- Progressive Black within Duma called for "Ministry of National confidence" to replace incompetent ministers
- **Chance for Tsar to work with people, but he refused and suspended the Duma**

What is the main cause for the fall of the Tsarist Regime?

Poor Leadership

Bloody Sunday

- Started anti-tsarist movement
- Justified, with firing upon own citizens
- Fraying on religion

Tsar's stubborn belief in autocracy

- Hindered any political reform -> people felt need for revolution

- Undone any attempts by ministers/duma

Rasputin

Nicholas was blind to Rasputin's unsavory reputation and the scandals he was embroiled in and yet gave him so much power

1. Undominated leadership within Tsarist regime (competency, not main reason)
2. **Main reason:** Undermine divine authority of Tsarist family
 - a. Religious reasons
 - b. Right to rule
 - c. Reputation
 - d. Lost respect and support

Orthodox Church

- Social structure only

World War One

- 8 million deaths
- Economic hit

1917 revolution

Causes

1. Absolute rule
 - Duma: Constituted the upper chambers and lower chambers. Both equal in power, those in lower chamber are elected
 - Structure/constitution: ultimate authority still with the Tsar
 - Members of the Duma could not enact laws; only block
 - Tsar could appoint the upper chamber, bringing in nobles into the Duma
 - Treatment: Dumas are dissolved when hostile/radicalised
 - Illustrates the Tsar's unwillingness to conform or share power, with the implication that there was greater resentment and discontentment with him
 - Liberals in the government could not help the people, leading to their discreditment, people turn to the Bolsheviks, radicalising the opposition

Ist Duma

- Showed immense hostility towards the Tsar
- Demanded more power and universal secret elections
- Wanted guarantees of freedoms
 - Upset Tsar, dissolved Duma

2nd Duma

- Much more radical consisted of more left-wing socialists
- Made fierce attacks on govt and on Stolypin
 - Dissolved in 3 months

3rd Duma

- Favoured upper and propertied classes
- Peasants and working classes virtually excluded
- Still questioned the govt
- Put up resistance to Stolypin's reforms with support from Tsar
 - Showed Duma and Tsar can actually work together

4th Duma

- Attempted some reform
- Support 1908 law of providing universal education
- Critical of govts. handling of unrest and the war
 - Pressured Tsar into recalling it in July 1915 due to war
- This offered the Tsar **ONE** last opportunity to agree to limited constitutional government

2. World War I

- The Tsar took the reins by heading to the frontline himself, hence he was held personally responsible for all military defeats, Tsar received greater blame, especially since he had incited feelings of patriotism at the start of the war, hoping to rally his discouraged troops (greater expectations, greater fall)
- Left Rasputin and Tsarina in charge
 - ☐ Rasputin exerted an extensive influence on the government
 - ☐ Mismanaged Russia → appointing his incompetent lackeys, replacing the experienced ministers
 - ☐ Infamous for his sexual depravity, causing the loss of legitimacy for the Tsar
 - ☐ Tsarina was German, people perceive her as disloyal to Russia and possibly traitorous
- Economic impacts
 - ☐ Cost of waging war
 - ☐ More peasants at the frontline, less agricultural activity
 - ☐ High prices of food, severe food shortages, inflation
 - ☐ Industry was diverted to producing war material
 - ☐ WWI lasted for a great duration and was of greater brutality → greater disruption compared to Russo-Jap war.

- Military impacts
 - ☐ Deaths (8 million) killed
 - ☐ Lack of supplies and equipment
 - ☐ Low morale of soldiers due to the incompetence of officers and lack of regard for their welfare
 - ☐ Changes in the composition of the army → more peasant recruits

February Revolution

- Women queued up for a great duration of time and realised there were no more supplies
- Started to march in protest, workers joined them and within 3 days, 250 000 people were on strike
- The soldiers -- comprising more of peasantry, refused to fire upon the crowd
- Key Turning point: The soldiers joining the revolution instead of remaining loyal to the Tsar
- Tsar Nicolas II abdicated under pressure of revolutionaries (Feb/Mar 1917)
- Revolutionaries such as the Bolsheviks distributed banners and propaganda leaflets to the marching crowd
- Main issue with the revolutionaries prior to the outbreak: They were thoroughly infiltrated by the Okhrana