

Y9 History Key Topic 1: The Russian Revolution

1. What is an ideology?
2. How did Russian society change, 1861-1905?
3. How stable was Russia by 1917?
4. What were the causes of the 1917 Revolutions?

Key Words	Definition
Autocratic [Aut-o-crat-ic]	A form of government where one person has all the power to rule over the people, who don't have a say.
Capitalist [Cap-it-al-ist]	A theory that people should earn different amounts of money depending on how much they work, and the value of the work they do.
Communist [Com-you-nist]	A theory that Everyone in society should be equal and that everything should be owned by the working classes and shared equally between all people by the government. There are no social classes.
Democratic [Dem-o-crat-ic]	A form of government where the people in a country decide who should rule by voting.
Duma [Doo-ma]	Russian parliament (first set up in 1906).
Haemophilia [Hee-ma-fil-li-a]	An bleeding disorder where the blood does not clot properly; often inherited / hereditary.
Ideology [eye-dee-o-lo-gy]	A set of ideas and beliefs that affects our perspective (opinions) and actions.
Marxism [Marks-ism]	An ideology developed by Karl Marx. Marx believed that there would be class conflict between capitalists and the working class, and eventually this would lead to a classless society.
Monarchy [Mon-ar-key]	A system of government /country that has a King or Queen as the country's Head of State.
Nobility [No-bil-it-tee]	The highest social class in the country.
Provisional [Prov-vi-sion-a-ry]	Temporary; not permanent.
Republic [Re-pub-lic]	A system of government that has a President, who is elected by the people, as the country's Head of State.
Serf [surf]	Slave under the control of a wealthy land owner.
Social inequality [in-e-qual-it-ty]	When groups of people in society are not equal.
Socialism [so-shal-ism]	An ideology where production (businesses & factories) are owned by the government; the resources are shared to provide for those in need. Marx believed that socialism was a 'stepping stone' towards communism.
Tsar [T-zar]	Russian emperor.
Tsarina [T-zar-ee-na]	Female ruler / consort [wife] of the Russian emperor.

Date	Event
1861	Russian Serfs are freed, but continue to make 'Redemption Payments' [debt] to government.
1894	Tsar Nicholas II becomes Tsar of Russia.
1905	Russia loses the Russo-Japanese war; first Russian revolution – Duma established.
1914	World War One begins.
Feb/Mar ch 1917	The [first] Russian revolution and overthrow of the monarchy; Tsar Nicholas II resigns and a Provisional Government is set up by the Duma.
Oct/Nov 1917	The [second] Bolshevik Revolution begins. Led by Vladimir Lenin, the Bolsheviks [Communists] lead a coup to overthrow the Provisional Government in St Petersburg. .
March 1918	The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, and agreement between Russia [the Provisional Government] and the Central Powers [Germany, Austria-Hungary] that ends Russia's involvement in WWI. Russia loses a significant amount of territory as part of the deal.
1923	The Bolsheviks begin to consolidate the coup and gain full control of Russia, after defeating various European armies and Communist government established.

Causes of the Russian Revolutions		
ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS -Tsar intelligent but weak – indecisive, easily influenced and ill prepared for the role. -Rasputin was thought to influence the Tsar. -Tsarina Alexandra accused of having an affair with Rasputin & being a German spy.	SOCIAL INEQUALITIES -Nobility make up 2% of population, but own 25% of land. -Cities: overcrowded housing, little heating & poor sanitation. -Working conditions: trade unions banned & long days (11.5hr). -Serfs freed in 1861, but Redemption Payments and high taxes = poverty. -Famine was common – widespread in 1901	
WWI -Shortages of food, coal and industrial materials in cities. Strikes and protests. -By the end of 1914, over 1 million Russian soldiers were dead. -Industry could not produce enough weapons to supply soldiers & generals were incompetent – this reflected badly on the Tsar.	ECONOMIC PROBLEMS -Although cities were industrialising, most of the country was still agricultural peasantry. -Russia was economically slow to industrialise. -Food, coal and industrial shortages during the war led to economic despair = strikes and protests.	SPREAD OF NEW IDEAS Educated middle classes heard of Marx's communist theory & spread ideas through cities to gain the support of the workers for a communist revolution.

Common misconceptions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were two separate revolutions in 1917, not one; the second revolution was the Bolshevik Revolution. The dates of the Russian Revolutions depend on which calendar you are following, the Gregorian Calendar or the Julian Calendar [13 days behind] Communism and Socialism are not exactly the same. The Bolshevik Revolution [Oct/Nov 1917] was at first confined to St Petersburg [Petrograd] and lasted until 1923, when the Bolsheviks took control of Russia [The USSR]. Russia is not a communist country anymore, but its history affects it today just like any other country. In the time period we are studying [1861-1917], Ukraine was a part of the Russian Empire.

