

Tsar

1905 Revolution

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How significant were industrial changes in Russia as a cause of the 1905 Revolution? Explain your answer.

Yes

Industry beginning to grow in 1900 – led to growth of towns; rapid urbanisation due to 6% annual growth; led to poor living conditions, sanitation and spread of disease; working conditions in mills/factories poor – 10-hour day on Saturdays; no health and safety; trade unions shut down by factory owners and government; led to growth in opposition to Tsarist autocracy; demands for representation from new middle class and working class; agitation from SDs in factories, etc.

No

Other more significant problems – Tsarist system out of date; calls for democracy and representative government like the West; peasants demanded land in rural areas; spread of new radical ideas of socialism/Marxism influenced peasants and urban workers; liberal ideas influenced middle class; many nationalities demanded independence, e.g. Finland; people tired of repression – Okhrana; defeat in Russo-Japanese War 1904–5; events of Bloody Sunday 22 January 1905 sparked off widespread riots, strikes and discredited the Tsar, etc.

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How significant were political demands as a cause of the 1905 Revolution? Explain your answer.

Yes

Social and economic changes in Russia by the start of the 20th century had created a new middle class and urban working class who wanted representation; Tsarist autocracy failing to modernise Russia in line with other Western powers; SRs and Social Democrats (Bolsheviks and Mensheviks) demanded political change and the overthrow of the Tsar; increased propaganda from revolutionary groups spread amongst peasants and workers; religious and national minorities (e.g. Finland) opposed Russification; land issue with peasantry combined with growing population leading to a growth in peasant support for SRs; poor working conditions (11 hour days) and wages led to growth in support for Marxist parties and attempts at creating trade unions; 1904 national congress of zemstvo representatives called for reforms, etc.

No

Political opposition was effectively repressed by autocracy using the Okhrana and censorship of the media; many revolutionary leaders in exile so unable to organise united opposition; more significant factors – rapid economic development in Russia (industrialisation) led some liberal government ministers (e.g. Mirsky – minister of the interior) to call for reform to increase investment and economic freedoms; 1904–5 Russo-Japanese War saw defeat for Russia at the hands of a smaller nation – loss of Russian fleet led Tsar to ask Japanese for peace; poor social and economic conditions led to strikes at home; Bloody Sunday massacre after Father Gapon led 200 000 protestors to the Winter Palace in a peaceful demonstration to ask the Tsar for reform and an end to the war – police and troops opened fire and killed nearly a 100 protestors, many women and children, which sparked revolution, etc.

- 5 **How important was the Russo-Japanese War as a cause of the 1905 Revolution? Explain your answer.**
- YES** In 1904 Russia went to war against Japan – many including the Tsar thought this would be an easy victory; defeats on land and at sea; in 1905 the Russian fleet was sunk by a smaller nation; caused a drop in morale amongst troops and population; many blamed the Tsar and his government; many peasants were in the army which caused food shortages at home; led to miserable living and working conditions for peasants and workers in the cities, etc.
- NO** More important – fast, dramatic reform – 6% economic growth annually, but workers and peasants did not share in the wage rises; poor living and working conditions; no trade union representation; workers and middle classes demanded representation; autocracy still in place – growing opposition from liberals and socialists; peasant rebellions over land issue; liberal prime minister supported concessions; Bloody Sunday sparked revolution – Father Gapon and 200 000 protestors were fired on by Winter Palace guard with as many as 4000 casualties, etc.

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**How important was Bloody Sunday as a cause of the 1905 Revolution?
Explain your answer.**

Yes

Father Gapon, a religious leader, led workers to request improvements to working conditions; Tsarist troops killed and injured many in the uprising; this sparked off revolts and strikes in Russia in 1905; the Tsar's image was tarnished by the incident, etc.

No

The Russo-Japanese War, 1904–5, caused poor working conditions in cities; poor living conditions in cities due to urbanisation and industrialisation; there were land issue for peasants; calls for constitutional change by liberals; autocracy out of date, etc.

Tsar's Survival

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How significant was repression as a reason for the survival of Tsarist rule by 1914? Explain your answer.

Yes

Promises from the October Manifesto partially reversed by Fundamental Laws, 1906 – reaffirmed autocracy; radical opposition in Petrograd Soviet denounced the Manifesto leading to arrests including Trotsky; appointment of Stolypin led to repression – Stolypin's 'neck-tie'; arrival of troops in Petrograd and Moscow at the end of Russo-Japanese War allowed Tsar to repress riots, strikes and disturbances in the cities and countryside; use of Okhrana, etc.

No

First major steps towards democracy and mass representation in the Dumas; freedoms and rights gave liberal and moderate opposition what they wanted and supported regime initially; promises of future reforms for universal suffrage appeased many anti-Tsarist forces; moves towards rule of law; legalisation of political parties and trade unions; agricultural reforms appeased conservative peasantry in the mir – peasants' land bank, etc.

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How important was the October Manifesto in the survival of the Tsar's regime between 1905 and 1914? Explain your answer.

YES

Manifesto promised state Duma which appeased liberals and moderate socialists; civil rights were given such as freedom of speech; political parties were legalised; newspapers were uncensored; violence and riots were over by 1906 in cities as many saw democracy had been achieved; increased government and Tsarist support from middle and upper classes; split the opposition, etc.

NO

By December 1905, the Russian Army had returned and the Tsar could re-establish order by force; St Petersburg Soviet closed down; riots from peasants and workers were crushed; 1906 Fundamental Law reasserted Tsarist autocracy – the Duma had no powers to pass laws, no financial powers, could not appoint ministers and could be dissolved by the Tsar; elections favoured the nobility; third Duma 1907–12 was very conservative; use of Okhrana and informers; 1906 Stolypin appointed Prime Minister – authoritarian rule 'Stolypin's necktie'; 1914 declaration of war increased patriotism, etc.

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How important were Stolypin's reforms as a reason for the survival of the Tsarist regime to 1914? Explain your answer.

YES

Stolypin was appointed Prime Minister in 1906 after the October Manifesto and he initiated reforms to ensure the survival of the Tsarist autocracy; he became the Tsar's closest advisor; he wanted to create a kulak class of peasant in order to increase support for Tsarism in the countryside by initiating agrarian reforms; political reform meant that the first two State Dumas were largely ineffective and were full of mainly pro-Tsarist representatives; creation of peasant Land Bank encouraged peasants to leave their communes (mir) and own privately run farms – by 1913 nearly 3 million peasants owned their own farms; Stolypin increased political repression on perceived enemies of the autocracy which saw 20 000 exiled from Russia and over 1000 hanged for treason – 'Stolypin's necktie'; the role of the Okhrana increased dramatically in monitoring opponents of the regime and arresting suspects, etc.

NO

Stolypin's reforms failed to deal with the poor living and working conditions in the industrial towns and cities; the land issue for many peasants was still not solved despite the reforms – many peasants remained poor and tied to landlords; political repression led to the growth of opposition parties who became more radical and influenced by socialist, Marxist and anarchist ideologies; Stolypin was assassinated in 1911; the 1905 Bloody Sunday incident was still in the memories of many Russians and would not be forgotten; third and fourth Dumas brought in more liberal reforms; revolutionary leaders such as Lenin led their parties in safety while in exile in other countries; entry into First World War was met with enthusiasm at first; October Manifesto more important; Tsar's control of the army; 1906 Fundamental Law, etc.

5 How important was Stolypin in bringing about stability in Russia after the 1905 Revolution? Explain your answer.

YES – Stolypin wanted to modernise agriculture and create a new kulak class as new middle-class that was conservative and supported Tsarist autocracy; 1906 Land Laws helped modernise farming – peasant land bank allowed richer peasants to buy land and leave the mir; by 1913, 3 million had left the mir; Stolypin's neck tie – over 1000 hanged and 20 000 exiled in repression of opposition; riots and demonstrations dealt with violently by army; Okhrana used to infiltrate political groups and imprison suspects etc.

NO – More important – October Manifesto gave liberals a Duma and limited representation; democracy introduced in Russia; split the opposition and helped end the 1905 Revolution; Fundamental Laws, 1906 reinforced Tsarist autocracy; return of Russian army from Japan allowed Tsar to suppress riots and uprisings; army promised better pay and conditions etc.

- 5 **How important were the Dumas to the survival of the Tsarist regime up to March 1917? Explain your answer.**

YES

Created by October Manifesto; placated liberals and businessmen; allowed limited democracy and constitutional monarchy; could advise Tsar on issues, etc.

NO

More important – repression using the Army and the Okhrana; labour camps; Stolypin's reforms – land bank; Stolypin's neck-tie; Fundamental Laws established autocracy; Orthodox Church; WW1 unites Russia, etc.

5 **How important was the army in maintaining Tsarist rule up to 1914? Explain your answer.**

YES – Russian army key for Tsarist stability up to 1914; during and after the 1905 Revolution, the Russian army was used to crush riots and strikes when it returned from the Russo-Japanese War – the Tsar increased soldiers' pay and conditions to ensure loyalty; used by the Tsarist government to close down the Petrograd Soviet in December 1905 and arrest its leaders; Cossacks (used as shock troops) used to crush workers' strikes; army was used to prevent resistance in the countryside – thousands were executed or imprisoned and beatings and rape were used to terrify peasants into submission; Bloody Sunday showed army's reaction to demonstrations etc.

NO – More important – political reforms: October Manifesto (1905) legalised political parties, allowed for elections to a state Duma and gave basic freedoms and rights – this appeased middle-class liberals and split opposition during the 1905 Revolution; use of the Russian Orthodox Church to preach support for the Tsar; Russo-Japanese War and the start of the First World War used to instil a sense of Russian patriotism – the Russian people generally supported the Tsarist government at the start of the conflicts; Okhrana used to infiltrate and spy on political opponents and revolutionaries (e.g. Bolsheviks, SRs); Stolypin's 'neck tie' and political repression – 20 000 exiled and over 1000 hanged; Stolypin's industrial and agricultural reforms – economic growth helped appease the industrialists and the Peasant Land Bank helped kulaks buy more land and become a 'middle-class' etc.

5 How important was political reform to the survival of the Tsarist regime between 1905 and 1914? Explain your answer.

YES – October Manifesto guaranteed certain basic rights and freedoms; allowed for the setting up of a Duma and the legalisation of political parties; subdued the liberals and middle-class opposition and divided opponents after 1905 Revolution, etc.

NO – Autocracy still survived in the form of the Fundamental Laws in 1906; more important: Stolypin's economic reforms; peasants' land bank allowed kulaks to grow in number – could purchase their own land; industrial growth between 1908–11 appeased capitalist class; repression more important – Stolypin's neck tie; use of army and Okhrana; WWI, etc.

Weakness of Tsarist rule

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How significant were the events of Bloody Sunday as a cause of the weakness of the Tsarist regime before 1914? Explain your answer.

YES

22 January 1905, Father Gapon led a peaceful demonstration of 200 000 men, women and children to the Winter Palace calling for reform and an end to the Russo-Japanese War; they aimed to deliver a petition to Tsar Nicholas II but were fired upon by the police and troops, killing 96 (officially) but other estimates put this as high as 4000; sparked off the 1905 Revolution; people lost confidence in the Tsar as 'Little Father'; rioting and rebellion spontaneously erupted across the Russian Empire; peasants attacked property of the nobility; strikes by workers all over the country – 400 000 on strike by the end of January 1905; universities closed down; establishment of Union of Unions by professionals; railways stopped working due to strikes, etc.

NO

Tsar agreed to October Manifesto which allowed limited democracy and a State Duma; political parties and trade unions and freedoms of speech and conscience established which appeased liberals and middle-classes; on return of the Army from Japan, the Tsar issued the Fundamental Laws (1906) re-establishing autocracy; arrests of key Petrograd Soviet members including Trotsky; more significant on the stability of Tsarism were poor living and working conditions leading to a growth in radical opposition; demands for political representation from middle-class and workers; land issue not solved; Russo-Japanese War; establishment of Petrograd Soviet; mutiny on the Potemkin, etc.

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How important was the October Manifesto in weakening Tsarist rule? Explain your answer.

YES

October Manifesto introduced limited democracy and representation; ended Tsarist autocracy officially; gave freedom of speech and assembly which legalised opposition political parties; an elected Duma represented the views of a majority of the population; laws had to be approved by the Duma; Duma could check the power of the government, etc.

NO

October Manifesto was quickly overturned by Fundamental Law in 1906, re-establishing Tsarist autocracy; Russian Army used to enforce autocracy; Dumas dissolved by Tsar when they opposed his government; more important: 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War; peasant land issue; Bloody Sunday incident; 1905 Revolution; impact of WWI; 1915 Tsar takes control of army; Tsarina and Rasputin, etc.

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How important were economic problems in causing disturbances in Russia up to 1917? Explain your answer.

YES

Peasant land issue – peasants demanded land from nobility leading to riots and land grabbing; working conditions in factories and mills – low wages and long hours – led to growth in revolutionary parties like Bolsheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries; shortages in wartime – food and fuel; inflation, etc.

NO

More important – Tsarist autocracy and repression; use of Okhrana; Stolypin's repression – necktie; 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War; Bloody Sunday; calls for constitutional reforms by liberals in 1905 Revolution; World War I and military defeats; Tsar's personal command of army, 1915, etc.

5 **How important was the Russo-Japanese War as a cause of instability in Russia up to 1914? Explain your answer.**

YES – Russo-Japanese War was supposed to be an easy win for the Russian Empire; led to conscription of peasants who were taken from their land during harvest times; Russian defeats on land and at sea led to mutinies; Potemkin mutiny; led to poor working and living conditions for Russian proletariat (Bloody Sunday); demands for reforms grew from middle and working classes etc.

NO – More important – underlying issues with Tsarist autocracy and calls for parliamentary reform; growth of political opponents – SRs, Social Democrats and liberal parties; land issue unsolved; repression from Okhrana and Cossacks; Bloody Sunday incident; 1905 Revolution and October Manifesto; failure of Dumas; repression under Stolypin etc.

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How important was the 1905 Revolution in weakening the Tsarist system of government to 1914? Explain your answer.

YES – 1905 Revolution saw mass riots, demonstrations and strikes across Russia after Bloody Sunday demonstrations; popular revolution and spontaneous; contained peasants, workers, and middle-class liberals; led to October Manifesto which brought limited democracy and representation to Russia; parties and trade unions were legalised; new Duma set up in 1906; basic civil rights established which weakened autocracy etc.

NO – 1905 Revolution did not have a united opposition; some liberals were appeased by October Manifesto which split the opposition and allowed Tsar to restore control; Duma's powers effectively reduced to nothing by the 1906 Fundamental Laws; Tsar used army returning from the Russo-Japanese War to crush riots in countryside and strikes in cities; more important – Stolypin's reforms did not help solve land issue for poorer peasants; workers still had poor wages and living and working conditions did not improve leading to greater support for radical left-wing groups such as Bolsheviks, Mensheviks and SRs etc.

Collapse of Tsarist rule

5 **How important was war as a reason for the collapse of the Tsarist regime in 1917? Explain your answer.**

Yes

The Russo-Japanese War weakened Tsarist autocracy; it led to the 1905 Revolution and the October Manifesto; there were calls for reform; WW1 and its massive losses; the Tsar's personal command of the army which was disastrous; mutiny; shortages, etc.

No

Autocracy was out of date; living and working conditions in towns and cities; the land issue for peasants; the role of the Tsarina and Rasputin; political opposition; calls for a Duma; workers' councils; liberal and radical opposition, etc.

Question	Answer
5	<p data-bbox="324 272 1846 372">How important were military defeats in weakening the Tsar's control in Russia by March 1917? Explain your answer.</p> <p data-bbox="324 425 1846 729">YES – 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War led to mutiny, e.g. Potemkin; support of the army and navy rested on improved pay and conditions after 1905; military defeats led to worsening living and working conditions for workers who demanded change; military defeats in the First World War linked to Tsar when he assumed personal control of the army in 1915; desertion and mutinies increased; loss of support of Petrograd garrison, etc.</p> <p data-bbox="324 786 1846 1090">NO – More important – land issue not solved by Tsarist government; peasants were seizing land and attacking landlords; political opposition from liberals who wanted constitutional government; oppression of Stolypin's government; lack of power in the Dumas; Tsar's actions; government by the Tsarina and Rasputin; food and fuel shortages in the cities; inflation; strikes and riots; bread rationing, etc.</p>

5 How important was the First World War in the fall of Tsarist rule in Russia? Explain your answer.

Yes Entered the war on wave of nationalistic fervour; quickly became clear that Russian troops were poorly led and equipped. Defeats and resentment caused Nicholas to take charge of the army in 1916; he took blame for further defeats, losses, shortages at home, and drawing of peasant workers away from the land to go to war; hunger and working conditions, protests and revolts, troops and workers combine. Rumours re Rasputin and Tsarina, all led to March Revolution 1917 and the abdication of the Tsar etc.

No There had been opposition well before 1917. Exiled and imprisoned groups opposed the Tsar. 1905 Revolution had exposed opposition. Stolypin's reforms had some effect – necktie resented. Duma ineffective. Tsar still believed in autocracy and not inclined to compromise with middle class, workers or peasants (wanted land). All elements in place before the war started. War was the catalyst etc. [40]

5 How significant was Tsar Nicholas II's decision to take personal control of the military as a cause of the March Revolution in 1917? Explain your answer.

- YES** Nicholas II failed to listen to the advice of his ministers about war, shortages, policies; Tsar personally took command of Russian Army on Eastern Front in September 1915 and so was blamed for losses and defeats; Nicholas left Tsarina in charge of government who appointed ministers unwisely with advice from unpopular Rasputin – did not listen to Duma, etc.
- NO** Economic problems in Russia made worse due to First World War – inflation; food and supplies had shortages and bread rationing; soldiers mutinying; peasants' land issue still unresolved; growing political opposition from the left – SRs, Mensheviks and Bolsheviks; liberals (Kadets and Octobrists) and even aristocracy turning against Tsar and the war; unemployment due to factory closures; workers had longer hours; long term causes – failure of land reforms promised in October Manifesto; failure by Tsar to support the Duma, etc.

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How important were the actions of Nicholas II as a cause of the March Revolution of 1917? Explain your answer.

YES

September 1915 Tsar Nicholas assumes supreme command of the Russian Army – this linked the military failures on the Eastern Front directly to the Tsar; Tsarist government begins to lose support; Russia had lost 1.7 million soldiers by 1915 with a further 3 million captured or missing – led to a decline in morale and patriotism; Tsarina left in charge of Russian government – she is unpopular due to her German heritage and her insistence on listening to Rasputin for advice on government ministers – led to rumours that they were both in league with the Germans; refusal of Tsar Nicholas II to reform government and autocracy in favour of constitutional monarchy, etc.

NO

Other factors more important – First World War led to food shortages and bread rationing in Russia; inflation led to workers' strikes; poor living and working conditions – low wages; problems in the countryside led to mutinies by peasant soldiers; land issue not solved; growth in liberal and socialist opposition – united front against Tsarist autocracy; Duma refused to follow Tsar's orders and created a Provisional Government, etc.

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How important were the personal weaknesses of Tsar Nicholas II as a cause of revolution in 1917? Explain your answer.

YES – Tsar Nicholas II wanted to strictly maintain Tsarist autocracy and the Romanov dynasty; he resisted calls for democracy in 1894, calling it the agenda of senseless dreamer; Tsar's stance was only broken by the 1905 Revolution and the granting to the Duma; Russo-Japanese War (1904–05) defeat blamed on the Tsarist government and brought severe economic hardship for workers; Bloody Sunday casualties (up to 4000) blamed on the Tsar; Tsar reversed many of the terms of the October Manifesto with the Fundamental Laws in 1906; alienated the middle-classes, peasants and workers – temporary alliance in 1905 Revolution; Tsar reformed the Dumas to make them more conservative and blocked power of liberal and socialist parties; Tsar used repressive measures to crush opposition using the army and the Okhrana; Tsar assumed control of the army in 1915 – personal blame for military defeats; Nicholas II left the Tsarina in charge in St Petersburg – she made poor ministerial appointments, was suspected of being a German spy and took advice from the unpopular monk Rasputin which all served to weaken the Tsarist government etc.

NO – More important – poor working and living conditions in the towns: overcrowding in housing and low wages led to increased support for radical socialist parties, strikes and demonstrations; peasants support for the SRs over the land issue (lack of arable land and outdated farming methods) – many peasants began seizing land from the landlords; military defeats in 1904–05 and in 1914–15 weakened the Tsar's position; food and fuel shortages in the cities during the First World War led to rampant inflation and bread rationing; note – could include references to the Tsarina and Rasputin as a NO argument; demands for constitutional and democratic reform from middle-classes and moderate liberals such as the Kadet party etc.

Depth Study C: Russia, 1905–1941

5 How important was the 1905 Revolution to the eventual overthrow of Tsarism in Russia? Explain your answer.

- Yes** First full scale national revolt, although focused on St Petersburg; concessions in the October Manifesto pleased the middle class and could encourage more demands; undermined respect for Nicholas II, especially after he reduced powers or dismissed Dumas; defeats in Russo-Japanese war had a bearing on the revolution and its outcome – a lesson not learned in 1914, etc.
- No** By 1914, Nicholas seemed to be in full control and popular as the war broke out; his repression by troops and Okhrana and Fundamental Laws seemed to have dealt with opposition; revolutionaries in exile; Nicholas was able to ignore the Manifesto and the Dumas; Stolypin's measures for agriculture and industry alleviated some distress – if not, then the 'necktie' was available; land issue for peasants not solved; WWI and its failures were important, etc.

5 How significant were social and economic problems in Russia as a cause of the March 1917 Revolution? Explain your answer.

- YES** Food shortages were getting critical in 1917 – bread rationing; bread queues in winter of 1916 due to icing of railways led to high prices of food and fuel; shortage of male peasants as many were drafted into the Russian Army and agricultural production fell; coal and industrial materials were short and many factories closed making large numbers of workers unemployed; wages were not rising with inflation of food and fuel; workers worked longer hours; peasants still had an issue over land which had not been solved; economic backwardness continued from pre-1914, etc.
- NO** War had created huge numbers of casualties – over 1 million by end of 1914 and over 8 million by 1917; many soldiers died without weapons or ammunition; supplies of proper equipment failed to get to the front line including boots during the winters; Tsarist officers were blamed; Nicholas II made the mistake of heading to the Eastern front line and taking personal command – now blamed for defeats; Russia run by the German Tsarina under the unpopular influence of the monk Rasputin; Tsarina did not run government well; middle and upper classes began to abandon their support for the Tsarist regime; newspapers sent back bad news about the war; growing socialist opponents called for political change; 7 March Putilov strikes which spread into further demonstrations in Russian cities; Tsar ignored Duma's advice to sort problems at home; 12 March soldiers in Petrograd refused to fire on the crowds and some killed their officers and joined demonstrations and strike; failure of October Manifesto; survival of Tsarist autocracy, etc.

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How important were social and economic problems in Russia in the collapse of Tsarist rule by March 1917? Explain your answer.

YES – Poor living and working conditions in the towns and cities for workers – cramped conditions, poor sanitation, disease and food supply issues; workers' wages low; lack of social reform towards workers by Stolypin 1906–11; led to growth of socialist/Marxist parties and trade unionism; peasants' land issue not solved – poorer peasants did not have access to enough land to make income; kulak class created by Stolypin's reforms led to tensions, riots and protests in the countryside – some peasants seized land from landlords; growth in Socialist Revolutionary's popularity; lack of pace in industrialisation – Russia was behind Germany, Britain and France; First World War led to food and fuel shortages in cities, inflation – highlighted the lack of adequate transportation infrastructure etc.

NO – More important – Tsarist autocracy and calls by liberals for further democratic reform; First World War and social and economic effects on government; Tsar's lack of support from army – desertions and Petrograd garrison supporting revolutionaries; actions of Tsar Nicholas II – went to front in 1915 and left Tsarina and Rasputin in charge of government which was deeply unpopular with all classes; took personal command of the army – meant he was blamed for failures; revolutionary and populist movements since 1905 – Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, SRs and liberals united in anti-Tsarism etc.

5 How important was Rasputin as a cause of growing opposition to Tsarist rule in Russia? Explain your answer.

Yes Rasputin from a peasant background and mistrusted by aristocracy; linked to sexual deviancy; Tsarina, convinced he was sent by God to protect the Tsarovich, gave him an important position of influence at court due to his ability to control Alexei's haemophilia; Tsar censored newspaper reports about Rasputin; Tsar lost support of Duma over this; Tsar forced to support Rasputin due to Tsarina; during WWI, Tsarina left in charge of Russia and appointed ministers based on Rasputin's advice – led to even conservative support for Tsarism to drop; fired good and effective ministers – led to deterioration in the cities; cartoons ridiculed them – Tsar blamed for leaving them in charge, etc.

No Other factors more important – First World War going badly (huge defeats and loss of life) and Tsar blamed as he commanded forces on the Eastern Front; failures to make political reforms led to opposition from liberals and middle class in Duma; living and working conditions in cities – food and fuel shortages; socialist opposition from SRs and Social Democrats (Mensheviks and Bolsheviks); peasants and land issue not solved; already opposition since 1905 Revolution, etc.

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How important were the grievances of the peasantry in causing political disturbances in Russia up to March 1917? Explain your answer.

Yes

80% of population were peasants; most lived in dreadful conditions; poor working conditions; life expectancy was around 40 years old in some areas; growing population led to calls for land reform by the peasants; some peasants supported the Social Revolutionaries who bred resentment; peasants used for Russian Army in 1904–5 war and First World War – huge casualties and desertions, etc. Peasants attacked landowners and seized land, crushed by Cossacks, by Tsar.

No

Most peasants remained loyal to the Tsar for most of the period; strong political and religious conservatism in rural areas; more important – growth in working class in the towns and cities; poor living and working conditions in the towns and in the factories; low pay; no government legislation to improve conditions or overcrowding; trade unions were illegal; Social Democrats gained support of working class – strong in Moscow and St Petersburg; middle class demanded better representation; First World War and shortages, inflation, casualties, 1905 Revolution, etc.

- 5 **How important was the role of the Tsarina in bringing about the downfall of the Tsarist government? Explain your answer.**

YES

Tsarina left in charge of Russian government with Rasputin as advisor in 1915 when Tsar assumed command of Russian forces; inexperienced at ruling and making decisions and easily manipulated by Rasputin; led to large amounts of criticism from liberals and even aristocratic monarchists; Tsarina was deeply unpopular in Russia due to her German heritage and dislike of Russia which she made public; Tsarina dismissed able ministers and their deputies in rapid succession; rumours of her and Rasputin as part of a German plot, etc.

NO

More important – First World War created poor conditions in Russia – starvation in the towns and countryside as some peasants hoarded grain; inflation due to high demand and low supply; fuel shortages; bread rationing; desertions in Russian Army due to poor conditions, lack of munitions on front line; need to farm land; land grabbing in the countryside; opposition groups in Russia gaining in popularity; strikes in the towns; poor working and living conditions in urban areas; Tsar assumed control in 1915 and was blamed for war losses, etc.

5 How important was the demand for political reform as a reason for the March 1917 Revolution? Explain your answer.

YES – Middle-class and liberals demanded greater representation and a constitutional monarchy; Tsar limited the membership of the third Duma and then dissolved it during the war – this led to many liberals supporting the March Revolution and the abdication of the Tsar; many workers demanded a socialist style government and formed soviets; SRs wanted a peasant based socialist society; Marxists (Bolsheviks and Mensheviks) wanted a workers' revolution and a communist style government; united in their opposition to tsarist autocracy in the March Revolution of 1917 etc.

NO – More important – First World War had led to large casualties for Russia (at least 1.8 million soldiers killed on the front); increased desertions and mutinies in the Russian army on the Eastern Front – many soldiers formed committees and refused to follow the orders of their officers; peasants' land issue unsolved – peasants demanded land reform; war had caused massive shortages of food and fuel in cities; peasants hoarded grain and this led to inflation; bread rationing in big cities like Moscow and St Petersburg; Tsar's actions – 1915 assumed command of the army – he was now blamed for military defeats; left Tsarina and Rasputin in charge, alienating the government ministers and the nobility etc.

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How important was agriculture as a cause of Russia's problems by March 1917? Explain your answer.

YES – Peasants in countryside did not own the best land compared to Russian landlords; led to riots in countryside and killing of landlords, burning of property (peasant land issue); grain requisitioning during war time; peasants also made up the mass of the Russian Imperial Army and were not available during harvest which led to food shortages in the cities and inflation of food prices; led to mutiny on ships and desertion from front line; Russia's agriculture was undeveloped and still used old methods; lack of mechanisation and new farming methods; Stolypin's reforms encouraged a rich kulak class to grow at expense of poorer peasants who gained little leading to greater support for left-wing populist parties such as SRs, etc.

NO – More important – Tsarist autocracy outdated and did not allow proper representation or democracy demanded by some liberals and socialists; led to poor decision making; weaknesses of Tsar – 1915 went to front line as Supreme Commander leaving Tsarina and Rasputin in charge which alienated nobility and ministers; 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War humiliating defeat for Russia and caused socio-economic problems at home; led to Bloody Sunday and 1905 Revolution weakening Tsar who enacted October Manifesto which allowed Duma, individual rights and legalisation of political parties, many of which were anti-Tsarist; socio-economic effects of the First World War – food and fuel shortages, inflation in cities; workers' living and working conditions; growth of trade unionism and left-wing socialist/Marxist parties, etc.

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How important was Russia's autocratic political system as a reason for the regime's collapse by March 1917? Explain your answer.

YES – Tsarist autocracy still in place by 1917 after 1906 Fundamental Laws; weakened Dumas which became more conservative; angered liberals and socialists; led to blame for economic problems in Russia such as inflation, undeveloped industry and agriculture; demands for Constituent Assembly and full representation; Tsar remained commander of army and Church + state; Tsar was personally blamed for defeats in Russo-Japanese War and First World War losses; Tsar unwilling to reform peasant land issue or improve living and working conditions in cities – helped cause Bloody Sunday incident in 1905, etc.

NO – More important – could look at socio-economic factors from YES arguments, e.g. living and working conditions, peasant land issue; impact of war on conditions and pay for workers; food and fuel shortages in cities and inflation; united anti-Tsarist front by 1917 of liberals and socialists; role of Tsarina and Rasputin; loss of support from army, sailors and Petrograd Garrison, impact of First World War- casualties, socio-economic impact etc.

Prov. Gov.

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How important was Lenin in causing the downfall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.

YES – Lenin led Bolsheviks in exile and was mastermind behind Marxist–Leninist ideology which formed backbone of the Party; Lenin's April Theses promised 'peace, bread, land' and 'all power to the soviets'; against Provisional Government and the war; Bolshevik agitation – led to July Days demonstrations (though Lenin did not support this); Lenin convinces other Bolshevik leaders to overthrow Provisional Government in November; seizure of power, etc.

NO – Lenin forced into exile numerous times so had limited impact on Bolsheviks; more significant – First World War and continued socio-economic problems – food and fuel shortages and inflation; land issue not solved by Provisional Government; no Constituent Assembly until after the war; June Offensive ordered by Kerensky a huge failure; could examine Kornilov Affair as NO factor which demonstrated Provisional Government weakness; Bolshevik Red Guard used to stop Kornilov's attempted coup; Bolshevik control of Petrograd and Moscow Soviets by September 1917; role of Trotsky as Chairman of Petrograd Soviet; Soviet Order No.1 gave them control of Petrograd Garrison, army, communications and allowed soldiers' and sailors' representatives to be elected to the soviets, etc.

5 How significant was the return of Lenin to Russia in March 1917 to the overthrow of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.

- Yes** Return of Lenin and other revolutionaries increased the tensions of the time; propaganda of the April Theses, demanding 'all power to the soviets', that Bolsheviks should no longer support the Provisional Government and an end to Russia's participation in the war was attractive to many; although the July Days were a set-back (Lenin fled to Finland), Lenin's return galvanised the Bolsheviks in intensity and planning for a coup, etc.
- No** Other factors were undermining the Provisional Government: disastrous June 1917 offensive; Provisional Government already sharing power with Petrograd Soviet; no elections organised for a new Constituent Assembly annoyed middle classes; land issues unsolved upset the peasants; strikes and deserting soldiers mixing with workers; the Kornilov Affair left the Bolsheviks armed; the army was in a state of collapse; bread rationing/starvation; grain hoarding; Trotsky as Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet and creation of Military Revolutionary Committee which commanded Red Guard, etc.

5

How important was the Petrograd Soviet in weakening the Provisional Government between March and November 1917? Explain your answer.

YES – With the Petrograd Soviet and the Provisional Government a system of 'Dual Power' existed in Russia after the March Revolution; Lenin wanted to take over the Petrograd Soviet and destroy the weaker Provisional Government; consisted of mainly moderate socialists in the first few months and gradually more radical socialists took control as war continued and problems were not solved by Provisional Government; Soviet Order Number One gave Soviet control over armed forces, communications etc.; Moscow and Petrograd Soviet was dominated by Bolsheviks by September 1917 – they demanded an end to the war and no Provisional Government; Red Guards used to stop Kornilov Uprising and helped Bolsheviks become saviours of the revolution; Trotsky chairman of Petrograd Soviet helped organise Bolshevik seizure of power in November 1917, etc.

NO – Petrograd Soviet and Provisional Government worked together in the beginning after Tsar's abdication. More important – continuation of war and Kerensky's failed Summer Offensive – led to July Days strikes and demonstrations; Kornilov Affair; failure of Provisional Government to solve peasants' land issue; food and fuel shortages in cities; inflation; lack of Constituent Assembly; actions of Lenin and Bolshevik agitation – April Theses; role of Trotsky etc.

5 How significant was the decision to continue the war as a reason for the collapse of the Provisional Government by November 1917? Explain your answer.

Yes July offensive launched by Kerensky, so clear blame for disaster laid with Provisional Government; offensive was a disaster for Russian military; soldiers began to desert the front line; increased food shortages and fuel remained in short supply; many Russians turned against the war completely which played into Bolshevik hands who promised an end to the war; Provisional Government losing popularity (many moderate socialists such as the SRs had supported only a defensive war) – the left gained dominance in the Soviets, etc.

No Provisional Government had not solved the land issue with peasants; peasants were taking land for themselves; Petrograd Soviet had dual power with Provisional Government – Soviet Order No. 1 gave the Soviet control over troops, railways and communications; increased Marxist control over Soviets as problems got worse – Trotsky elected Chairman of Petrograd Soviet October 8th – Military Revolutionary Committee formed to take over power from Provisional Government; Bolshevik majorities in Moscow and Petrograd Soviet after attempted coup by Kornilov; strong leadership when Lenin returned from Finland; Bolshevik slogans of 'Peace, Bread, Land' and 'All power to the Soviets' led to increased Bolshevik support, etc.

6 How significant in causing its downfall was the Provisional Government's decision to continue Russia's participation in the First World War? Explain your answer.

- Yes** Context of the Tsar's removal with military failures should have been a lesson learned; June 1917 offensive (Kerensky's idea) was a huge failure; army morale and discipline collapsed; hundreds of thousands of men deserted to join the ranks of striking workers and disgruntled peasants – a heady volatile mix; failures appear to have accentuated criticisms of other failures; grain hoarding and bread rationing; inflation, etc.
- No** Expect alternative reasons about the role of the Petrograd soviet, frustration at the delays of elections for a new Constituent Assembly; failure to deal with the land issue; return of revolutionaries and the attractiveness of Bolshevik propaganda and slogans; economic chaos of shortages, low wages, bread prices, etc.; Kornilov Affair ended with Bolsheviks armed and appearing to be the saviours of Russia; Bolshevik planning for the coup; roles and qualities of Lenin and Trotsky, etc.

5 How important was Bolshevik agitation in the fall of the Provisional Government in 1917? Explain your answer.

- Yes** The return of Lenin and other Bolsheviks in April meant they were able to use the anger over shortages, land issue, the war with propaganda and catchy slogans – Peace, Land, Bread; outstanding speeches by Lenin and Trotsky caught the mood and stirred up criticism; urged abandonment of war, refusal to recognise the Provisional Government, demanding all power to the soviets – Bolsheviks acquired increasing control of Petrograd and Moscow Soviets – Trotsky made Chairman of Petrograd Soviet in October; worked as a partner to the Provisional Government; context of economic chaos exploited by the Bolsheviks; only party to speak openly about making a separate peace treaty with Germany; Bolsheviks exploited worker and troop discontent etc.
- No** June offensive a disaster (Kerensky's idea); collapse of morale and discipline at the front; deserters joined the ranks of angry workers; Petrograd Soviet ordered troops only to obey the soviet – Provisional Government could no longer rely on the army; peasants had started to seize land from landlords; July Days were a blow to Bolsheviks – Lenin fled, some in jail; Kornilov Affair meant Bolsheviks released from jail and armed to resist; Bolsheviks looked heroes and kept weapons; middle class upset by no elections for a Constituent Assembly; Bolsheviks in the minority –later Constituent Assembly results; food shortages; inflation etc.

5 How significant was the Kornilov Affair, August 1917, in the fall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.

- Yes** Kornilov – army commander in chief, decided to move against the Petrograd Soviet in August; soldiers mutinied and Kornilov arrested; Bolsheviks had been hit by Provisional government's attacks in the 'July Days' – Lenin fled and others imprisoned; Bolsheviks let out from prison and armed to face the threat – Bolsheviks were seen as saviours of the Revolution – Bolshevik membership increases (approx. 200 000 by October); stayed out of prison and kept arms; the affair, therefore, encouraged the November seizure of power etc.
- No** More important were the other areas of dissatisfaction – continuation of the war, actions and propaganda of Bolsheviks (Peace, Land, Bread), deserters and strikers united in cities; shortages of food and fuel; increasing domination of the Petrograd Soviet by the Bolsheviks – Trotsky chairman in October; middle class wanted elections and a fairer system of government; organisation and single purpose of Bolsheviks; there appeared to be no change from the time the Tsar was in power – no elections planned for a Constituent Assembly; the Provisional Government was undergoing terrible problems due to the failure of the June Offensive; land issues not solved and peasants were grabbing farm land from the nobility; return of exiles like Lenin and other leaders etc.

6

How important was the role of the Petrograd Soviet as a reason for the collapse of the Provisional Government by November 1917? Explain your answer.

Yes

Petrograd Soviet a representative institution unlike Provisional Government; many viewed the Provisional Government as liberal and middle class (counter-revolutionary); Soviet mainly workers and soldiers with socialist views; had influence and control over the railways, the troops (Soviet Order No.1 after March 1917), factories (workers' committees) and the power supplies; dual power meant there were contrasting views on some policies such as the war, land issue, living and working conditions in the cities; dominated by Bolsheviks after Kornilov Coup; Trotsky Chairman of Petrograd Soviet from October 1917 and helped organise Revolution through the Military Revolutionary Committee; Red Guard armed, etc.

No

Petrograd Soviet mainly controlled by moderate socialists – Mensheviks and SRs until October 1917; did not want to seize power; more important factors – Russia's continued involvement in WWI and its impact – food shortages, strikes, mutinies; land issue for peasants not addressed; lack of representation in Provisional Government; inflation; grain seizures continued; role of Lenin and Bolshevik slogans, etc.

6

How important was the land issue in Russia as a reason for the downfall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.

Yes

Peasant land issue had been a major issue since the end of the nineteenth century; peasants demanded a fair redistribution of the land and enough land to feed their family and sell surpluses; after the March Revolution, many peasants had illegally seized land from the nobility using their weapons from the First World War – landlords' houses were burnt and many were murdered – the Provisional Government refused to support the actions of the peasants; grain seizures continued in order to feed troops; the Provisional Government wanted to leave the land issue to be solved within the framework of the law after Constituent Assembly elections were held, which would have to wait until after the end of the First World War; PG failed to control the peasants or please them over the issue of land and made the politicians look weak and uncaring; Lenin's April Theses promised Peace, Bread and Land which helped move some support to the Bolsheviks and more radical Social Revolutionaries, etc.

No

More important – Russia's continued involvement in the First World War – led to widespread mutiny (2 million by the summer of 1917), continued food and fuel shortages and worsening social and economic conditions (100 000 jobs lost in Petrograd since March); failed Kerensky Offensive in the summer of 1917 was a disaster; Petrograd Soviet effectively controlled the garrisons in Russia – Soviet Order No.1 – led to dual government in Russia and undermined the PG; role of Lenin and Bolsheviks; Kornilov Affair led to increase in support for Bolsheviks and control over Petrograd Soviet; role of Trotsky and seizure of power using Red Guard, etc.

6

How significant were the failures of the Provisional Government as a cause of the Bolshevik seizure of power in November 1917? Explain your answer.

YES

Provisional Government was made up of members of the Duma and were considered unrepresentative compared to the Petrograd Soviet; promised Constituent Assembly elections, but they were never held; Russia's involvement in the First World War continued and led to worsening conditions at home – food shortages, inflation; failure of Kerensky Summer Offensive led to increased Russian casualties; land issue was not solved and many peasants began seizing land from nobility; rising grain prices and unemployment brought resentment in the cities and increasing numbers of strikes; allow Kornilov Affair, etc.

NO

Petrograd Soviet more significant as it existed alongside the Provisional Government and had control over the army – Soviet Order No.1; it had the confidence of workers, sailors and soldiers and controlled communications; many socialists undermined the Provisional Government; First World War itself was the major cause – it led to the problems suffered in Russia at the time; Bolshevik agitation – Lenin's slogans of Peace, Bread, Land had widespread appeal as conditions worsened; Bolshevik victory after the Kornilov Affair; Trotsky switched to the Bolsheviks and was Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet; Military Revolutionary Committee controlled Red Guard which seized power under Trotsky's leadership and Lenin's decision making, etc.

5

How important were the July Days in the downfall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.

Yes

July Days saw Bolshevik Party protests against Provisional Government after Kerensky's decision to continue the war and launch a summer offensive; soldiers and sailors supported the Bolshevik-led uprising – joined by workers; riots broke out and government troops used to crush revolt; Lenin realised that a disorganised uprising would only lead to greater government repression; Kerensky introduced more hard-line approaches – e.g. death penalty reintroduced and many leading Bolsheviks were imprisoned which caused further opposition in the Soviets, etc.

No

July Days actually led to decline in support for Bolsheviks; Lenin fled to Finland; more important – Lenin's April Theses – promised 'Peace, Land and Bread' and 'All Power to the Soviets'; Lenin effective public speaker and intellectual; Bolsheviks committed revolutionaries; social and economic effects of war highlighted the Bolsheviks as the only anti-war party; Trotsky swapped from Mensheviks and organised Red Guard to plan November seizure of power; Kornilov Affair increased Bolshevik support, etc.

6

How significant were the actions of Kerensky in the downfall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer.

Yes

Kerensky continued the war on Eastern Front – unpopular with soldiers, sailors, and this helped increase Bolshevik support; he launched the June (Summer) Offensive – there were massive casualties and failure; he appointed conservative Kornilov as head of the army; he armed Bolsheviks during the Kornilov mutiny, etc.

No

More significant – the actions of Bolshevik agitation (July Days included); Lenin's April Theses; the role of Trotsky (Chair of Petrograd Soviet plus he organised the Red Guard); the land issue with peasants was not solved; Dual power with Petrograd Soviet; storming of the Winter Palace, etc.