

2017

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**How significant was the use of the NKVD to Stalin's system of control? Explain your answer.**

**YES** NKVD main tool of Stalin to purge all elements of Russian society, government, military and Party; sparked off by murder (possibly on Stalin's orders) of Kirov; NKVD detained 1.5 million victims – many sent to gulags; nearly 700 000 executed (possibly 2x or 3x higher according to some historians); Party were purged of officials in 1937; left-wing opponents like Trotsky murdered by NKVD agents; right-wing opponents like Bukharin arrested; 3/5 Red Army Marshals were arrested, 14/16 army commanders and 37 000 soldiers shot by NKVD – all admirals in navy removed; NKVD arrested and executed class enemies such as kulaks and Nepmen, etc.

**NO** NKVD themselves were purged 1938–39 (the purgers themselves were purged); former head of NKVD, Yagoda, shot in 1938; early stages of purges in 1932–35 expulsion from Party more common – 20% of Party expelled as undesirables; show trials used for old Bolsheviks – often filmed with confessions; other factors more important – use of gulags; cult of personality; propaganda and censorship; control of education system, arts and sciences; one-party system, etc.

6

**How important was communist ideology as a reason for the collectivisation of agriculture? Explain your answer.**

**YES** Socialisation of land and peasantry part of early Marxist-Leninist ideology (April Theses); NEP had created kulaks and Nepmen which were class enemies of Communist Party – dekulakisation; Stalin wished to spread socialism to the countryside as well as in urban areas to bring peasants in line with Communist policies; needed to proletarianise the peasants to wipe out petty-bourgeoisie and small-scale capitalism; central control of agricultural production – command economy could dictate production levels; kolkhoz and sovkhoz, etc.

**NO** Economic factors more important to Stalin – Stalin needed agricultural improvements to fuel industrial improvements; large amounts of grain could be produced and exported to pay for the imports of technology and expertise to feed the towns and growing population; collectivisation allowed Stalin to control peasantry more effectively through targets, propaganda and terror; it allowed for the use of new machinery and technology/methods of farming to be shared (tractors, fertilisers, etc.), etc.

5

**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.

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.

**5 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.

6

**How important was Lenin's death as a reason for Stalin's emergence as leader by 1928? Explain your answer.**

**Yes**

1922 Lenin wrote his last will and testament criticising Stalin and Trotsky – never published as it was feared it would hurt their chances for power in the Party; Stalin informed Trotsky about Lenin's funeral but told him the wrong day; Stalin presented himself as Lenin's natural successor at the funeral by publishing pictures of them together and as the leading mourner at the funeral, etc.

**No**

Trotsky viewed as arrogant by many Party members, whereas Stalin presented himself as humble with a peasant background as opposed to an intellectual; Trotsky failed to criticise Stalin publicly and underestimated Stalin; policy more important factor – Stalin's 'Socialism in one country' more appealing than Trotsky's permanent revolution theory; Stalin used the arguments between the left and right wing factions of the Bolshevik Party and took the centre ground which allowed him to denounce both sides; arguments over NEP; Stalin's position as General Secretary allowed him to appoint supporters in the Communist Party, etc.

5

**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.

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**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.

5

**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 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 significant were the social and economic effects of the war in allowing the Bolsheviks to increase their popularity? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

March Revolution had not led to an ending of the war for Russia, despite huge losses and economic hardship; Bolsheviks only party that directly opposed the war and the Provisional Government's policy of continued fighting; economic hardship continued in Russian cities due to the war; Lenin's popular slogan 'Peace, Bread, Land' promised an end to the war and drew support from workers and soldiers; Summer Offensive by Kerensky massive failure and sparked July Days revolts; Petrograd Soviet anti-war by October 1917 with Bolshevik control, etc.

**NO**

Provisional Government failed to deal with other pressing issues in Russia – poor living and working conditions in the cities; land issue in the countryside; dual power shared between Provisional Government and Soviets of workers and soldiers; Kornilov Coup led to surge in Bolshevik support as saviours of the Revolution; leadership of Lenin and later Trotsky; Bolshevik propaganda – 'pravda', etc.

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**How important was national security as a reason for Stalin's economic policies? Explain your answer.**

**YES**

Stalin saw threat from the capitalist west as very real since the Civil War and British, French and US involvement; heavy industry required for Soviet Army to modernise; Stalin saw rise of fascism in Europe as a threat to communism (Italy and Germany); economic power would mean Soviet power in the world to compete with dominant capitalist countries such as the USA; Stalin wanted to rely less on foreign specialists and investors, etc.

**NO**

Other factors more important – NEP viewed by many in the Communist Party as reactionary and counter-revolutionary; Marxist theory committed the USSR to creating an industrialised workers' state; Stalin wished to expose opponents to his 'socialism in one country' plans; removal of class enemies such as the Kulaks and Nepmen; central control of the economy had already been practised during the Civil War and War Communism, so not viewed as radical by many Communist Party members, etc.

5

**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.

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.