

2019

5

How important was Trotsky in bringing about Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War? Explain your answer.

YES Trotsky was a brilliant organiser; good orator to raise morale of troops; competent commander of Red Army; promoted soldiers based on their performance in combat; used his own armoured train and visited troops on the front line; made sure the Red Army was well supplied and well organised; Trotsky used ex-Tsarist officers to gain military experience for the new Red Army; instilling harsh discipline and punishments etc.

NO More important – role of Lenin – controlled the supplies that went to the Red Army; prioritised soldiers, then urban workforce to ensure victory; War Communism used as Bolshevik policy to organise economy and society for war; Cheka used to silence opposition; effective Bolshevik propaganda; Reds controlled urban areas in central Russia; Reds united whilst the White armies were divided, both geographically and ideologically; role of foreign nations helped promote sense of patriotism amongst Reds etc.

6

How significant were policies towards ethnic minorities as an aspect of Stalin? Explain your answer.

YES Stalin had been Commissar of Nationalities under Lenin; Stalin was Georgian and aware of the different nationalities that made up the Empire; Stalin discouraged different national identities as he saw it as a barrier to the development of the USSR; promoted Soviet nationalism and Socialism in One Country; used Russification to force a Soviet identity on all nationalities; Russian language became compulsory in all schools; 1.5 million ethnic minorities deported back to Asia – many removed from positions of power; some anti-Semitic measures were reintroduced etc.

NO More significant – economic modernisation; Five-Year Plans used to increase industrial production to catch up with the West, build up military for defence; collectivisation used to socialise the countryside; remove kulaks as a class; purges of the 1930s to remove political enemies of Stalin; propaganda and Cult of Personality etc.

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Autocracy was out of date; living and working conditions in towns and cities; the land issue for peasants; the role of the Tsarina and Rasputin; political opposition; calls for a Duma;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.

6 **How significant was Communist ideology as a reason for Stalin abandoning the New Economic Policy (NEP)? Explain your answer.**

Yes

Stalin wanted to remove Kulaks as a class; they were seen as capitalist, and it led to collectivisation; Nepmen were created by the NEP; the Five Year Plan would create a state command economy, etc.

No

The need for defence; economic modernisation of the Soviet Union; the need to increase production of primary industries; Stalin's control of the USSR; the need to catch up with the West; Stalin's reputation / legacy, etc.

- 5 **How important was Trotsky in Stalin's emergence as leader by 1928? Explain your answer.**

Yes

Trotsky failed to turn up to Lenin's funeral – so Stalin was seen as chief mourner; Stalin alienated him from the Party leadership; Trotsky was viewed as arrogant by many; permanent revolution was not popular with rightists; people were worried about his control of the Red Army; anti-Semitism, etc.

No

Stalin's political manoeuvrings between left and right; Lenin's death; Lenin's Testament; Socialism in one country was more popular; luck – Trotsky was recovering from a malaria-like illness at the time of Lenin's funeral; Stalin's use of his position as General Secretary to gain support at Party conferences and Congress, etc.

6 **How significant was industrialisation to the development of the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.**

Yes

The Five Year Plans were to build up infrastructure and catch up with the West within 10 years; primary and secondary industry were the focus of the first two Plans; they were needed for defence in any future war; a command economy using Gosplan was created, etc.

No

Collectivisation was more significant – socialism in the countryside; removal of the kulaks and Nepmen as a class; propaganda and cult of personality to develop a totalitarian state; control of education and the media, etc.

5

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.

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.

5

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.

6

How significant was defence as a reason for Stalin's economic policies, 1928–41? Explain your answer.

YES

Stalin saw threat of Germany and European fascism in 1930s; Soviet Union not ready for defence purposes; needed steel, oil and chemical production to increase massively; threat of capitalist West; Civil War saw US, France and British threats to USSR, etc.

NO

More significant – need for food production increase to pay for industrialisation; Stalin's personal accomplishment to establish dictatorship; dekulakisation; ending NEP; socialism in one country, etc.

5

How important was the Kornilov Affair as a reason for Bolshevik success in November 1917? Explain your answer.

YES

Kornilov was Commander-in-chief of Russian military, appointed by Kerensky; attempted to shut down Provisional Government and reestablish authoritarian rule; Kerensky forced to release Bolshevik leaders and arm Red Guards of Soviet; Bolsheviks seen as saviours of Revolution, etc.

NO

More important – Lenin's return in April 1917; April Theses – Peace, Bread, Land, All power to the Soviets; Trotsky's control of Petrograd Soviet in late 1917; use of PRC and Red Guard; support of Kronstadt sailors and Petrograd Garrison; continuation of war unpopular; food and fuel shortages; inflation; land issue, etc.

6 **How significant was control of the media in maintaining Stalin's dictatorship? Explain your answer.**

YES

Stalin controlled all media; censorship; Cult of Personality; street names and statues of Stalin created; photos doctored; fake history written, etc.

NO

More significant – use of purges in the 1930s; NVKD terror; use of gulags; show trials; removal of Old Bolsheviks; Five Year Plans; collectivisation; dekulakisation, 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.

6 **How significant was the New Economic Policy (NEP) in allowing Stalin to gain control of the USSR by 1928? Explain your answer.**

YES

NEP was used by Stalin to play enemies from left and right against each other; unpopular with left who saw it as a betrayal of socialism; many communists saw it as too capitalistic and allowed growth in middle-class Nepmen; Socialism in One Country, etc.

NO

More significant – Trotsky's arrogance; luck; Lenin's death and funeral; Last Testament; political manoeuvrings; Stalin's position as General Secretary, etc.