

2021

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important was Stolypin in bringing about stability in Russia after the 1905 Revolution? Explain your answer. [40]
- 6** How significant was the Kronstadt Rising in ensuring the continuance of Bolshevik rule after 1921? Explain your answer. [40]

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.

6

How important was the Kronstadt Rising in ensuring the continuance of Bolshevik rule after 1921? Explain your answer.

YES – 1921 Kronstadt sailors revolted and demanded greater democracy and representation; opposed continuation of policy of War Communism during the Civil War; lasted nearly 3 weeks until it was suppressed by Red Army; showed Lenin something needed to change and forced him to take a more reformist and realistic approach; Lenin initiated the NEP in 1921 to regain support of peasantry and workers and increase levels of production; helped end harshness of War Communism and grain requisitioning and maintain Bolshevik control etc.

NO – Rebellion was easily crushed by Red Army led by Trotsky; Kronstadt leaders executed; more significant – victory in Civil War – Trotsky and his leadership of the Red Army; Lenin and effective Bolshevik propaganda; White atrocities; War Communism and Red Terror by Cheka and requisitioning squads; Lenin's decrees on labour, workers, land, war etc. in 1917; NEP etc.

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important was Lenin in causing the downfall of the Provisional Government? Explain your answer. [40]
- 6** How significant were the Five-Year Plans in changing life in the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer. [40]

5

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.

6

How significant were the Five-Year Plans in changing life in the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.

YES – First Five Year Plan focused on heavy industrial production to catch up with West; led to doubling of output in some areas and further electrification; led to a massive decrease in unemployment and increased employment opportunities for women; factory propaganda; factory discipline was harsh; incentives for workers; managers given targets that were sometimes unrealistic; sabotage accusations for non-compliant workers and managers; crèches and kindergartens installed in some factories for childcare; Second Five Year Plan increased heavy and light industrial production and Third Five Year Plan focused on consumer goods and agricultural machinery – tractors were sent to collective farms to improve yields; Stakhanovite movement; better salaries, housing and healthcare for those that exceeded targets; slave labour from gulags; turned USSR into second largest industrialised nation; increased munitions in preparation for war with West/Germany, etc.

NO – More significant – Collectivisation (though this could be mentioned as an aspect of First Five Year Plan in YES factor); forced collective farms and state farms – 90% collectivised by end of 1930s; increased yields and an end to food shortages in cities; initial collectivisation led to riots and uprisings in the countryside; NKVD used to arrest and execute counter-revolutionaries; socialism forced on rural areas – liquidation of kulaks as class enemy; propaganda and censorship; Marxist indoctrination of young people in Young Pioneers and schools; art and culture – socialist realism; suppression of religion and ethnic minorities; Russification; Cult of Personality of Lenin and Stalin, etc.

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important was agriculture as a cause of Russia's problems by March 1917? Explain your answer. [40]
- 6** How significant was War Communism in the consolidation of Bolshevik rule to 1924? Explain your answer. [40]

5

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.

6

How significant was War Communism in the consolidation of Bolshevik rule to 1924? Explain your answer.

YES – War Communism nationalised all industries and the banks; put under direct control of Bolshevik government; state planning of production under GOSPLAN; Vesenkha used to coordinate and requisition grain from countryside; allowed for Red Terror – Grain Requisition Squads and executions of counterrevolutionaries; strict discipline in factories and strikers could be shot; food rationing; free enterprise made illegal; allowed government to support Red Army and win Civil War, etc.

NO – War Communism led to terrible famine, harsh social policies; one reason for Kronstadt Rebellion; more significant – Bolshevik victory in Russian Civil War; Lenin's Decrees on peace, land, women and workers delivered some Bolshevik promises; use of Cheka; creation of Sovnarkom and shutting down of Constituent Assembly after one day; Bolshevik politburo effectively leading committee in Russia – chaired by Lenin; one-party dictatorship established by Lenin; Decree against forming of factions in the Communist Party; NEP, etc.

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important was Russia's autocratic political system as a reason for the regime's collapse by March 1917? Explain your answer. [40]
- 6** How significant were Stalin's Purges in the creation of a totalitarian state in the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer. [40]

5

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.

6

How significant were Stalin's Purges in the creation of a totalitarian state in the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.

YES – Purges launched in 1934 after murder of Kirov; allowed Stalin to remove opposition and potential threats at all levels of Soviet society and politics; purge of Old Bolsheviks such as Kamenev and Zinoviev; purge of lower party elements – 500 000 arrested and either executed or sent to gulags; purge of Soviet army – 25 000 officers removed; rest of society purged by NKVD who had lists drawn up by Stalin – estimated 18 million sent to labour camps and 10 million died; helped create a dictatorship and one-party rule, etc.

NO – More significant – use of NKVD as secret police; terror to keep obedience; torture and execution without trial; propaganda promoted Stalin worship and cult of personality; censorship; indoctrination of workers, soldiers, sailors and youth (Young Pioneers); school curriculum taught Stalin worship, cult of Lenin and Marxism-Leninism; 5 Year Plans increased Stalin's control over industry and the workforce – non-compliant workers accused of sabotage; collectivisation brought countryside under state control – dekulakisation and forced famine in 1932-33 – Stalin removed potential conservative opposition from peasantry; Russification and treatment of ethnic minorities; control of art and culture – socialist realism; repression of religion, etc.

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important was the 1905 Revolution in weakening the Tsarist system of government to 1914? Explain your answer. [40]

- 6** How significant were policies towards women amongst the social changes in Stalin's Russia after 1928? Explain your answer. [40]

5 **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.

6

How significant were policies towards women amongst the social changes in Stalin's Russia after 1928? Explain your answer.

YES – Women were given equal opportunities in education, employment and access to the Communist Party; many women occupied junior positions in the Communist Party and wielded some political power; by 1935 – 42% of industrial workers were women; hugely important to the success of the Second and Third Five Year Plans and militarisation increased; many women trained as skilled workers and gained management positions in industry and in collective farms – driving and repairing tractors, setting targets; creches and kindergartens allowed women to work; divorce made easier at first and abortion on demand; divorced fathers had to pay maintenance for their children etc.

NO – Women had many rights removed later in Stalin's rule; 1936 Family Law made divorce more difficult; women still kept many traditional roles, especially in the countryside and often had lower pay than men; women did not occupy senior positions in the Communist Party or government; more significant – Stalin's policies towards religion – only one in forty churches still held services due to atheism as official policy; persecution of other religions such as Islam and Judaism – only 1300 mosques in USSR by 1939; music and arts heavily monitored and censored – socialist realism in art and sculpture; education controlled by state and youth groups indoctrinated by Marxism – Young Pioneers; homosexuality made illegal; new nomenklatura became elite in Soviet society; managers and supervisors got access to better housing and other benefits; nationalities forced to 'Russify'; allow collectivisation and dekulakisation – led to famine etc.

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important were social and economic problems in Russia in the collapse of Tsarist rule by March 1917? Explain your answer. [40]
- 6** How significant was collectivisation in Stalin's rule over the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer. [40]

5

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.

6 **How significant was collectivisation in Stalin's rule over the Soviet Union after 1928? Explain your answer.**

YES – Collectivisation of agriculture introduced as part of first Five Year Plan; the aim was to bring socialism to the countryside; Stalin wanted to eradicate private farming and update methods on Kolkhoz and Sovkhoz; dekulakisation; need to feed growing towns for Five Year Plan; feeding the Red Army during war; selling grain overseas to fund Five Year Plan technologies and expertise etc.

NO – More significant – industrial development - 3 Five Year Plans that focused on heavy industry, then chemicals and secondary industries and finally mechanisation of agriculture, consumer goods and war supplies/munitions; creation of cult of personality – statues, street names, city names (Leningrad and Stalingrad), propaganda and censorship to promote Stalin worship; removal of opposition – Great Purge after murder of Kirov in 1934 – show trials, use of NKVD and gulags; removed his opposition from Communist Party (old Bolsheviks), Red Army and general population and finished with a purge of the NKVD; Russification and treatment of ethnic minorities; role of women; youth – Young Pioneers and indoctrination at schools; nomenklatura were new Party elite; repression of religion, art and culture – socialist realism etc.

DEPTH STUDY C: RUSSIA, 1905–41

- 5** How important was the Petrograd Soviet in weakening the Provisional Government between March and November 1917? Explain your answer. [40]
- 6** How significant was the desire to increase production as a reason for Lenin's introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921? Explain your answer. [40]

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.

6

How significant was the desire to increase production as a reason for Lenin's introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921? Explain your answer.

YES – Civil War had led to huge number of casualties, poor living and working conditions, famine in rural areas, food and fuel shortages, and bartering as currency collapsed; War Communism and led to grain requisitioning and Red Terror led to use of Cheka; by 1918 wages had fallen to one-quarter that of 1913; total 8 million died in the Civil War including 800 000 soldiers etc.

NO – More significant – Kronstadt Uprising forced Lenin to rethink War Communism; Red Army needed to stop rebels; Lenin needed to regain support of the peasants and workers by improving economic conditions; electrification was required to help improve social conditions and lay foundations for industrialisation; currency needed stabilising; production needed to increase; foreign trade was required so economic improvements were needed; pace of socialist revolution needed to be slowed and become a more gradual change; production levels needed to return to help build military in the future to protect Russia from foreign invasion, etc.