Russia
1900—1918
Why Was There A Revolution In Russia In 1905?

Discover: the reasons for the 1905 revolution
Explore: the role of Father Gapon
Skill: source investigation and evaluation.

Tsar Nicholas II had a weak personality and a bad habit of not listening to his people - as demonstrated in 1905 when he ordered his Cossacks to open fire on a peaceful demonstration. The events that occurred afterwards in response to the attack became known as the 1905 Revolution.

BBC Bite size History.

(1) An 8-hour day and freedom to organize trade unions. (2) Improved working conditions, free medical aid, higher wages for women workers. (3) Elections to be held for a constituent assembly by universal, equal and secret suffrage. (4) Freedom of speech, press, association and religion. (5) An end to the war with Japan.

Demands made by Father Gapon and the Assembly of Russian Workers.

Gapon is a remarkable character. He seems to have believed in the possibility of reconciling the true interests of the workers with the authorities' good intentions. It was he who organized the petition of the Tsar which ended with the massacre of 22 January, 1905. The petition drafted by Gapon and signed by tens of thousands of proletarians, (workers) was a daring set of demands. It asked for an eight-hour day, recognition of workers' rights and a Constitution. The petitioners, carrying icons and singing hymns, set off marching through the snow, late on a January morning, to see their "little father, the Tsar". At every cross-road armed ambushes were waiting for them. The soldiers machine-gunned them down and the Cossacks charged them. "Treat them like rebels" had been the Emperor's command. The outcome of the day was several hundred dead and as many wounded. This stupid and criminal repression detonated the first Russian revolution. Victor Serge, Year One of the Russian Revolution (1930)

In June, 1905, sailors on the Potemkin battleship, protested against the serving of rotten meat. The captain ordered that the ringleaders to be shot. The firing-squad refused to carry out the order and joined with the rest of the crew in throwing the officers overboard. The Potemkin Mutiny spread to other units in the army and navy. Now industrial workers all over Russia went on strike and in October, 1905, the action of railwaymen paralyzed the whole Russian railway network.

Spartacus Education.

The Japanese victories over Russia was very unexpected. This would transform the balance of power in East Asia, with Japan entering onto the world stage. The embarrassing string of defeats and loss of the Russian fleet inflamed the Russian people's dissatisfaction with their inefficient and corrupt Tsarist government, and proved a major cause of the Russian Revolution of 1905.

Princeton.edu.

The present ruler has lost absolutely the affection of the Russian people, and whatever the future may have in store for the dynasty, the present tsar will never again be safe in the midst of his people.

American Consul in Russia, 1905.
The Russian Revolutions, 1905-1917

Tsar Nicholas II + Family – The Romanov dynasty ruled Russia since 1613

Nicholas was unpopular and Russians wanted reform. He thought a war with Japan would boost his popularity. Most expected Russia to win this war easily. Left: Japan’s soldiers wait to fire on their enemy.

After the crushing of the revolution, tsar Nicholas promised to grant a number of concession to the Russian people in the October Manifesto. One of the promises was sharing some of his power with the Duma—below are the members of the new duma or Russian parliament.

Left: Japan’s soldiers wait to fire on their enemy.

By 1914 Russia was at war again, this time fighting the Germans. Again the war went badly with the Russians losing millions of men. Nicholas decided he would go to the front and help command the army.

The Mad Monk

With Nicholas away directing the war effort, Rasputin gained even more influence over the tsarina. His behaviour and low status angered many Russians.

But, Nicholas broke his promises. He ignored the Duma, closing it in 1907. He also arrested ‘troublemakers’ such as Leon Trotsky above.

Stopped in his tracks

Tsar Nicholas tries to return to St Petersburg but his train is stopped, he is arrested and forced to abdicate. (Quit)

The Russian people increasingly turned toward Vladimir Lenin. The leader of the Communist Bolshevik party. His slogan of ‘Peace, land, and bread’ and ‘All Power to the Soviets’ helped inspire the October Revolution of 1917.

Soilkov,放心，没事的。
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The Russo Japanese War

The October Manifesto

February Revolution

Execution

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Investigation: Why was Nicholas II removed from power?

October Revolution

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