The 1905 Russian Revolution - causes









Know - causes of the 1905 revolution = long (LT) short (ST) + political ○ social ○ economic ○ factors

Poor Harvests / Unemployment 1887 - 1901



LT ST

Poor harvests + general economic slump led to a rise in unemployment and industrial unrest. Burden of redemption payments on peasants.

International Monetary Crisis 1899 +



LT ST

It became harder for Russia to negotiate foreign loans / capital as it had done previously.

Annual growth rates fell from 8% before to just 1% after 1899.



Urban Workers / Strikes 1894 - 1905





LT ST

Although made illegal there were increasing 'stoppages'. 17000 in 1894 to 90000 in 1904.

Marxists such as Lenin helped instigate - e.g. Textile workers strikes in St. Petersburg in 1896.

Actions of Plehve 1903

Plehve = Minister of Internal Affairs - to appease the workers and channel the general discontent - allowed for the creation of 'official' unions.

Importantly, this only allowed for more open and active official







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Father Georgi Gapon 1904

Gapon organised an official union - Assembly of St Petersburg Factory Workers.





LT ST

Soon had 12 branches and 8000 members. Activities would be ventral to the wider crisis.

Years of the Red Cockerel



LT ST

Unrest among the peasants = increasing attacks of landlords 'property. Sometimes included military reservists - more literate = attracted to propaganda revolutionary. Widespread unrests especially in central provinces.

Social Revolutionaries - SRs

1900 +

Zemstva + Town Dumas 1903 - 1904





Nicholas had increasingly relied on local officials and the army to control rural areas. However, voices of authority increasingly chose to side with the peasants with whom they were closer and more accountable to.

Union of Liberation 1904 - petition

Made up of intelligentsia, Duma and Zemstva officials. Wanted autocracy replaced with a constitutional monarchy. Organised 50 revolutionary banquets.

Petitioned Nicholas.



"I will never agree to a representative form of government." Tsar Nicholas II.

Social Democrats - SDs 1900 +



Increased in power after 1900.

They appealed to the workers

and encouraged strikes and con-

frontations - argued = the

answer to Russia's problems was

a Marxist revolution.

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They appealed to the peasants desire for more land - Organised the All Russian Peasants Union another cause of peasant unrest. Assassinated prominent figures including tsar's uncle - Grand Duke Sergei in 1905.

Factory Worker Strikes 1904 +



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By 1904 - situation increasingly volatile. St Petersburg = Putilov Metal Works strike spread - 111 000 factory workers on streets within a month - protesting over pay and conditions.

Father Gapon's Petition January 1905



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Gapon decided to defy a ban on demonstrations and organised a peaceful march on the Winter Palace, St Petersburg.

Bloody Sunday 9th January 1905

Police and the Cossacks - were on edge and fired on the protesters at several points killing and wounding hundreds. Nicholas was indecisive and agreed to meet a delegation of workers ten days later. 3 weeks

later his uncle was ... 'blown to bits'.

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Creation of Soviets May 1905

Elected strike

LT ST

committee of worker councils (soviets) close to Moscow - then copied. St Petersburg soviet, led by Leon Trotsky = flagship.

By autumn, 2.5 million workers on strike - teachers, students, peasants, minorities used this moment to organise + protest.

Russo - Japan War 1904 - 1905



ST Defeat was a 'gross national humiliation'. Treaty of

Portsmouth in August, 1905 = total withdrawal from Manchuria. Highlighted the incompetence of government. The war meant that many of the best soldiers were abroad and unable to deal with unrest at home.



Escalating strikes to revolution! Summer - October, 1905

Strikes + unrest reached a peak by autumn. Spread to naval mutinies - Vladivostok + Battleship Potemkin over maggot infested meat. Nicholas agreed to set up

a National Assembly.

Urged by Witte, **Nicholas**

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issued his October Manifesto.



The Causes of the 1905 Russian Revolution



Long-Term Causes - Years =	
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Tipping Point - the point in time when there's no turning back + the transition from long to short term.	
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Short - Term Causes - Years =	0
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The Trigger + Basic Details of the Revolution - 1905	
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