

Worksheet 1 – Russia in 1900

Recall

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. What was the largest state in the world at the beginning of the 20th century?
 - a) Germany
 - b) Russia
 - c) France
 - d) Britain
2. How many languages were spoken in the Russian Empire in 1900?
 - a) more than 100
 - b) less than 50
 - c) less than 100
 - d) more than 300
3. Who was the Tsar of Russia from 1894-1917?
 - a) Alexander III
 - b) Alexander II
 - c) Nicholas I
 - d) Nicholas II
4. What percentage of Russia's population were agrarian?
 - a) 80%
 - b) 50%
 - c) 20%
 - d) 60%
5. What year was the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party founded?
 - a) 1905
 - b) 1898
 - c) 1894
 - d) 1900

Analysis

6. In the lecture [3:05-3:45], Professor Waldron explains that Russia needed to develop its economy at the beginning of the 20th century. **Why was it so important for Russia to develop its economy in 1900? Include at least three reasons.**
7. Professor Waldron gives two consequences of Russia undergoing an Industrial Revolution [6:31-6:59]:
 - a) **What are the two consequences?**
 - b) **Who do you think these two consequences would impact the most?**
 - c) **Why do you think this?**

Evaluation

8. *'The main challenge to the Tsarist Regime in 1900 was the growth of the working class due to urbanisation.'* To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Success Criteria (Have you included the following?)

- Introduction which links to the statement and gives an **overview** of your answer including your judgement.
- Body paragraph 1 which gives evidence **for** the statement.
- Body paragraph 2 which gives evidence **against** the statement.

-Conclusion which links to the statement and **summarises** your evidence and overall judgement.

Challenge: Read the source below. Using evidence from the lecture, your previous answer and your own knowledge, how **useful** is the **content** of this source for someone who is studying the challenges faced by the Tsarist regime in 1900?

Nicholas's upbringing and education made him suspicious of change. It was no surprise that he continued the repressive policies he had inherited. This further angered the intelligentsia and the critics of the tsarist regime; they began to prepare to challenge tsardom. [pg. 14 from Lynch, M. 2015, *Reaction and Revolution: Russia 1894-1924*, (4th ed.), Hodder Education, Glasgow.]

Glossary

- **Autocracy** – A system of government where there is one ruler who has ultimate and absolute power over a country
e.g. The Tsarist regime in Russia has been an autocracy for over 300 years.
- **Tsar (Czar)** – King/Emperor of Russia, from the Latin word Caesar.
e.g. Tsar Nicholas II ruled the Russian Empire from 1894-1917.
- **Agrarian**– A society or community where the economic wealth is based on the production of crops and utilisation of farmland.
e.g. The majority of the Russian population in 1900 was Agrarian.
- **Urbanisation**- This references the population moving from rural areas to towns and cities.
e.g. The early 20th century saw increased urbanisation with people flocking to Moscow and St. Petersburg.
- **Conservative**- Being against change and holding socially and politically traditional values.
e.g. The Tsar had conservative beliefs and did not wish for Russia to become too progressive.
- **Clandestine**- Something that is done in a secret or private way
e.g. Political groups held clandestine meetings to discuss their views.
- **Revolution**- A sudden change in political power or government where the population, or groups within it, overthrow the current regime.
e.g. The February Revolution (1917) led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and a Provisional Government being instated.