

A Level History – Summer Independent Learning

During the 2 year History course you will study 2 units and complete 1 piece of coursework. The units will focus on:

- Unit 1 – The Tudors 1485-1603 – breadth Study
- Unit 2 – Russia: Revolution and Dictatorship 1917-53 – depth study
- Coursework – Change over 100 year period

Unit 1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603 (40%)

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
- In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
- How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
- How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

L.P. Hartley said:

“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.”

You are going to travel to that country. Henry VII won the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. This is considered by historians to be the end of the medieval era and the start of the Tudor and ‘Early Modern’ era of history. Obviously it wasn’t late medieval 31st Dec 1484 and then suddenly fully fledged Tudor 1st Jan 1485, what we consider to be Tudor customs, art, architecture and beliefs developed between 1485 and 1603 when Elizabeth I died.

It is a society which has rigid boundaries – everyone believes G-d has placed them in a level within the social hierarchy or ‘Great chain of being’ as it was known and it was considered undesirable for people to move above that their social station in life. Everyone believes as absolutely as they know the sun will come up every morning, that G-d angels, the devil and demons exist and interact on earth. Superstitious belief supersedes scientific ideas and everyone knows they will be going to heaven or hell via purgatory when they die.

Religion is the absolute centre of everyone’s lives and 90% of all people live a subsistence agricultural lifestyle. There are about 200 families in the ‘nobility’ and the population of London is approximately 50,000 (it is around 11 million today) in 1485.

If you want a job – you need a recommendation – generally a letter from the wealthiest and most powerful person you know. The king dispenses patronage – jobs / money / lands / offices to his most powerful nobles and gets loyalty and taxes in return, and that patronage / those jobs are in turn handed out by their nobles to lesser nobility / gentry and so on - there is no Guardian job vacancies section.

TASKS TO ENHANCE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TUDORS

Task 1: Make notes



The Wars of the Roses - England before the Tudors: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546sp>

The Black Death: (which shapes society as it stands at the start of Henry VII's reign:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00bcqt8>

Task 2: Create a spider diagram entitled “Henry VII’s life and conquest of England.”



a) This is an overview of Henry VII's life and conquest of England

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiAVIT8pJrcAhVlbRQKHdpPAWEQyCkIMDAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D-5FsriGn300&usg=AOvVaw3EE1DjBTBf-YYbyMO_v_y4

b) Listen to and make notes on:

Humanism: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547bk>



c) Watch

a) Henry VII in 10 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TlrgZ6taD4>



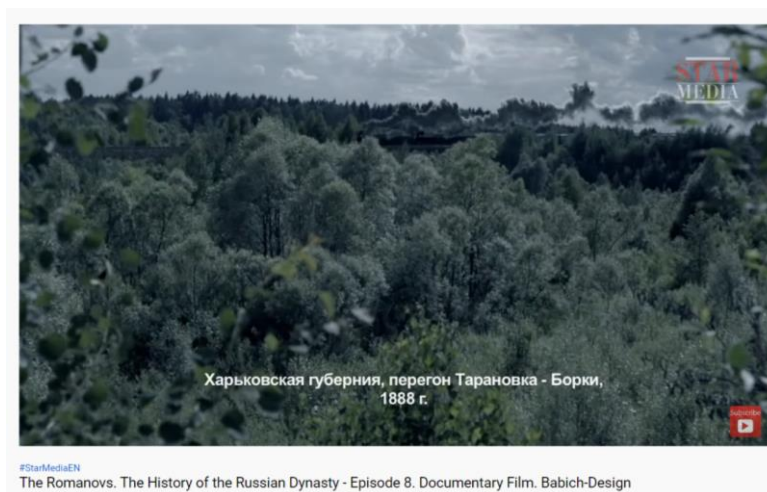
Unit 2N Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-53 (40%)

This research will provide you with valuable knowledge about Russia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries which will allow you to confidently pick up the course for paper 2 in September.

- Russia at the turn of the 20th century and leading up to the 1905 Revolution

Task 1 – watch the documentary below and make notes:

“The Romanovs: The History of the Russian Dynasty - Episode 8. Documentary Film.”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSlVgtwAcRA&list=PLwGzY25TNHPBfaoOR3pXw3VyBvmXljeio&index=8>

Task 2:

Your second task is to create a fact file on some of the key figures in the revolutionary period. You should include a picture, a brief background but focus on their views and actions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries:4

- Tsar Nicholas II
- Tsarina Alexandra
- Pytor Stolypin
- Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin)
- Julius Martov

Task 3: Research Russia's final Tsar (king) Nicholas II. What were his weaknesses and how did this eventually lead to revolution in Russia in February 1917? Create a *detailed mind map* to demonstrate this.

Use the following websites and videos to assist you in your research:

Biographical information on Nicholas II

<https://www.bl.uk/people/nicholas-ii-of-russia>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/nicholas_ii.shtml

http://www.orlandofiges.info/section1_OriginsoftheRussianRevolution/WasNicholasIIFitToRule.php

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nicholas-II-tsar-of-Russia>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_II_of_Russia

<https://learnodo-newtonic.com/nicholas-ii-facts>

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpWyFch-1tE> – The Last of the Tsars pt.1

Task 4:

In September, we will pick up the course at the start of 1917, a year in which there were two revolutions in Russia. However, 12 years earlier, there was a revolution in Russia in 1905.

In order to be able to understand the problems Russia was facing in 1917, it's important to understand the long-term causes, many of which had caused the 1905 Revolution. Although the Tsar survived this revolution, many of the problems which caused it remained and resurfaced again in 1917.

Using the essay writing guidance below, produce an answer between 500 and 750 words long for the following question: 'The Tsar was responsible for the 1905 Revolution.' How far do you agree with this statement?

You may wish to consider the following headings for your research:

- Lack of reform
- Social unrest
- Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05
- Bloody Sunday

History of Russia - Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QH9WWxLPNQ&list=PLUOc2qodFHp80tLm7W2rT0zXyMaXikeWS&index=3> – History of Russia, 1700 - 1880

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQVjH4xFrdI&list=PLUOc2qodFHp80tLm7W2rT0zXyMaXikeWS&index=6&t=0s> – History of Russia, 1881 – 1917.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSlVgtwAcRA&list=PLwGzY25TNHPBfaoOR3pXw3VyBvmXljeio&index=8> – The Romanovs. The History of the Russian Dynasty - Episode 8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXHybEb4b_o&has_verified=1 – The Russian Revolution (Full documentary) – first 25 minutes.

Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwvx34j/revision/1>

<https://spartacus-educational.com/RUS1905.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Russia_\(1892%E2%80%931917\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Russia_(1892%E2%80%931917))

http://www.orlandofiges.info/section1_OriginsoftheRussianRevolution/TheWeaknessofSociety.php

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution-of-1905>

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/russia-1900-to-1939/the-1905-russian-revolution/>

Task 5:

You will then need to collect **detailed** notes assessing the question “What was Russia like at the beginning of the 20th century?” The best way to approach this question is to complete a table like the one below: (**approx 2 sides**)

What was Russia like Socially?	What was Russia like Politically?	What was Russia like Economically?

Hints and Tips:

Social - What kind of country was Russia? Who lived there? Think about ethnic groups and how they were treated. Which social groups had the most power in Russia? How did most people live?

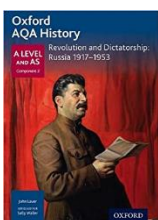
Political – What kind of political system did Russia have? What specific examples have you found to show whether it was working? What key events had occurred before the start of the war in 1914?

Economic – How had the Russian economy developed? What progress was being made? What problems were occurring in relation to the economy? Ensure to use statistics and specific examples.

Use these following websites and resources to help you:

- Information attached below (extract from AQA book) *
- <https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/russian-society/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/Russia/Russia-from-1801-to-1917>
- <http://countrystudies.us/russia/6.htm>
- <https://classroom.synonym.com/russian-class-levels-19th-century-23526.html>
- <https://quizlet.com/77453356/why-was-russia-economically-and-socially-backward-in-the-nineteenth-century-flash-cards/>

*We would strongly advise you to buy this text.



Task 6:

Create a **Glossary** with the following key terms/phrases that you will soon become familiar with:

Autocracy

Divine Right

Orthodox Church

Constitutional Monarchy:

Okhrana:

Socialist:

Tsar:

State Duma:

Inflation:

Task 7:

Finally, give the Russian Empire a ranking between 1 (low) and 10 (high) for how stable you think it was and explain WHY (think about your 3 key areas researched). What event do you think will make all of Russia's problems worse in 1914?

Remember all future History A-Level students must complete this work to demonstrate your suitability for A-Level and to prepare you for the topics covered in Paper 1.

Introduction



Fig. 1 Russia was considered backwards in the early twentieth century

The nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had seen huge industrial and political advances in Western Europe. The development of new forms of energy, the spread of railways and the expansion of trade together with advances in medicine and improvements in public health had helped raise living standards for an increasing proportion of the population. Alongside such change, social and political advances had occurred. Standards of literacy had increased, the old social hierarchies had broken down and an increasing number of people had gained the right to vote for a law-making assembly.

Russia, although considered a 'great' power because of its size and structured society, had trailed behind in every one of these developments. Serfdom, whereby the peasants at the bottom of the social hierarchy were 'owned' by their landlords, had disappeared from Western and Central Europe after a spate of revolutions in 1848; but it was not until 1861 that serfs finally acquired their freedom in Russia. Even after this their civil rights and status in society were very much determined by their position as 'former serfs', and this continued right up until 1917.

There are good reasons for Russia's backwardness. Russia was a vast empire of roughly 8 million square miles, twice the size of Europe and a sixth of the globe's surface. It had been acquired through military conquest and colonisation, much of it in the nineteenth century. However, large swathes of this Russian territory were inhospitable (over two thirds lay to the north of the 50th parallel), comprising tundra, forests and vast barren areas especially to the north and east. Consequently, both size and climate placed severe strains on economic development. Furthermore, within this vast land mass lived many different ethnic groups, each with its own culture, customs, language and, in some cases, religion. Of the total population of just under 185 million people, less than half was Russian by 1917, and around three quarters of the total population lived within European Russia - to the west of the Urals.

Nevertheless, although it was still a predominantly agricultural country, the rate of industrialisation in Russia since the 1890s had been rapid, with an annual industrial growth rate of more than 8 per cent a year between 1894 and

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1904, and again, after a European trade recession, between 1908 and 1913. By 1917, Russia was the world's fifth largest industrial power (after Britain, USA, Germany and France) with c25,000 factories employing c3 million workers. There was strong growth in coal, pig iron and oil and some cities, particularly around Moscow and St Petersburg and in the 'Baku' area by the Caspian Sea, grew phenomenally. The Empire's urban population quadrupled from 7 to 28 million between 1867 and 1917. St Petersburg, which already comprised just over a million inhabitants in 1900, grew to 2.4 million by 1916. Communications, including the roads and railways, were also much improved, although the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 revealed continuing transport deficiencies.

The countryside also saw changes, particularly after 1905 when the peasants were given more opportunities to leave the *mir*s (or communes) in which they farmed and schemes were launched to encourage them to buy their own land and develop larger farming units. This was an ambitious project which was cut short by the coming of war in 1914. By 1915, hereditary peasant ownership of land had increased from 20 per cent in 1905 to nearly 50 per cent, while 3.5 million peasants had been encouraged to move away from the overpopulated rural districts of the south and west to Siberia, which consequently grew as a major agricultural region. Nevertheless, the changes to land tenure arrangements were slow and by 1914 there were still only around 10 per cent of peasant holdings that had moved beyond the traditional and inefficient strip-farming.

Such industrial and agricultural change also came at a social cost. It brought a growing and frustrated middle class, whose economic gains were not matched by equal political advancement, and an urban working class which suffered harsh conditions – with long hours, low pay and limited machinery to lighten their physical labour. Factories and mines were all too often unsafe, while living quarters were cramped and dirty, with factory barracks and lodgings shared between families. Although some efforts were made in the years before the war to improve conditions by introducing insurance schemes for those who fell ill or who were injured by machinery, the workers' lot was grim. While trade unions were allowed after 1905, strikes were theoretically forbidden, although they occurred nonetheless. When the goldminers working on the Lena River in Siberia went on strike in 1912, the government used troops to fire on the workers, killing 200 of them. There were over 2000 strikes in 1913 and although they fell back with the outbreak of war, by 1917 their number had increased again.

There was also unease in the countryside as the reforms there produced a growing class of alienated, poor and landless peasants. While some peasants rose in rank and became '*kulaks*' (small peasant proprietors with sufficient wealth to employ others to help work their farms), for every family that improved its status, another 'sold out', descended into deeper hardship and joined the wandering bands of those who drifted to the towns in search of work. Until 1916, Russia had no form of income tax, so the burden of taxation had fallen on the peasantry producing periodic riots.

Politically, any change had been slow in coming. Until 1905, Russia had remained the only country in Europe (except Turkey and Montenegro) without a parliament. Even in 1917, the Empire was, in essence, an **autocracy** headed by a tsar who still regarded himself as possessing **divine right** to rule. The Tsar was also the titular head of the Russian **Orthodox Church**. The land of Russia was his private property and the Russian people his children. The structures of Church and State were thus entwined, as archbishops and bishops at the head of the church hierarchy were subject to tsarist control over appointments, religious education, most of the Church's finances and issues of administration.

KEY TERM

autocracy: rule by one person who had no limits to his power (as opposed to democracy, which means 'rule by the people')

divine right: this refers to a monarch appointed by God and answerable to God alone for actions

Orthodox Church: the Eastern Orthodox Church, with Moscow as its spiritual capital; it had its own beliefs and rituals, following a split in the Christian Church in the eleventh century

Introduction

KEY TERM

bureaucracy: the state's administrative officials

Okhrana: the secret police force of the Russian Empire; its name comes from the initial letters (in Russian) of its full title – the Department for Protecting Public Security and Order

A CLOSER LOOK

The 1905 revolution

In 1904 Russia went to war with Japan as the result of imperial rivalry in the Far East. Russia's catastrophic defeat sparked the 1905 revolution. The revolution was not a coordinated attack on the regime but a series of dramatic events that took place over several months. They included 'Bloody Sunday' in January, which saw the massacre of workers peacefully marching to the Tsar's Winter Palace in the capital, plus innumerable strikes and mutinies. In several cities, including the capital, workers set up elected 'soviets' (the Russian word for council) and tried to assume control.

KEY TERM

zemstva: elected councils responsible for the local administration of provincial districts

socialist: supporting a political and economic theory of social organisation which believes that the means of production (e.g. factories), distribution (e.g. railways), and exchange (e.g. what buys what), should be controlled by the whole community

constitutional monarchy: a form of democratic government in which a monarch acts as the head of state within the boundaries of a constitution giving real power to a representative assembly

The Tsar ruled through imperial edicts, or *ukase*, and was advised by ministers, who were chosen by the Tsar himself and unable to act without his approval. He also depended on the provincial nobility and imperial **bureaucracy** (a highly stratified and conservative group, riddled with internal corruption and incompetence) and the world's largest army (which consisted of 6 million in 1914 and rose to a force of 12 million during the First World War). To maintain the autocracy, Russia had developed into a police state with curbs on freedom of speech, of the press and of travel. Censorship existed at every level of government and was carried out by the State and the Church as well as by the police. A strict surveillance was maintained over the population, ensuring that any subversive activities were exposed. Political meetings were forbidden and the **Okhrana** had unlimited powers to carry out raids, arrest and ensure the imprisonment or exile of anyone suspected of anti-tsarist behaviour, sometimes merely on the word of an informer.

This autocratic system of government had not been without critics. These ranged from the moderate 'liberals' (many drawn from the professional middle classes) who had gained some influence over local government since 1864 when the **zemstva** were created (as were elected town councils or *dumas* from 1870), to more extreme **socialists**, many influenced by Marxism. In 1905, the disparate **opposition groups** had combined to pressurise the tsarist autocracy in the wake of defeat in war with Japan. Riots and strikes caused an almost total breakdown of control, forcing the Tsar to concede his 'October Manifesto'. This promised an elected representative assembly or State Duma, appeasing the more moderate Kadets (in favour of a **constitutional monarchy**) and Octobrists (who saw the manifesto as the first step towards responsible government). However, in April 1906, before the First Duma met in May, the Tsar issued the 'Fundamental Laws', reaffirming his autocracy. He made it clear that the State Duma had no control over state ministers or parts of the state budget. Furthermore, the Tsar's power to dissolve the Duma and rule by decree when it was not sitting undermined what had at first appeared a significant change.

A CLOSER LOOK

Opposition groups

- **The Liberals** This is a loose name for those groups who favoured moderate reform and constitutional monarchy. Included among these were the Constitutional Democrats (Kadets), the Octobrists and the Progressives – a loose grouping of businessmen. The Trudoviks were a non-revolutionary breakaway from the Social Revolutionary Party of moderate liberal views.
- **The Social Revolutionaries (SRs)** The Social Revolutionary Party was formed in 1901, and evolved from groups that had tried to organise and improve the position of the peasantry from the 1860s. The movement had also tried to attract workers as industrialisation grew in the 1890s. However, it suffered from internal divisions. There were extreme terrorist elements who believed in political assassination but, from 1905, the moderate elements within the Party became more influential and gained support from some trade unions and members of the middle class. The Party always suffered from a lack of discipline and coordination; this limited its chance of realising its ambitions, which included land reform.
- **The Social Democrats (SDs)** The All-Russian Social Democrat Labour Party was founded in 1898. Its programme was based on the theories of **Karl Marx**. Led mainly by educated intellectuals, the Party based its support on the rapidly expanding industrial working

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A CLOSER LOOK

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class, the proletariat. However, in 1903 the Party split, when **Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin)** won a vote in favour of a strong disciplined organisation of professional revolutionaries against **Julius Martov**, who wanted a broad party with mass working class membership and favoured working through the trade unions to destroy the tsarist government. Lenin's 'Bolsheviks' and Martov's 'Mensheviks' spent much of their time before 1917 arguing with one another.

A CLOSER LOOK

Marxist stage theory

Marx believed that history was composed of a series of class struggles, driven by economic conditions:

- In stage 1 (the time of the hunter-gatherers) there were no classes or private property.
- In stage 2 (imperialism) a strong man rose to the top and a new land-owning aristocracy was created.
- In stage 3 (feudalism) land was owned by the aristocracy who exploited the peasantry.
- In stage 4 (capitalism) merchants and the 'bourgeoisie' obtained political control and exploited the workers (proletariat).
- In stage 5 (socialism) the workers took control in a 'dictatorship of the proletariat', sharing food, goods and services according to need.
- In stage 6 (communism) all would join together for the common good and money and states would no longer be needed. Wars and competition would cease.

KEY PROFILE

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) (1870–1924) came from a well-to-do professional family and trained as a lawyer. He was attracted by Marxism and his activities brought him to the attention of the secret police. He was in exile in Siberia when the new Social Democrat Party was launched in 1898, but he wrote a programme for it. After his release, he went into exile in Switzerland. In 1902, he produced the pamphlet, 'What is to be done?', in which he argued that the Party needed to re-direct the workers away from trade unionism towards a revolution that would destroy the tsarist autocracy. He founded a new revolutionary newspaper *Iskra* (Spark) and helped develop a strong underground Party network. His harsh and uncompromising attitude led the



Fig. 3 Ulyanov was known as Lenin from 1901 after his exile by the River Lena in Siberia

Social Democrats to split in 1903 into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. Lenin remained in exile until 1917, except for a brief return to St Petersburg in October 1905.

KEY PROFILE

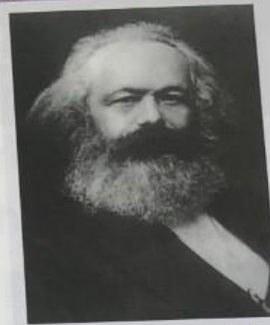


Fig. 2 Marx was a revolutionary socialist

Karl Marx (1818–83) was a German Jew who wrote *The Communist Manifesto* with his friend Friedrich Engels in 1848. The first volume of his mammoth work, *Das Kapital*, was published 1867 and subsequent ones in 1885 and 1894. (*The Communist Manifesto* was translated into Russian in 1869, and the first volume of *Das Kapital* was published in Russia in 1872.) At the time of his writing, he believed that Britain and Western Europe had reached stage 4 of his 'stage theory' of history. He suggested that stages 5 and 6 must inevitably follow.

KEY PROFILE

Julius Martov (1873–1920) came from a Jewish middle class background. He helped found the Emancipation of Labour and the Social Democrat movement. He contributed to the Party journal *Iskra* and was editor from 1903 to 1905, after breaking with Lenin when he led the 'Mensheviks'. He favoured working through trade unions, cooperatives and soviets (workers' councils) to destroy the government. He was not invited to join the Bolshevik government after October 1917 and the Mensheviks were banned in 1918. Martov was exiled in 1920.

A CLOSER LOOK

The Russian Calendar

The Russians used the Julian calendar until 31 January 1918, rather than the Gregorian calendar adopted by the rest of Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Consequently, by 1918, Russia was 13 days behind Western Europe. Some books (including this one) use the old-style calendar, so that the two revolutions of 1917 are given as 23 February and 25 October. However, others use the 'modern' dating so that the first revolution took place on 8 March and the second on 7 November. Russia finally adopted the Gregorian calendar in February 1918. Dates after this are therefore the same as Western dates.

The four State Dumas that met between 1906 and 1917 offered a forum for debate about politics and legislation but were constantly muzzled by tsarist interference. Furthermore, they became the preserve of the liberal moderates and well-to-do, driving the more radical opposition to acts of terrorism, including frequent political assassinations and subversion. Although the most prominent radical leaders were forced into exile, there was an underlying restlessness and discontent among peasants and industrial workers. This was easily exploited by the radical groups and would rise to the surface with the disruptions caused by the coming of the First World War in 1914.

In the 50 years up to 1917 there was constant struggle between progress and control. The gains of industrialisation were offset by an escalation of workers' discontent created by over-rapid urbanisation, and the transition to a modern society brought into prominence revolutionary movements which went even further than the moderate liberals in their criticisms of autocracy. Successive governments were forced to choose between modernisation and maintaining political control over society in order to protect themselves, and the greater the concessions, the louder became the voices demanding more. This conundrum would remain a constant force in the development of Russia even after 1917.

KEY CHRONOLOGY

1905	Jan	'Bloody Sunday' massacre leads to revolutionary upheavals
	Oct	The St Petersburg Soviet is formed; the Tsar's October Manifesto authorises elections to a State Duma
1906	Apr	The Fundamental Laws reaffirm the autocracy
1906–11		A programme of agrarian reform is attempted
1906–15		Four State Dumas meet but their influence is controlled
1912		Lena Gold Fields Massacre – renewed industrial unrest
1914		First World War begins