

The major events leading up to the 1905 Russian Revolution

Aim: How did Russian's show their discontent throughout the 1800's?

1) Russian Czar's/Russian Church

- *Church becomes servant of Czar*
- *Allied itself with Autocracy due to financial support from Czar*
- *Russian Priests reporting crimes heard during confessions*
- *Nothing done about Serfdom*

2) Expansion

Russian Czars tended to be more concerned with the expansion of the empire than the welfare of the people.

Reasons for Expansion:

- *Desire to increase trade with other nations*
- *Need for warm water ports*

Effects of Expansion:

- *New lands like Siberia are used for fur, farmland, and mineral resources as well as for punishment*
- *Russia becomes a multinational empire – ethnic Russians make up only 45% of the population*

3) Decembrist Revolts (1825)

On December 14, 1825 the military was to swear allegiance to Czar Nicholas I. The ceremony was to be held in Senate Square, outside the Winter Palace, in St. Petersburg. Several officers started a mutiny in their regiments, and approximately 3,000 men began open revolt against the Czar. Reluctant to begin his reign with a massacre of his subjects, Nicholas and his advisors tried to initiate peace talks over the hours that followed, but to no avail. Finally, the order to open fire was given. Lacking organized leadership, the rebels soon fell to the Czar's superior military forces.

Causes: *Frustration with Czar Alexander I is carried over at the introduction of the new Czar Nicholas I*

Goals: *Establish a constitution, basic freedoms, and abolish serfdom.*

Effects:

- *3,000 rebels crushed by Army*
- *Strict censorship – Czar banned books from the West that might contain liberal ideas, and targeted schools and universities as centers of unrest*
- *Secret police – spied on students, teachers, govt. officials*
- *More than 150,000 people were accused of treason and sent to Siberia*

- *Russification – enforcement of Russian nationalism, loyalty to the autocracy, and loyalty to the Russian Orthodox Church*
 - *Leads to an increase in state-sponsored discrimination against ethnic groups – pogroms, in particular*

4) Emancipation of the Russian Serfs (1861)

Causes: Possibility of massive peasant rebellion (1,467 rebellions from 1801-1856). Serfdom was preventing economic growth.

Effects:

- *Alexander II emancipated the serfs*
- *Serfs allowed to keep homes but most could not afford to live there*
- *Mirs – large groups of free serfs lived in a commune to help live and work to survive*
- *Improved economy slightly but not quality of life*
- *High taxes and debt kept peasantry very poor*

5) Industrialization

Success:

- *Rapid development of industry*
- *Railroads built – Trans-Siberian RR built between 1891-1916*
- *Middle Class grows*
- *Education spreads due to transportation*

Failures:

- *No improvement in lives of peasants (75% of population by 1897)*
- *Crop failure – nobody is working in the farms anymore*
- *Working conditions in factories terrible – think of Upton Sinclair's The Jungle*
- *Low Pay and Workers becoming disgruntled*

6) Russo-Japanese War

- *War was fought to acquire Korea and Manchuria from Japan*
- *Russia, sensing defeat by Japan, puts all their resources into the war effort*
- *This buries Russia economically*

Effects:

- *Japan has shown its emergence and dominance over a European Nation*
- *Once again, Russia has shown its faults and its backwards approach to foreign territorial acquisition*
- *People within Russia begin to question the authority and show their unhappiness*

7) Bloody Sunday

Led by Father Georgi Gapon, a peaceful march towards St. Petersburg was organized to confront Czar Nicholas II.

Causes:

- *Petition to be signed by the Czar for better working conditions, greater political freedoms, and higher wages*

Effects:

- *Czar orders the military officials to open fire upon the citizens*
- *Leads to the 1905 Revolution*

8) 1905 Revolution

Causes: # 1-7 above

Results:

- *Duma set up by Czar Nicholas II (an elected assembly)*
- *Czar had full, unchallenged veto power over decisions made within the Duma*
- *Inequality and repression remained in Russia*
- *1905 Revolution will be the first step towards the bigger, more famous, Bolshevik Revolution, or Russian Revolution in 1917.*