

The Russian Revolution Questions

Use the “The Power of One: The Russian Revolution” handout to answer these questions

1. Why did Lenin’s ideas eventually appeal to many Russians? Who stood to benefit from those ideas?

2. View footnote one. Explain communism in your own words.

3. How were the tsar’s actions one of the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1905?

4. What happened on “Bloody Sunday”? What were the consequences of this event?

5. For what reasons were demonstrators protesting in 1917? What other signs of dissatisfaction existed in Russia at the time?

6. Under what circumstances did the Bolsheviks seize power? Describe the changes made after they formed government.

Use the “The Rise and Fall of the Romanovs” handout to answer these questions

7. Russia fought and lost a war against which country between 1904 and 1905? What consequences did Russia face as a result?

8. Describe two key features of the Revolution of 1905 that you think were important in forcing Tsar Nicholas to agree to the October Manifesto.

9. What appeared to be the main result of the October Manifesto? What actually was the result?

10. Who was Alexei? Describe the life-threatening condition he suffered from.

11. Who was Grigory Rasputin? How did his behaviour impact the (Romanov) royal family?

12. Following the tsar’s abdication, what happened to the royal family on July 17, 1917?

Use the “Russian Radicals, War, and Revolution” handout to answer these questions

13. How did the tsar deal with political opposition to his rule, workers strikes, and the powers of the дума? What did these actions reveal about his commitment to reform outlined in the October Manifesto? How do you think these actions were perceived by the Russian people?

14. How did the First World War contribute to the downfall of the Russian monarchy?

15. Why do you think Tsar Nicholas’ decision to take command of the Russian Army during the war caused even more dissatisfaction with his leadership amongst the people of Russia?

16. The following were reasons why tsarist rule ended in 1917: the influence of Rasputin, the collapse of the army, and strikes and food shortages. Which of these reasons do you think was the most important? Explain.

17. What message did Bolshevik leader, Vladimir Lenin, give to his supporters when he returned to Russia on April 3, 1917? Why do you think his message gained him and his party such high support?

18. Outline the events of the October Revolution.

Use the “Lenin and the Soviet Cultural Invasion” handout to answer these questions

19. What was the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk? Why do you think Lenin lacked the leverage to negotiate a better treaty for Russia?

20. Which groups opposed the Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War? What role did the Allied governments play?

21. A new economic policy designed to help win the Russian Civil War was introduced. Who did it affect and what were the results?

22. Lenin created the Cheka, a secret police force. What was its purpose? What role did it play in the Russian Civil War?

23. Describe at least two forms of propaganda used by the Bolsheviks. Which do you think was the most effective at spreading communist values? Why?

24. How did the Russian people respond to Lenin’s withdrawal from public life in 1922-1923? How did they respond to his death in January 1924?