

History Revision Notes – Russia Under Lenin And Stalin

- Problems*
- Russia is very big, and so trade and transport are difficult
 - The population is unevenly distributed, and most land is too poor for farming
 - There is no sense of national identity, as everybody speaks different languages
 - Nicholas II is an autocrat, and has the Okhrana (secret police) and Cossacks.
 - He is a weak ruler, he won't share power, and his heir (Alexis) has haemophilia
 - Peasants have little land, and have to pay redemption payments
 - Workers have long hours, little pay, bad conditions, and no Trade Unions
 - Opposition Groups
 - Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs) help peasants
 - Liberals want the Tsar to share power with a Duma
 - Communists help workers (Bolsheviks / Mensheviks)
- 1905 Revolution*
- Japan defeats Russia, causing economic problems
 - Bloody Sunday – protesters led by Father Gapon are shot at
 - There are strikes and revolts, there is mutiny on Potemkin, and Soviets are set up
 - The Tsar survives, and sets up the October Manifesto
 - Redemption payments stop, and a Duma is formed, but the workers aren't helped
 - Stolypin Reforms help to stop terrorism, and Rasputin gets involved with the Tsar
- The Great War*
- Peasants and workers have to fight, so factories close and there are food shortages
 - Nicholas takes personal control of the army, and leaves Alexandra in charge
 - The Tsar is blamed for the badly trained army, and the rouble losing value
 - Russia backs out of the war, and much land is lost to Germany
- 1917 Revolutions*
- March revolution
 - Uprisings throughout Russia
 - The Tsar is forced to abdicate
 - Provisional Government and the Soviet are in charge
 - November revolution
 - Lenin's April Thesis – peace, bread, and land
 - The Provisional Government carries on with the war
 - The July Offensive is a disaster
 - The Kornilov Revolt is stopped by the Red Guards
 - The communists are heroes, and have weapons
 - The Bolsheviks storm the Winter Palace, taking power
- The Civil War*
- Lenin issues decrees to help peasants and workers, ban opponents and give peace
 - The Reds (communists) fight against the Whites (supporters of the Tsar)
 - The Whites are not united, but the Reds are highly organised, led by Trotsky
 - The Whites have most of Russia, and the support of foreign armies
 - The Reds have central Russia, and control the supplies
 - The Reds win the Civil War by defeating the White armies one at a time
- Communism*
- War communism
 - Nationalises the factories
 - Gives food to the army
 - Stops private trading and abolishes money
 - This fails because
 - 7 million Russians die
 - There is less food, as the peasants get no profits
 - The Kronstadt Uprising
 - New Economic Policy (NEP)
 - Back to capitalism to increase production
 - Communism will come later
- Power Struggle*
- Lenin dies in 1924, so the members of the Politburo struggled for power
 - The Right Wing (Bukharin) wanted to help the peasants and use the NEP
 - The Left Wing (Trotsky) wanted to exploit the peasants and abolish the NEP
 - Lenin's testament criticises Stalin and Trotsky, so it isn't published
 - Stalin is the General Secretary, and organises the funeral – Trotsky doesn't come
 - Trotsky wants 'Permanent Revolution' – supporting communism worldwide
 - Stalin wants 'Socialism in one Country' – building up the strength of the USSR
 - Stalin attacks the Left Opposition, then the Rightists, and becomes supreme leader
- Collectivisation*
- Peasants are poor and use primitive methods that don't produce enough food
 - There is a procurement crisis in 1928, so Stalin introduce collectivisation
 - The Kulaks oppose collectivisation, so their land is taken and they are sent away
 - 1.5 million Kulaks are deported, and a quarter of them dies
 - Some peasants hate collectivisation, and destroy crops, tools, and machines
 - There is a drop in food production, resulting in famine

- Five Year Plans* → There is a command economy in Russia.
 → The Gosplan is set up, and sets targets for industry in the next five years
 → Heavy industry has to triple its output, and light industry has to double it
 → Capitalist country laugh at this, but the target are almost reached
 → Russia is catching up with the West
- Workers / Work* → Workers work an uninterrupted week – 4 have the day off each day
 → People can't attend church, and they are sacked and evicted if they have time off
 → Internal passports are introduced, so they need permission to change towns
 → 'Shock Brigades' set a good example to workers, and make sure they work hard
 → 'Stakhanovites' are exceptional workers seen as role models, but many were killed
 → There are more workers and overcrowding, but no unemployment
- Labour Camps* → Gulags are set up in 1930 to make slaves work in the worst regions
 → Zeks are badly treated, and their food is rationed
 → They work in bad conditions with no machines (e.g. the Kolyma Region)
 → They produce half the world production of gold, but 20% of them die each year
- Purges* → Stalin blames the Kirov murder on the old Left and Right wing opponents
 → Show Trials oust communist party members
 → The Great Terror sweeps the whole population
- Life under Stalin* → The Cult Of Stalin portrays him as a brilliant leader, and he has no opposition
 → Religion is prevented, and the League of Militant Atheists support atheism
 → Education is stricter, and writers, painters, and composers have to support Stalin
 → Marriages are quick and non-religious, and abortions are allowed
 → In 1936, abortions and divorces are stopped, and there are benefits for families
- 2nd World War* → Russia is isolated – Britain and France won't make a military agreement with her
 → The Nazi-Soviet Pact is set up with Germany, to protect Russia
 → The Russian army is built up, and conquers a lot of eastern Europe
 → Hitler invades with Operation Barbarossa
 → Russia uses the 'scorched earth' policy, bad weather, and aid to survive
- Victory* → There is a Russian victory at Kursk, which puts the Germans on the defense
 → 1944 is the year of ten victories for Russia, and the end of the siege on Leningrad
 → Russia advance on Berlin, Hitler commits suicide, and Germany surrender
- After the war* → Many towns and villages are ruined, and a tenth of the population are killed
 → The aid to Russia stops, and the fourth five year plan is set up
 → The USSR is isolated from the West
 → The Iron Curtain is created, and eastern Europe is communist
 → The Cominform and the Comecon are set up to coordinate policies
 → When Stalin dies, people realise that he was too harsh and behaved like a dictator