

Peasants made up around 80% of population

Development in industry meant number of town workers increased

Aristocracy made up 1% of population but owned 25% of land

Russia Early 1917

Trade unions were illegal so workers had bad conditions



Opposition to Tsar:

Social Democratic Party

- Split into two in 1903 - Bolsheviks led by **Lenin** and Mensheviks led by **Martov**, followed theories of **Marx**

Constitutional Democratic Party (Cadets)

- Led by **Milyukov**, wanted a monarch and elected parliament like UK, represented **middle class**

Socialist Revolutionaries

- Led by **Kerensky**, believed in **peasant revolution**, committed terrorist acts

Octobrists

- Led by **Guchkov**, set up after Tsar's October Manifesto, supported by **middle class**

February Revolution 1917

- Petrograd 25th Feb - **200,000** people were on **strike**
- 27th Feb - Tsar ordered army to shoot protesters and **66,000** **soldiers mutinied** and created the Petrograd Soviet
- 28th Feb - Petrograd Soviet stated the army should only obey orders of the soviet
- On 2nd March **Tsar abdicated**



Tsar Downfall

- Let wife control country who ignored the Duma
- Inflation and prices rising
- Food shortages
- Unemployment high
- Ministers constantly changing

Provisional Government

- 12 members of the Duma, not elected
- Other members were mix of Octobrists and Cadets
- Faced many problems:
 - Crisis in economy
 - WWI
 - Leadership
 - Dual Power

Kornilov Revolt

- **Kerensky** became Prime Minister in 1917 and appointed, then sacked **General Kornilov** as commander-in-chief of the army
- Kornilov ordered troops to shut down Petrograd Soviet
- Kerensky asks **Bolsheviks** to defend city and Kornilov is arrested
- Led to support for Bolsheviks, lower discipline in army and **Provisional Government position weakened**

THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1917

→ **Trotsky** - elected president of Petrograd Soviet after Kornilov revolt and created Red Guard, effective organiser

→ **Lenin** - April Theses were popular, effective leader, convinced members of Bolshevik Party to follow his plan

April Thesis

- Lenin called for **nationalisation** of banks and for the Soviet control of state power and industry
- **'Peace, Bread, Land'**



October Revolution

Red Guards took control of banks, government buildings and railway stations and arrested members of Provisional Government
Kerensky fled into exile

July Days

- Petrograd workers marched to Tauride Palace and demanded the Petrograd Soviet take power
- The crowd turned to **Lenin** for leadership but Bolsheviks refrained from staging a revolt
- Uprising was crushed following day, around **700** people were **killed** - mostly Bolshevik sympathisers
- Lenin fled to Finland and was blamed for the uprising

