

By 1914 Russia was 4th largest producer of coal, pig iron and steel in world



Extreme poverty and little demand for goods

Banking system was backwards

Russia's Economy

Industrialisation was uneven across the Empire

Living Conditions in Cities

- People moved here to seek work as industry developed
- Food supplies were scarce
- Trade unions were illegal so could not fight poor working conditions
- Living conditions were poor

Living Conditions in Villages

- Bad harvests meant famine & disease were common
- Limited access to modern farming techniques and education
- Peasants made up 80% of Russia's population

Pillars of Nicholas II's Autocracy

- ▶ Autocratic Government
- ▶ The Nobility
- ▶ The Tsarist Legal System
- ▶ The Okhrana
- ▶ The Orthodox Church
- ▶ The Army



Tsar Nicholas II



Political Opposition to the Tsar

- Many groups wanted social, economic and political reform in Russia
- The Social Democratic Party was set up in 1898 and believed in the ideas of Karl Marx and communism
- In 1903 this party split into the Mensheviks and the more revolutionary Bolsheviks

Tsar's Abdication

Nicholas II was forced to abdicate in **March 1917**, allowing power to pass to the Provisional Government

1. THE END OF TSARDOM

Russia's defeat in the **Russo-Japanese War**

Discontent among **peasants**

Discontent among **industrial workers**

Causes of 1905 Revolution

Bloody Sunday

January 1905 - Bloody Sunday

Father Gapon led unarmed civilians in a demonstration, they were met by violence from the Imperial Guard resulting in **500 deaths** of demonstrators



Oct 1905 - October Manifesto

Introduced allowing Russia to have elected parliament - **Duma**, loosened censorship and free speech

Rasputin

- Gained favour with **Tsar Nicholas II** and Tsaritsa Alexandra in early 1900s
- Rumours of Rasputin's **licentious behaviour** undermined royal family
- Seen as symbolic of the **moral corruption**



Rasputin

WWI

Nicholas II took command of the army in 1915 and was **blamed** for the failed organisation and shortages of supplies
Labour shortages led to food shortages and Russia's **industrial output decreased** by around **20%** from 1939-1917

Attempts to reform Russia

- ◆ **Conservatives** saw reforms too radical, **reformers** wanted them to go further
- ◆ Reform fuelled **radicalisation**
- ◆ **Duma** had little power and quickly dissolved

Stolypin's Policies

- Improvements to **agricultural** infrastructure
- Financial incentives
- **Mirs** could no longer prevent individuals from buying land
- **Resettlement** programmes
- Used **police** and **army** to crush revolutionaries
- **Election reform**
- **Court Martials**

