



HGS History A-level: an overview

A-level			
Year 12		Year 13	
Paper 1 (30%) Exam	Paper 2 (20%) Exam	Paper 3 (30%) Exam	Coursework (20%) Historical enquiry
Breadth study	Depth study	Breadth and depth study	Historical interpretations
Thematic connection – revolutions in modern and early modern Europe		Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850-2009	Drawn from study of paper 2 – i.e. aspects of Russian history, 1894-1924.
Country 1 – Britain, 1625-1701	Country 2 – Russia, 1894-1924		

Specification for Paper 2, Russia 1894- 1924

1. The rule of Nicholas II 1894 – 1905
2. The end of the Romanov Rule 1906 – 1917
3. The Provisional Government and its opponents February – October 1917
4. Defending the Bolshevik revolution, October 1917 – 1924

In addition we also complete an independent historical enquiry, based on the causes of the October Revolution.

The aim of these bridging exercises is to introduce you to this new course and to give some background and context to our study of Russia from 1894. You will encounter some of the important early concepts such as autocracy, repression and the emancipation of the serfs, and will also be introduced to Tsars Alexander II, Alexander III, and most importantly for us, Tsar Nicholas II. Full engagement with these bridging activities will put you in a comfortable position for the baseline assessment – a sources question on Russia - which will be in week 3.

TASK 1 –

Read the article that follows, and make notes on the grid on page 8 and 9.

Russia: The Land, the People and Tsardom

In order to understand the problems that were to dominate the reign of Nicholas II, we need to grasp the character of the Russia that he inherited.

Geography

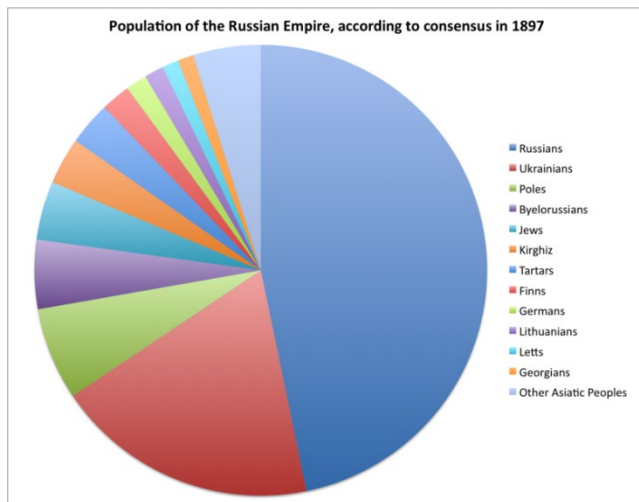
In 1894 Imperial Russia covered over 8 million square miles, an area equivalent to more than double the USA today. It stretched 5000 miles from west to east and 2000 miles from north to south. It covered two continents – European Russia extended westwards from the Urals to Poland; Asiatic Russia eastward from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean.



Population

The greater part of the Russian population, which had quadrupled between 1815 and 1914, from 40 million to 165 million, was concentrated in European Russia. It was in European Russia that the principal cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg were situated.

The size of the Russia Empire can give a misleading impression regarding its strength. The population contained a wide variety of peoples of different race, language, religion and culture. Controlling such a variety of peoples over such a vast territory had long been a major problem for Russian governments.



The Tsar

The people of the Russian Empire were governed by one person, the Tsar (Emperor). The position was hereditary and since 1613 the Russian Tsars had been members of the Romanov dynasty. By law and tradition, the tsar was an absolute ruler. There were no restrictions on his power. The people owed him complete obedience. This had been clearly expressed in the **'Fundamental Laws of the Empire'** issued by Nicholas I in 1832. Article 1 of this document declared: *"The Emperor of all the Russias is an autocratic and unlimited monarch. God himself ordains that all must bow to his supreme power, not only out of fear but also out of conscience."*

The tsar's absolute rule was exercised through three official bodies:

- The Imperial Council – a group of honorary advisers directly responsible to the tsar.
- The Cabinet of Ministers – ran the various government departments
- The Senate – supervised the operation of the law.

These bodies were much less powerful than their titles suggested. They were appointed, not elected, and they did not govern; their role was merely to give advice. They had no authority over the tsar, whose word was final in all governmental and legal matters.

Russia's political backwardness

Compared to other European nations, Russia had advanced very little politically. By the beginning of the 20th century all the major western-European powers had some form of democratic or representative government. Not so Russia; although it had been frequently involved in European diplomatic and military affairs, it had remained outside the mainstream of European political thought.

There had been reforming tsars such as Peter I (1683-1725), Catherine (1762-1796) and Alexander II (1855-1881), who had tried to modernise the country by such measures as re-building Moscow and St. Petersburg, improving the transport system and making the army more efficient. But their achievements had been in practical areas; they had not included the extension of political rights. In Russia in 1881 it was still a criminal offence to oppose the tsar or his government. There was no parliament, and although political parties had been formed they had no legal right to exist. There had never been a free press in Imperial Russia. Government censorship was imposed on published books and journals.

Repression

Notions that called for limitations on the powers of rulers and government and greater freedom for the people became more common. The term '*liberal*' came to refer to those who wanted political change in Russia but who believed that it could be achieved by reforming rather than by destroying the Tsarist system.

Restrictions on the press had not prevented liberal ideas from seeping into Russia, but it did mean that they could not be openly expressed. The result was that supporters of reform or change had to go underground. In the 19th century there had grown up a wide variety of secret societies dedicated to political reform or revolution. These groups were frequently infiltrated by agents of the *Okhrana*. The Okhrana were the tsarist secret police, whose special role was hunting down subversives who challenged the tsarist regime. It stood outside the law, had unlimited powers of arrest and was answerable only to the tsar.

As a result, raids, arrests, imprisonment and general harassment were regular occurrences.

Extremism

The denial of free speech tended to drive political activists towards extremism. The outstanding example of this occurred in 1881 when Tsar Alexander II was assassinated by a bomb thrown by a terrorist group known as the 'People's Will'. In a society in which state oppression was met with revolutionary terrorism, there was no moderate middle ground on which a tradition of ordered political debate could develop.

The Russian Orthodox Church

The tsars were fully supported in their claims to absolute authority by one of the great pillars of the Russian system, the Orthodox Church. Indeed, the church was an essential part of the coronation of the tsar, anointing him with holy oil to symbolise that he governed by divine right. This was a branch of Christianity that, since the 15th century, had been entirely independent of any outside authority such as the papacy. Its detachment from foreign influence had given it an essential Russian character and it was embedded in the Russian

culture. By the late 19th century it had become deeply conservative, opposed to political change and determined to preserve the tsarist system in its reactionary form. It became increasingly detached from the growing industrial population of Russia, illustrated by the fact that one suburb of Moscow with 40,000 people had one church and one priest.

Although some priests sympathised with political revolutionaries, as an institution it used its spiritual authority to teach the Russian people that it was their duty to be totally obedient to the tsar as **God's anointed**.

The social structure of tsarist Russia

The striking features of the social structure were the comparatively small commercial, professional and working classes and the large proportion of peasants in the population.



The Russian Economy

The remarkable difference in size between the urban professional and working classes and the rural peasants illustrated a critical feature of imperial Russia – its slow economic development. The low numbers of urban workers was a sign that Russia had not achieved the major industrial growth that had taken place in the 19th century in such countries as Germany, Britain and the USA.

Russia was not entirely without industry. The Urals region produced considerable amounts of iron and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg had extensive textile factories. Most villages had a smelting works, enabling them to produce iron goods and most peasant homes had some kind of cottage industry, producing wooden or woollen goods to supplement their income from farming. These activities were all relatively small scale. The sheer size of Russia and its undeveloped transport system had limited the chances for industrial expansion.

A further restriction was the absence of an effective banking system. Russia found it hard to raise capital on a large scale. It had not yet mastered the art of successful borrowing and investment, techniques that help to explain why expansion had been so rapid in western countries. Entrepreneurialism had been discouraged.

Agriculture in Tsarist Russia

Russia's unenterprising industrial system was matched by its inefficient pattern of agriculture. Even though 4/5 of the population were peasants, a thriving agrarian economy had failed to develop. Indeed, the land in Russia was a source of national weakness, rather than strength. Much of Russia lay too far north to enjoy a climate or soil suitable for crop growing or cattle rearing. Arable farming was restricted mainly to the Black Earth region, the area of European Russia stretching from the Ukraine to Kazakhstan.

The great number of peasants added to the problem. There was simply not enough fertile land to go round. Until 1861 the vast majority of Russian peasants were serfs – a Russian form of slavery in which the landowner had total control over the peasants who lived or worked on his land. Under the terms of the **Emancipation Decree of 1861**, the ex-serfs were entitled to buy land, but they invariably found that the price was too high. This was due to a shortage of suitable farming territory and by the government's taxation of land sales, imposed to raise the revenue needed to compensate the landowners for the losses caused by emancipation. The only way peasants could raise money to buy land was by borrowing from a special fund provided by the government. Consequently, those peasants who did manage to purchase property found themselves burdened with large mortgage repayments that would take them and their families generations to repay.

The peasant problem

Among Russia's governing class, which was drawn from less than 1% of the population, there was a deeply ingrained prejudice against granting rights to the mass of the people. Over 80% of the population were peasants and they were predominantly illiterate and uneducated. Their sheer size as a social class and their coarse ways led to their being regarded with a mixture of fear and contempt by the governing elite, who believed that these dangerous 'dark masses' could be held in check only by severe repression. This is what Nicholas II's wife the Empress Alexandra meant by saying that Russia needed to be 'under the whip'.

The existence, in the second half of the 19th century of an uneducated peasantry, suspicious of change and living with large debts and in great poverty, pointed to the social, political and economic backwardness of Imperial Russia. Various attempts to educate the peasants had been made in the past, but these efforts had been undermined by the fear among the ruling class that any improvement in the conditions of the 'dark masses' might threaten its own privileges. It was commonplace for officials in Russia to speak of the 'safe ignorance' of the population, implying that any attempt to raise the educational standards of the masses would prove highly dangerous, socially and politically.

The Russian army

One common method of keeping the 'dark masses' in check was to conscript them into the Russian armed services. The lower ranks of the army and navy were largely filled by conscription which was also regularly used as a form of punishment for law breakers. Ordinary Russians dreaded this sentence; they knew that life in the armed forces was a brutal experience for the common soldier or sailor. The Russian army was notorious for its severe discipline and for the grim conditions of the camps, particularly in the more remote regions of the empire. The rigours of service life had accounted for the deaths of over 1 million soldiers in peacetime during the reign of Nicholas I (1825-1855).

It was a widespread belief that because of the size of the Russian empire, it needed a large army to protect it. Throughout the nineteenth century, Imperial forces were kept at a strength of around 1 ½ million men – the cost of this accounted for around 45% of the government's annual expenditure, by far the largest single item of state spending, with only 4% devoted to education.

Weaknesses within the army

The higher ranks of the army were the preserve of the aristocracy – Commissions were bought and sold and there was little room for promotion on merit. This weakened it as a fighting force, but with the exception of the Crimean war (1854-1856) Russia was not engaged in a major conflict with a western European power for a century after 1815. Most of the army's work was putting down national uprisings or disturbances within the empire, as well as border clashes with Turkey, Poland and Armenia.

The Bureaucracy (Civil service)

The civil service was the area where most reform had been attempted, as it was also the area where the greatest corruption existed. Peter I (1683-1725) had tried to modernise Russia by establishing a full scale civil service with the aim of maintaining central governmental control throughout the empire.

By the middle of the 19th century, many Russia critics had begun to condemn this civil service, where nepotism and incompetence were rife and were attributed as the principal reasons for Russian backwardness. The revolutionary thinker **Alexander Herzen** asserted that Tsarist Russia was run by a bureaucratic class that, for all its incompetence still possessed the power to control the lives of the Russian masses. At local and national levels, the law, the government, the police and the militia were in the hands of a set of men whose first thought was their own convenience and advantage. The ordinary citizen had no means by which to challenge this system.

Russia: The Land, the People and Tsardom

Complete the following table, summarising the situation of Russia in the 1890s.

	Situation 1890	Difference to other countries	Problems this might create
Geography and Population			
Economy			
Society			

The Church			
The Tsar and Politics			
The Military			

TASK 2

Read the Summary of Alexander II and Alexander III below.

Complete the grid on page 13

Alexander II (1818–1881) – “The Liberator Tsar”



Background and Early Rule

- Eldest son of Tsar Nicholas I, educated broadly in arts, sciences, and military training.
- Became Tsar in 1855 during the Crimean War, which exposed Russia's military and economic weaknesses.
- Initiated peace talks leading to the Treaty of Paris (1856), ending the war but diminishing Russia's influence.

Major Reforms

- Emancipation of the Serfs (1861): Freed 22 million serfs, though they had to buy or rent land, often at inflated prices, leading to widespread debt and dissatisfaction.
- Judicial and Educational Reforms: Simplified court procedures, relaxed censorship, and allowed greater academic freedom.
- Zemstvos: Local self-government bodies introduced, offering limited representative governance.
- Economic Modernisation: Boosted railway construction, trade, and industrial development.

Motivations and Challenges

- Reforms were intended to strengthen autocracy and prevent revolution, not to democratise.

- Faced opposition from both conservatives and radicals.
- Suppressed the 1863 Polish Uprising with harsh measures.

Foreign Policy

- Sought to restore Russia's international status.
- Fought the Russo-Turkish War (1877–78) to support Orthodox Christians in Bulgaria.
- Initial military success was undermined diplomatically at the Congress of Berlin (1878).

Assassination

- Targeted by revolutionary groups like the People's Will.
- Killed by a bomb in 1881 just after considering constitutional reforms.

Alexander III (1845–1894) – “The Peacemaker”



Reactionary Rule

- Became Tsar after his father's assassination in 1881.
- Rejected his father's liberal reforms and halted plans for a constitution.
- Believed in absolute autocracy and the divine right of Tsars.

Repression and Control

- Statute of State Security (1881): Introduced special courts, removed liberal officials, expanded the Okhrana's powers, and tightened censorship.
- Russification: Intensified efforts to promote Russian culture and suppress foreign influences.
- Church Control: Used the Orthodox Church to preach obedience; confession information was passed to the police.

Reversal of Reforms

- University Statute (1887): Brought universities under strict state control.
- Zemstva Act (1890): Reduced local council independence; introduced land captains with harsh powers.
- Judicial Changes (1889): Replaced local justices with government-appointed land captains.

Economic and Industrial Policy

- Promoted industrialisation and trade.
- Introduced tariffs and financial reforms to recover from war deficits.
- Initiated the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Legacy

- Strengthened autocracy but curtailed civil liberties.
- Left behind an unprepared heir, Nicholas II.
- Widely respected for his strong leadership and commitment to Russian identity.

Pick ONE area from each Tsar which you would like to know more / understand better.
RESEARCH.

Record a summary below of your new information / understanding. (eg find out more about the Emancipation of the Serfs, and about the Trans Siberian Railway)

TASK 3 –

Compare the reigns of Alexander II and III – How were they different?

- Attitude to Political Reform:
- Economic Policy:
- Attitude to Judicial Reform:
- Can you identify contrasting motivations for Alexander II / Alexander III?

TASK 4– Read the following article of Nicholas II, and answer the 18 questions which follow.

The early reign of Nicholas II, 1894-1904

Nicholas II (1868-1918) grew up in his father, Alexander III's shadow and was never rated very highly by him. He was small, naturally reserved and regarded by his father as a dunce and a weakling. He even referred to him as 'girlie'. Nicholas had excellent manners, a good memory and could speak several languages, but he was not a practical man. Politics bored him and he himself admitted that he found it difficult to focus his mind. When his father died in 1894 Nicholas is said to have said to his cousin: *"What is going to happen to me and to all of Russia? I am not prepared to be a tsar. I never wanted to become one. I know nothing of the business of ruling. I have no idea of even how to talk to the ministers."* However, he accepted his inheritance as God-given and set out to rule in the 'Romanov way', asserting himself against the demands of the growing reform movement. His reign was to be marked by the revolutions of 1905 and in March 1917, after which he abdicated.

As we have already seen, Alexander III's reign was characterised by a systematic halt to the era of progressive reform initially set out by his father, Alexander II. Whereas Alexander was strong enough to be able to force through his reforms, however, Nicholas feebly tried to preserve the policies of his father, to whom he was thrall.

Whereas Alexander III had forced through counter-reforms reasserting the personal authority of the tsar and commanding, as **Figes** has written, *'Like a general at war'*, Nicholas II was far less suited to the position of an autocrat. He failed to develop any domestic policy programme and found it difficult to make up his mind about anything. He changed his ministers repeatedly – fearing any who showed too much independent initiative – and tried to avoid calling the Council of Ministers to prevent its members uniting against him.

Growing unrest

This effectively meant clamping down severely on the growing unrest in the towns brought about as a consequence of Witte's policy of 'rapid and forceful industrialisation'. In 1894 there were 17,000 industrial strikes, a considerable number that had risen to 90,000 in 1904. Nor was it merely urban Russia that witnessed unrest, in the years 1903-4 a spate of arson attacks by peasants on landlords was carried out, earning the period the nickname '**the years of the Red Cockerel**', after the red flames that seemed to resemble a rooster's comb. The unrest was at its worst in the central Russian provinces, where the landlord/peasant relationship was still at its most traditional, but it also spread to Georgia, the Ukraine and Poland. Peasants set fire to their landlords' barns, destroying grain or vented their anger by attacking landlords and officials or seizing their woodland and pasture.



Under Witte, who earned himself the nickname '**the hangman**', more police were recruited, surveillance was stepped up and even the army was called upon to put down illegal strikes and other disturbances. In 1893 the army was called out 19 times, but by 1902 this figure had risen to 522. Once arrested, strikers and demonstrators were often arrested and executed without trial under martial law.

More positively, perhaps, in 1900 the chief of the Okhrana, S.V. Zubatov, organised his own police-sponsored trade unions with the help of the Governor-General of Moscow, Grand Duke Sergei, and the Minister of Internal Affairs Vyacheslav Konstantinovich von Plehve. The idea was to provide 'official' channels through which grievances could be aired in an attempt to prevent workers from being lured to radical and socialist groups. The experiment effectively failed in 1903 when Zubatov was dismissed when one of his unions joined in a general strike in Odessa, though the state-sponsored Assembly of St. Petersburg Factory Workers was established in 1904 under the leadership of Father Gapon and soon had 12 branches and 8,000 members.

Powers of Zemstva

Just as Alexander III had introduced the safeguard system and appointed Land Captains to undermine the powers of the *zemstva*, created as part of Alexander II's reforms, Nicholas was similarly unwilling to devolve power to the localities. In 1896 he dismissed attempts to create an '**All-Zemstvo Organisation**' (effectively a national *zemstvo*) and purged regional *zemstva* of many liberals in 1900. Nicholas completely misread the sense of deepening disillusionment presented by the *zemstva* at the beginning of his rule. Had he chosen to abandon autocracy and appeased the

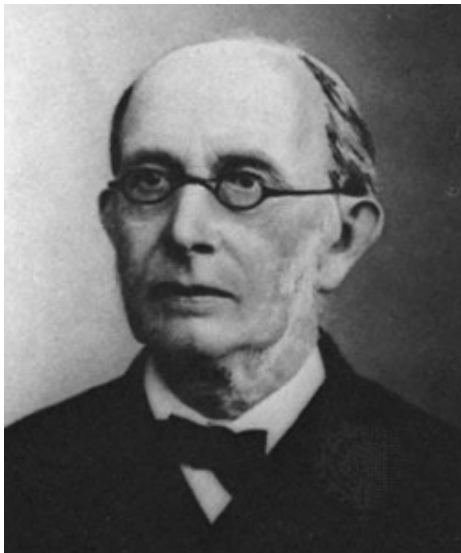
liberals by following a path of constitutional government in these early years, the subsequent history of Russian might well have been less turbulent.

Attacks on Minorities

Alexander III's **Russification** programme also continued as official policy under Nicholas II. The tsar continued in attempting to force the Russian culture and language on the various nationalities of the Russian empire and endorsing violent pogroms against Jews. This involved forcing the Russian language and culture on peoples of other ethnic origins and endorsing widespread anti-semitism which produced a number of **pogroms** against the Jews.

***Pogrom** is an old Russian word which means 'to round up' or lynching. It originally denoted an assault by one ethnic group on another but after 1881 it gained the special connotation of an attack on Jews.*

Pobedonostev was a particularly ardent support and rampant anti-semite (hater of Jews). Both Poland and Finland suffered attempts to destroy their national culture as well as provinces such as Byelorussia, Georgia and the Ukraine. The use of the Russian language was enforced and risings of ethnic peoples mercilessly suppressed. The racial group that suffered the most from this intense nationalism was the Jews who, since 1736, had only been allowed to live in an area of western Russia known as, '**The pale of Settlement**'. Laws were also brought in which discriminated against the Jews, particularly in the professions and thousands of Jews emigrated at this time.



The effect of such policies among the Jews who remained in Russia was to drive a disproportionate number of them towards revolutionary groups, and in particular Marxist socialist organisations. In 1897, the General Union of Jewish worker in Russia and Poland was set up and this was to become involved in the Marxist Social Democratic Movement, playing an important part in the growth of the opposition to the autocracy under Nicholas II. Prominent Jews in the revolutionary movement in

Russia in the early 20th century included **Trotsky, Martov, Zinoviev** and **Litvinov**.

Like his father, Nicholas II was a believer in conservatism and **Orthodoxy**. He was happy to continue policies of excluding lower class children from secondary education and exercising state control over universities. He continued Alexander III's provisions that candidates for university were to be judged on their 'religious, moral and patriotic orientation', women were barred students were forbidden to gather unsupervised in groups of more than five.

Repression

Under both Tsars, student demonstrations were brutally crushed, even when they had a non-political motive. Indeed, heavy-handed police action in St. Petersburg in 1901 when a squadron of mounted Cossacks charged into a crowd of students, killing 13, helped radicalise some who might otherwise have been content to return to their studies. Following this particular incident, 1500 students were imprisoned in the Peter and Paul Fortress – the first time so many of bourgeois birth had found themselves incarcerated. For lesser offences, students might be expelled or drafted into the army.

Influence of Ministers

Perhaps Nicholas' greatest failing was his surrounding himself with reactionary advisors, including his tutor **Pobedonostsev**. Brilliant, strategic thinkers like Witte (and later Stolypin) were increasingly sidelined and treated with suspicion (Witte was dismissed as minister of finance and president of the Council of Ministers in 1903). The result of this was that Russia was deprived of effective leadership and a coherent response to the mounting problems of an increasingly complex, industrialising society.

The result of all this was to deprive the government of effective leadership or co-ordination during the final years of the tsarist regime. Nicholas was the source of all the problems. If there was a vacuum of power at the centre of the ruling system, then he was the empty space. In a sense, Russia gained in him the worst of both worlds: a tsar determined to rule from the throne yet quite incapable of exercising power. This was an 'autocracy without an autocrat'. Perhaps nobody could have fulfilled the role which Nicholas had set himself: the work of government had become much too vast and complex for a single man; autocracy was out of date. But Nicholas was mistaken to try in the first place. Instead of delegating power, he indulged in a fantasy of absolute power. So jealous was he of his own prerogatives that he tried to by-pass the state institutions altogether and centre power on the court. Nicholas's government was unable to create coherent policies to deal with the mounting problems of society.

The rule of Tsar Nicholas II - Questions

- 1) Why was it clear from the outset that neither Tsar favoured reform?
 - a) Alexander III
 - b) Nicholas II
- 2) How much did the tutor Konstantin Pobedonostev influence their thinking?
- 3) Explain how their 'Slavophile' views were upheld:

Failures of Nicholas II

- 4) Explain why Nicholas was not suited to the role of autocrat:
- 5) How did he react to the rising tide of disturbances and strikes in Russia in the 1890s?

Role of the zemstva

- 6) How was the role of the zemstva undermined during the reign of Alexander III?

7) How did Nicholas II make the situation worse when he came to power?

Social Policies

8) Describe the social policies of Nicholas II. How did he deal with:

a) Education

b) Universities

9) Give details of how student demonstrations were dealt with during this time?

The years of the 'Red Cockerel'

10) Explain why the years 1903-04 were called the 'years of the Red Cockerel'.

11) In which areas was the unrest the worst?

12) Give details on the escalation of industrial strikes during this period:

10) How did Zubatov attempt to control these strikes / unrest? How successful was he?

Russification

11) Explain the following terms:

a) Russification

b) Pogrom

c) Anti-Semite

12) How much did Pobedonostev influence this policy?

13) Which areas of the Russian empire were 'russified' under the leadership of Alexander III and Nicholas II?

14) Which group of people suffered the most under this policy? Why was this?

15) Explain how the Okhrana reacted to these attacks:

16) What was the political effect of these policies? Give examples to support your answer.

17) Explain how Nicholas made the situation worse.

18) To what extent was Nicholas II to blame for the mounting problems in Russia at this time?

TASK 5 – Read the key words glossary – fill in the missing words exercise using the key terms. Start learning these terms – make flash cards if this helps you learn them!

<p>Key Word Glossary</p> <p>Tsar The autocratic ruler of Russia, believed to govern by divine right. In 1894, the Tsar had absolute power, with no legal or constitutional limits.</p> <p>Okhrana The Tsarist secret police. Their role was to suppress opposition to the regime by infiltrating revolutionary groups, conducting surveillance, and arresting dissidents.</p> <p>People's Will A revolutionary terrorist group responsible for the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881. Their actions reflected the extremism that emerged due to the lack of political freedom.</p> <p>Russification The policy of enforcing Russian language and culture on the diverse ethnic groups within the empire. It was part of the broader effort to consolidate Tsarist control.</p> <p>Autocracy A system of government where one person (the Tsar) holds absolute power. In Russia, this meant no parliament, no legal political parties, and strict censorship.</p> <p>Peasant The majority class in Russia, making up over 80% of the population. They were largely</p>	<p>Fill in the Blanks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A system of government where one person (the Tsar) holds absolute power. In Russia, this meant no parliament, no legal political parties, and strict censorship. → _____ 2. The Tsarist secret police. Their role was to suppress opposition to the regime by infiltrating revolutionary groups, conducting surveillance, and arresting dissidents. → _____ 3. A key pillar of Tsarist rule. It supported the Tsar's divine right to rule and taught obedience to the monarchy. It was conservative and resistant to political change. → _____ 4. Issued in 1861 by Tsar Alexander II, this decree freed the serfs. However, it left many peasants in debt and without sufficient land, creating long-term social and economic problems. → _____ 5. The majority class in Russia, making up over 80% of the population. They were largely poor, uneducated, and burdened with debt, especially after the end of serfdom in 1861. → _____ 6. The autocratic ruler of Russia, believed to govern by divine right. In 1894, the Tsar had absolute power, with no legal or constitutional limits. → _____ 7. Russia had limited industrial development by 1894. While there were some factories
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poor, uneducated, and burdened with debt, especially after the end of serfdom in 1861.

Industry

Russia had limited industrial development by 1894. While there were some factories and ironworks, the economy was still predominantly agrarian and lacked modern infrastructure and banking systems.

Orthodox Church

A key pillar of Tsarist rule. It supported the Tsar's divine right to rule and taught obedience to the monarchy. It was conservative and resistant to political change.

Emancipation Decree

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8. This refers to the policy of enforcing Russian language and culture on the diverse ethnic groups within the empire. It was part of the broader effort to consolidate Tsarist control. → _____
9. A revolutionary terrorist group responsible for the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881. Their actions reflected the extremism that emerged due to the lack of political freedom. → _____