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1 Introduction

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Russian Empire was the largest land power in the world covering over one-sixth surface of the globe. It stretched from the borders of Japan in the East to the borders of Germany in the West. It was ruled by an absolute monarch known as the Tsar. This empire saw a widespread revolutionary movement of exceptional persistence in 1905 which shook the monarchy. Subsequently, there were two revolutions in March and November 1917. The first of these led to the end of Tsardom and the second led to the triumph of the Bolshevik party which set out to create a socialist state based on the ideas of Karl Marx.

Value addition: Did You Know

Russia

The Russian Empire which covered East Europe, and North Asia and parts of West Asia, was generally referred to as Russia. After the Revolution of 1917, the name, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was adopted. After the disintegration of the USSR in 1991 into fifteen Republics, the Republic with Moscow as capital is called Russia.

From the 17th century, the rulers of the Russian empire belonged to the Romanov dynasty and were known as Tsar (also spelled as 'Czar') and the domain of the Tsar was known as Tsardom. The last three Tsars were: Alexander II (1855-1881), Alexander III (1881-1894) and Nicholas II (1894-1917).

The Revolution of 1905 began on 22 January and spread very fast over a very wide area. For the first time in the history of Russia, millions of people in cities and villages took part in a revolutionary movement. Its sweep made it clear that it had deep rooted causes. Though the revolution died down in a year, it posed a serious challenge to the tsarist regime and had other long term consequences. In

this presentation, first the causes of the Revolution would be discussed and then its course and consequences would be taken up.

2 Causes

During the second half of the 19th century, society and economy in Russia were in the process of rapid change. This created massive anxieties, discontents and aspirations which the tsarist regime found difficult to contain. Various sections of society had begun to discuss alternative forms of government and even ways of overthrowing the Tsardom. The causes of unrest which led to this Revolution of 1905 have to be discussed in this context.

2.1 Political Causes

Russia of the Tsars was an autocratic state. The Tsars clung to the notion of divine rights of king to rule over his subjects. The ministers were responsible to him alone. Shaken by the defeat in the Crimean War of 1854-56, Tsar Alexander II (1855-1881) had launched Russia on a cautious path of reform and modernization. He took steps to 'emancipate' the serfs. He also allowed the formation of *zemestvos* which were noble-dominated local elected bodies. But his reforms did not produce expected results. He was assassinated in 1881. His successors, Alexander III (1881-94) and Nicholas II (1894-1917), clung stubbornly to autocratic ways. At the time of accession of Nicholas II in 1894, there was demand for the creation of a national *zemestvo* which he dismissed as a 'senseless dream'. The Russian empire was a multi-ethnic state in which, as in the rest of the world, nationalist sentiments were emerging. Initially, these focused on demands for civil and cultural rights and some autonomy. But the government responded with repression, russification and discrimination on religious grounds. Such policies created deep and widespread resentments.

2.2 Social and Economic Causes

At the beginning of the twentieth century, 80 per cent of the population was classified as belonging to the peasantry. But peasants were poor and dissatisfied. They mostly worked on the land that was owned by the wealthy who did not pay any tax. The 'emancipation' of serfs in 1861 did not bring prosperity in the countryside. However, it set in motion a period of transition in the economic and social system.

The peasants found it difficult to pay the redemption dues for the land. They were also expected to pay poll tax and local government dues. Moreover, the settlement of 1861 vested peasant landownership, in most cases, in the assembly of peasants – the Mir – not in individual families and, in most regions, peasants were not satisfied with the arrangements made. Situation became worse because of rapid increase in population. Between 1860 and 1914, population of Russia more than doubled. This reduced the average size of holdings for the peasants and thus undid much of the benefit of Emancipation. Great disasters that periodically swept large regions added to misery of peasants. There was a famine in 1891-92 in which 400,000 persons died. Poverty of peasants, disparities in wealth and privileges, and desire to own land which was still held by private landowners, contributed to intense discontent and violence in 1905. Moreover, two ideas were central in aspirations of peasants: land and liberty. They were convinced that land belonged to those who tilled it and therefore, the peasants had a moral right to take it from those who did not own it rightfully. Two, that the peasants had a right to have greater control over their own affairs, not any external authority like the Tsarist state, the gentry or the church. (Figs, 1997b, p.546) Such ideas increased discontent and motivated them to participate in any movement that promised to improve their condition.

There was intense discontent amongst industrial workers too. As compared to other European great powers, commerce and industry developed very slowly in Russia. Until 1830, there was no paved road connecting the Empire's two leading cities, St. Petersburg and Moscow which were situated at a distance of 700 kilometers. From the 1880s, the government decided to encourage industrialization in order to produce arms, machinery and railway equipment. It gave concessions to private entrepreneurs through a policy of protection, direct investment and other fiscal measures. Railway construction including the beginning of the Trans-Siberian Railway and, a little later, Orenberg-Tashkent railway and many other lines in Central Asia, proceeded at remarkable pace. By the 1890s, Russia saw phenomenal economic growth in the fields of textiles, metallurgy, shipbuilding and oil exploration also. The result was that, during 1885-1914, industrial production in Russia increased by an average of 5.72 per cent annually though total output in Russia still remained much below the level of Britain, Germany or the United States. As industries were established, demand for workers also increased and peasants began to migrate to cities. A characteristic feature of Russia was that bulk of proletariat was concentrated in the centre of the country and in the area around St Petersburg.

This movement of people away from established patterns and relationships created social tensions which were accentuated by appalling living and working conditions in cities. The government wanted to derive economic advantage from the availability of cheap labour, but was not ready to redress the grievances of workers. The working class became increasingly aware of the connection between the political system and their own wretched working conditions. In this situation, workers resorted to strikes. Some developed links with revolutionary parties. Russian factories tended to be much larger than factories in west European countries, and had smaller workshops and many factories within them. This provided the workers with a ready made organizational structure. These factories became the bases for revolutionary activity. A working-class identity began to develop not merely as a result of bad working and living conditions, but also as a result of the spread of revolutionary ideas. These ideas spread in rural areas as well because workers returned regularly to their villages to assist in harvesting and for participating in village life generally. They also maintained close ties with other workers who hailed from their own rural region. These ties stimulated exchange of ideas, collective consciousness, as well as a shared hostility to the 'masters', whether industrialist, land owner or the establishment. This strengthened a broad lower-class versus upper-class mentality which conditioned their activities during catalytic events.

2.3 The Rise of Middle Class

In this period of rapid industrial growth, the old hierarchy – noble, clergy, merchant, peasant and others – began to lose much of its meaning. A new social structure based on profession and economic function began to emerge. This generated identities and aspirations that played a major role in the coming of the revolution as well as its outcome. A new strata – the middle class – emerged which was different from the traditionally defined categories of middle class. This grew initially out of professionals such as teachers, lawyers, doctors, pharmacists and others. Industrialization added new categories of engineers, technicians, accountants, managers, small entrepreneurs etc. These people saw their world increasingly defined by the jobs they held and by types of organizations to which they belonged. Gradually, professional as well as social, cultural, leisure and sporting clubs began to grow. This encouraged the development of a middle class identity. Simultaneously, as a result of expansion of education at all levels, a wide range of information and ideas spread which directly challenged traditional beliefs

and social structures and introduced a powerful force of instability in the Russian empire. The educated sections showed a keen perception that the Russian 'nation' differed from the Russian 'state'. A large section of the old nobility and many government officers shared their views. A large section of the old nobility and many government officers shared their views. They began to look upon themselves as spokespersons for the society at large. However, the peasants and workers identified the 'educated society' with 'privileged Russia'. To them, the upper middle and professional classes were 'them'. This was the basis of sharp social antagonism in 1905 and 1917 between the 'masses' of workers, peasants and soldiers, and 'educated' and 'privileged' society. But all these developments had made all sections of society discuss ways of improving their condition even at the cost of bringing structural changes.

2.4 The 'Intelligentsia' : Revolutionary Ideas

In Russia, during the nineteenth century, an intellectual tradition emerged which was defined by anti-state and progressive values. The people related to this became known as the 'intelligentsia' though they never formed a group or homogenous category. It was a category defined through discourse and asserted claim to moral leadership. Starting point of all their discussions was the desire to relieve poverty, social distress and ignorance and thus to improve the condition of people. They discussed various alternatives. By the end of the nineteenth century, many streams emerged: Anarchist, Populist, Nihilist and many others. The Anarchists wanted annihilation of state because it had exhausted its historical role. The Populists believed that Russia could avoid going through capitalism altogether and move straight to a system based on the peasant village. All that was required was armed action to break the power of the state. One of their leaders was Bakunin whose ideas inspired the growth of Nihilism. Nihilists rejected traditional values and institutions and approved of terrorist methods to coerce government to reform. In 1881, one such organization assassinated Tsar Alexander II. His successors, Alexander III and Nicholas II gave up the policy of reforms and adopted a policy of repression.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, some liberal groups, which demanded constitutional monarchy, became, very active. In the autumn of 1904 they organized a series of banquets during which they put forward demand for political changes like an elected national legislature, freedom of the press, freedom

of religion etc. The socialists formed two groups which played a key role in 1905 as well as in 1917: the Social Revolutionaries and the Social Democratic Labour party. The Social Revolutionary Party, established in 1901, grew out of 'populism'. It developed close connection with the peasantry and aimed at social control over land and its equal distribution amongst those who worked on it. Politically, it aimed at abolition of monarchy and establishment of a democratic republic. This Party was not Marxist. Its members did not approve of increasing industrialization and did not think in terms of a proletarian revolution. Marxists called them 'peasant lovers'. This party played a very significant role in 1905. The second stream was that of the followers of Karl Marx which proved most influential. In 1898, a Marxist socialist party was established by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924), Julius Martov and Plekhanov – the Social Democratic Labour Party – which became the forerunner of the Communist Party. Its aim was to unite Marxist radical groups which had been active in Russia since the 1880s. Its members propagated Marxist ideas. Marx believed that economic forces were the real cause of historical change. With industrialization, capitalists came to dominate the economy and overthrew feudal society dominated by monarchs and aristocrats. He further argued that capitalism 'digs its own grave' by continuous expansion, creating more factories, more capital and more workers. When a society would become industrialized, workers (proletariat) would rise against their exploiters, take control of the state and run it in their own interests. Marx called this 'the dictatorship of the proletariat'. As imperialist capitalism would spread all over the world, communist revolution would become international, and ultimately global. This Social Democratic Labour Party published a journal – *Iskra* (The Spark). But gradually, differences arose amongst leaders over issues relating to party organization and relationship to workers. In 1903, this party split into two – the Bolsheviks (Russian word for majority) and the Mensheviks (Russian for minority). Each party claimed to be the true voice of the Social Democratic Movement. Lenin, the Bolshevik leader, exalted the importance of leadership, favoured discipline and centralization, and distrusted initiative from below. Mensheviks, led by Martov, were more democratic in spirit, believed in evolutionary role for Russian Marxism and were ready to cooperate with other political groups. The two factions remained in a state of flux during 1903-04 with many members changing sides. But this split proved long lasting. Both blocs developed secret underground organizations and their structure remained conspiratorial. But police proved fairly successful in infiltrating them. Surveillance of police forced their leaders to operate principally from outside Russia. The two

groups were still squabbling when the news of Revolution in Russia reached them in 1905.

2.5 Immediate Causes

The short term causes of this Revolution can be traced to the Russo-Japanese war (February 1904-August 1905) and the events of 'Bloody Sunday'. This war grew out of rival territorial ambitions of Russia and Japan in Korea and Manchuria. In this war Russia did not fare well. The Russian army was badly armed and poorly-trained. To the astonishment of all, a small island nation defeated a European giant. In January 1905, Russia lost Port Arthur and in February-March Russia suffered a humiliating defeat in the battle of Mukden. The humiliations suffered in this War and despair that the shortage of food and other necessities, and instances of corruption created, added to discontent. In this background, the news of brutal firing on a procession of unarmed people on 22 January created outrage and sparked the Revolution.

Value addition: Did You Know

Russo-Japanese War, February 1904–August 1905

Russo-Japanese war grew out of rival territorial ambitions of Japan and Russia in Manchuria and Korea. It started on 8 February, when Japan, without giving any ultimatum, attacked Port Arthur. Many thought that the contest was unequal because Japan was a tiny Asian nation which had started modernization of its economy and army after 1868, while Russia was a vast and great European power. But, in January 1905, Russia lost Port Arthur and in February-March Russia was defeated in the Battle of Mukden. Russia sent its squadron from the Baltic Sea halfway around the world. But two-thirds of the fleet was destroyed in the Battle of Tsushima (situated between Korea and Japan) in May. The war came to an end with the Treaty of Portsmouth signed in September 1905. This was the first time in modern times that an Asian country had defeated a European power.

3 The Outbreak and Sweep of the Revolution

There had been widespread discontent amongst workers even before 1905. With a view to satisfy the workers, the government had allowed the formation of workers' unions under strict police supervision. One such union was formed in St Petersburg by a priest, father Gapon. On 22 January 1905 (9 January according to the calendar followed in Russia at that time), he organized a procession of workers and their families who solemnly carried portraits of the Tsar and religious icons to the Palace of the Tsar, known as the 'Winter Palace', to present a petition asking for civil liberties, fair wages, gradual transfer of land to the people and convocation of a constituent assembly on the basis of universal and equal suffrage. It became a long procession of about 150,000 persons. The government decided to obstruct the procession by use of force and opened fire many times into unarmed people in which hundreds of men, women and children were killed or wounded. These events shattered workers' illusion of a benevolent Tsar and provoked public indignation. This day became known as 'Bloody Sunday'. It sparked revolts and strikes in different parts of the country which lasted throughout 1905.

Value addition: Did You Know**Russian calendar**

The dates in this chapter are based on the Western calendar. The old Russian calendar was 13 days behind the Western calendar.

Fig No. 1 A depiction of the events on 'Bloody Sunday'. (Take note of the severe St Petersburg winter.)



www.allrussias.com/tsarist_russia/1905_8.asp

These strikes and demonstrations spread to Poland, Finland and along the Baltic coast also. By April, despite severe repression and some concessions, strikes spread to the Caucasus and Ural region and parts of Siberia. In the Caucasus, inter-ethnic clashes erupted which heavily damaged many cities and oil-fields in Baku. Revolts flared up in the villages also where peasants attacked landlords and government officials and began to seize land. Students and middle class people began to demand civil rights and constitutional government. In March, all institutions of higher learning were forcibly closed. Non-Russian minorities joined these uprisings demanding civil rights and political autonomy.

Fig No. 2 Workers marching through the streets of St. Petersburg, during the 1905 Russian Revolution.



arabist.net/arabawy/2008/07/30/1905_russian_revolt/

The central banner reads 'Proletarians of All Countries Unite'. These events took place in the background of defeats in the Russo-Japanese War. In February 1905, Russian forces suffered defeat at Mukden and in April Port Arthur was lost. These reverses provoked mutinies in the armed forces, especially in the navy. The most notable of these was the revolt on the battleship *Potemkin* in June. The war ended with the Treaty of Portsmouth in September 1905.

Value addition: Did You Know**The Potemkin' Mutiny**

The Russo-Japanese War was fought in the Far East. Russia had to send its naval-fleets all the way to the Pacific Ocean on the side of Japan, from the Baltic Sea. There were many naval mutinies. One of these was on the battleship Potemkin in the Black Sea in June 1905. In the era of silent films, in 1925, Sergei Eisenstein made a film on this called 'Battleship Potemkin' which is considered one of the greatest films of all time.

At the end of September, a wave of strikes began in Moscow and developed into a general strike which continued till the middle of October. It is estimated that by the middle of October, over two million workers were on strike and the railways were paralyzed to the extent that there were almost no active railways in all of Russia. These were organized by workers themselves and not revolutionary leaders. In fact, both the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks were taken unawares by this sudden revolutionary upsurge in Russia. Only Social Revolutionaries made a significant contribution. During these strikes the workers set up a new sort of organization, - workers' councils known in Russian as 'soviets' - consisting of elected representatives from work-places and political forums. The peasants also established a nation-wide peasant organization - the All Russian Peasants' Union. It held a conference in Moscow during the last week of October which demanded a constituent assembly, land redistribution and a political union between peasants and workers. The Bolsheviks and their leader Lenin did not have faith in the potential of autonomous working class politics. In his pamphlet 'What is to be done?' (1902), Lenin had argued that the workers, if left to themselves, were capable of rising only to the level of 'trade-union consciousness' and that it would require leadership by the intellectuals to elevate the working class consciousness that was truly socialist. Many local leaders of both these parties, however, joined the Soviets when these were formed at St. Petersburg, Moscow and elsewhere and played a very active role. Lenin returned to Russia only in November 1905 and then he insisted that the Bolsheviks should participate in the soviets. Trotsky, who remained a self-described 'non-factional social democrat' until August 1917, was able to play a role only after his return to Russia in October 1905 and became the leader of the St Petersburg Soviet and organized strike in over 200 factories.

The Tsar continued to vacillate between a policy of total suppression and compromise. Ultimately, in October, though he did not accept the demand for a

constituent Assembly, he promised to introduce constitutional changes and granted what became known as 'the October Manifesto'. It provided for the creation of a bicameral legislature – the Duma (an elected legislative assembly) and the State Council – the need for the consent of the Duma for passing laws, extension of franchise, formation of political parties, and civil liberties like permission to create unions and freedom of the press. These concessions created division amongst the opponents of the regime. The liberals accepted these innovations as a new beginning. In fact, when the Manifesto was proclaimed, there were spontaneous demonstrations of support in many cities. Many others vowed to fight on until the complete overthrow of the monarchy. Unrest continued to grow. In December, there was an uprising in Moscow when the rebels and militia tried to take the city. But the government resorted to a policy of severe repression. Hundreds of rebels were killed and many times over were rounded up. Fifteen members of the St. Petersburg Soviet, including Trotsky, were sent to Siberia for life. In the provinces, hundreds of persons were given death sentences. Army was used to subdue rebellion of peasants in the countryside.

With these measures, the revolutionary impetus subsided. Later, the Tsar was able to ignore the promises made in the October Manifesto and was able to dismiss the first two Dumas without provoking another general strike.

4 Reasons that Enabled the Government to Suppress the Revolution

Initially, the revolutionaries enjoyed certain advantages. After 'Bloody Sunday' the feeling of outrage spread fast and revolts occurred simultaneously in different parts of the empire. The news of adverses in the war further discredited and demoralized the monarchy while revolutionary wave continued to spread. Yet, by the end of the year, the revolutionary wave subsided and the Tsar was able to reestablish his authority. There were many reasons for this. The revolutionaries lacked unified leadership and direction. The Mensheviks and Bolsheviks continued to squabble and were unable to take advantage of the revolutionary situation. The liberals, too, failed to seize the opportunity and divisions between them became even more pronounced after constitutional changes were announced in October. In the rural areas, revolts often took place over local issues. The mutinies, too, were quickly crushed because a substantial section of the army and bureaucracy remained loyal to the monarchy. The revolts of minorities remained confined to border areas

and their aim was not downfall of Tsardom but autonomy for themselves. In short, autocracy could not be overthrown because the leaders did not have faith in the initiatives of the people and were not prepared to seize power, while most of the nobles, bureaucrats and the armed forces stood by the Tsar and because the government decided to accept some of the demands.

5 Significance of the Revolution of 1905

This Revolution is often described as a failure. It is true that the revolution lost impetus after December 1905 and that the Tsar was later able to ignore the promises made in the October Manifesto. Even the contemporaries in foreign countries were surprised by the ease with which the Tsar was able to do so. But, this revolution left very deep impact. In fact, in many spheres its impact was ground-breaking. Its impact can be summarized as follows:

First, the spontaneous uprisings of the year 1905 brought Tsardom close to collapse in 1905. The latter was able to survive after giving significant political concessions which included the summoning of an elected legislature and granting freedom of speech and freedom to the press. For a time it appeared that autocratic government in Russia would be replaced by constitutional monarchy.

Secondly, the events of 1905 gave enormous boost to the feeling that there was an alternative to parliamentary approach. Various political groups in Russia got unprecedented opportunity to organize strikes and be heard. This way of organizing the rebels was very different from the street-based uprisings that were seen during the Revolutions of 1789 and 1848 in France. Rosa Luxemburg, an influential German Marxist theorist and activist, who was in Poland during this period, wrote in her pamphlet that the events of 1905 in Russia showed how strike movements could spontaneously begin to raise political questions, opening up a non-parliamentary strategy for change. Trotsky began to appreciate the use of general strike as a weapon to bring down a government.

Thirdly, the socialist leaders at various levels got their first real chance to intervene in an open mass-movement. They came to recognize the creative impetus of mass workers' movement. They became sharply self-critical and realized that they had often been too narrow and too conservative. The Bolsheviks under Lenin decided to learn from their mistakes. According to Lenin, the greatest gain of this Russian

Revolution was that the struggle developed from a strike to an uprising 'over the heads of the organizations.' The peasants played a very important role and made efforts to form a nation-wide union. Lenin revised his views about the role of peasantry and drew the conclusion that peasantry should be sought after as one of the main revolutionary forces.

Fig No. 3 Bolshevik Party Meeting. Lenin is seen at right.



www.enotes.com/topic/Bolshevik

Fourthly, workers' committees or soviets were a new sort of organization which originated from work places during 1905. For short periods of time, these were able to act as effective government. The St. Petersburg Soviet ordered the workers to refuse to pay taxes. The Moscow Soviet asked the workers to go on strike and they did so. The socialists also saw the value of the soviet as a form of popular government. Their experiences of 1905 made possible the establishment of Petrograd Soviet in March 1917 and to define its long- and short-term goals remarkably quickly. In 1917, when its executive made an appeal to create soviets, 600 soviets were established in a month in various parts of Russia.

Finally, women played a very important role in the events of 1905. In the procession of 22 January women participated very actively. Later they shamed and abused those soldiers who had fired on their 'brothers and sisters'. In the activities in branches of factories, women participated on a big scale. In the revolts of textile workers in the summer and then in the general strike in December they played a crucial role. At this stage, most women saw their struggle as one for social equality for all. However, many women leaders demanded equality with men and the right to vote, and they formed many groups and parties for this purpose. As everywhere else in the world, males, including the socialists, had viewed women as backward and

apolitical. Active role played by women should have shattered such illusions. But, nothing of the sort happened. When provision for elections to the legislative assembly was made, there was no place for women.

Fig No. 4 Women's demonstration in 1905



<https://.../citd/RussianHeritage/9.wo/wo.18.html>

6 Concluding Remarks

The Revolution of 1905 resulted from unrest amongst workers and peasants, spread of revolutionary ideas and unpopular war. The events were marked by unprecedented violence. Tsar's promise to summon a Duma and brutal suppression of all opposition ended the Revolution. Tsardom did survive, but after having made significant political concessions. Though this Revolution was suppressed, it left deep impact. It provided important lessons to socialist leaders. In hindsight, it was seen as 'dress rehearsal' and 'curtain raiser' for the Revolution of 1917 which became a landmark event in the twentieth century.

Further Readings

All textbooks on European and Russian history have a section on the Russian Revolution of 1905. There are very few books on the Russian Revolution of 1905. Even on its centenary very few books appeared. Two of these are:

Ascher, A. 2004, *The Revolution of 1905: A Short History*, Stanford University Press, Stanford.

Glatter, P. 2005, *The Revolution of 1905: Change through Struggle*.

Also see

Figes, O., 1997, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution*, Pimlico, London, 1997. For a summary of his views see Figes, o. 1997b, 'The Peasantry' in E. Acton, E.V. I. Cherniaev and W. G. Rosenberg, *Critical Companion to the Russian Revolution 1914-1921*, Alnold, London, pp. 543-553.

Review Question

- 1 Discuss the causes of the Russian Revolution of 1905?
- 2 Can the Russian Revolution of 1905 be described as the 'curtain-raiser' of the Revolution of 1917?

Glossary

Duma: Name of the legislative assembly in Russia before 1917 which was elected on very limited franchise.

Gentry: Well-to-do landowners, distinct from great aristocrats.

Mir: A village commune of peasant farmers in Russia.

Proletarians: A term used by Marx to describe wage-workers.

Serfs: Peasants who are half free, working some of the land on their own behalf but compelled to provide either unpaid labour, goods-in-kind or money payments to a lord whose land they were not allowed to leave.

Soviets: A local council originally elected by manual workers with certain powers of local administration. After the Revolution of 1917, a higher council elected by a local council, being part of a hierarchy of soviets.

Zemstvos: One of a system of elected local assemblies established in 1864 by Alexander II to administer local affairs after the abolition of serfdom. It became the core of the liberal movement from 1905 to 1917.

Revolution: A revolution is a fundamental change in power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time. Its use to refer to political change dates from the scientific revolution occasioned by Copernicus' famous

Soviet: Soviet was a name used for several Russian political organizations. Examples include the Czar's Council of Ministers, which was called the "Soviet of Ministers"; a workers' local council in late Imperial Russia; and the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union

Communism: Communism is a sociopolitical movement that aims for a classless and stateless society structured upon common ownership of the means of production, free access to articles of consumption, and the end of wage labour and private property in the means of production and real estate

Bolshevik: A member of the extremist wing of the Russian Social Democratic party that seized power in Russia by the Revolution of November 1917

Quiz

1 During which war did the Revolution of 1905 take place?

- A Russo- Japanese War
- B Korean War
- C Russo-Turkish War
- D The First World War

2 Who was the Tsar in 1905?

- A Alexander II
- B Nicholas II
- C Alexander III
- D Nicholas I

3 Name the regions where ambitions of Japan and Russia clashed in 1904?

- A Latvia and Estonia

- B Manchuria and Korea
- C Bosnia and Albania
- D Georgia and Chechnya

4 What was the name of the document issued by the Tsar in 1905 promising constitutional reforms?

- A Morley-Minto Reforms
- B The Magna Carta
- C The October Manifesto
- D The Great Charter

Answers

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 B
- 4 C

Web and Audio Visual links: Battleship Potemkin: A Film available on You Tube.