

What will I study in A Level History at ARA?

- **1G Challenge and transformation: Britain, c1851–1964**
 - How did democracy and political organisations develop in Britain?
 - How and with what effects did the economy develop?
 - How and why did Britain's relationship with Ireland change?
 - How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?
- **2N Revolution and dictatorship: Russia, 1917–1953**
 - concepts such as Marxism, communism, Leninism, and Stalinism, ideological control and dictatorship
 - consider issues of political authority, the power of individuals and the inter-relationship of governmental and economic and social change.
- **The Witchcraze 1560-1660: Coursework**

History Transition Tasks

1. Look at the PowerPoint slides and the extra resources. Then create your own copy of this chart and fill it in.

Russia's rulers and government	Geography	Economy	Society	Extension: Ethnic Minorities

2. Write a 2-3 paragraphs summarising why Russia was difficult to govern at the start of the 20th century.
3. Read the scanned textbook pages on the Growth of the Railways and do the questions on the pages.

Extra resources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6rjy9q/revision/1>

<https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/tsarist-government/>

Why was Russia difficult to govern at the start of the 20th century?



- Russia was ruled by a Tsar.
- A Tsar was an all powerful being, answerable to nobody but God.
- Russia under the Tsar was a conservative state.

- Tsar Alexander II - 1855-1881
- Tsar Alexander III - 1881-1894
- Tsar Nicholas II - 1894-1917



Autocracy

- Autocracy was the system of government in Russia, under the Tsars.
- The Tsars had total power of Russia and the Romanov dynasty ruled from 1613 to 1917. It was the most powerful dynasty in Europe.

- Russia was the largest empire in modern history - it was vast!
- It contained a great mix of differing ethnic and national groupings, languages, religions and cultures.
- The geography of Russia was incredibly diverse, from grassland and forest, to permanently frozen land and deserts.
- It was overwhelmingly rural with a growing industry, yet far lacking behind other European powers.

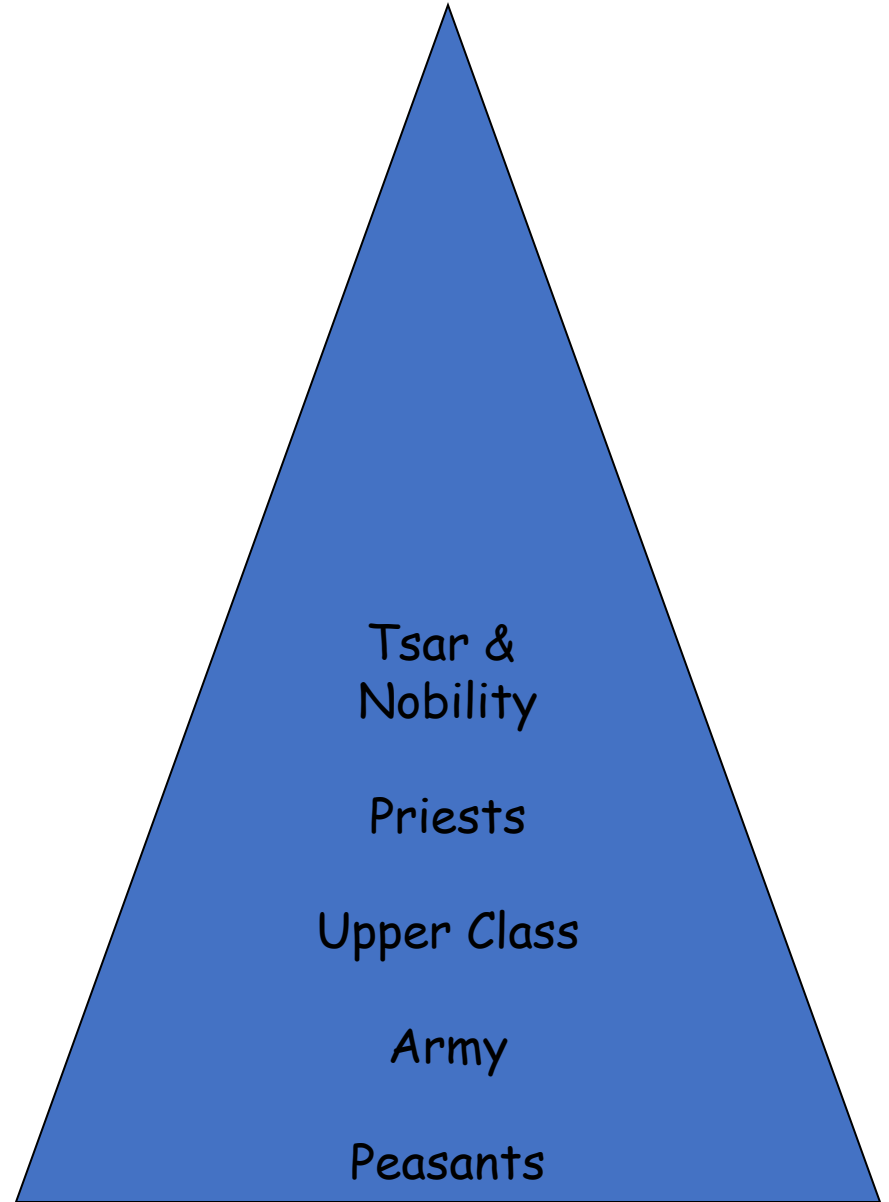


Why was Russia difficult to govern?

1. The **size** of the country and the **diversity** of the population. More than 21 different nationalities lived in Russia; the Russians were the largest in number. It was difficult to have consistent policies across such a vast country.
2. 80% of the population were illiterate **peasants**. Although they were freed in 1861, they were unable to afford to buy land and so were still virtually the slaves of landowners.
3. The **tsar** was an **absolute**, or **autocratic**, ruler. This meant that no political parties were allowed and there was no parliament, only a few advisory ministers. **Censorship** and the tsar's secret police, the **Okhrana**, were ruthless. There were terrorist groups, such as the Peoples' Will who assassinated Tsar Alexander II in 1881. There was no middle ground for debate so there was often extremist political action.

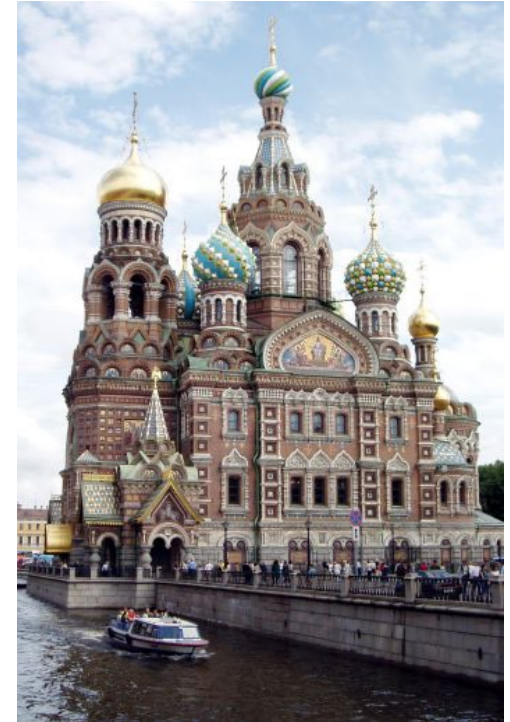
Social Structure

- 0.5% Ruling Class
- 1.2% Upper Class
- 1.5% Commercial Class
- 4.0% Working Class
- 82% Peasants



Religion

- Russian Orthodox Church - pillar of establishment - supported autocratic rule.
- Tsar - Head of Church.
- The Tsar's ministers - the Holy Synod controlled it.
- Close watch put on priests to ensure they showed due respect to the Tsar.
- Priests made money from Church collections.



Economy

- No major industrial development - sheer size and lack of transport prevented it.
- Absence of effective banking structure that prevented entrepreneurialism.
- Most villages had a smelting works which enabled them to make iron goods.

Army

- Common way to keep 'dark masses' in check-conscription.
- Also used as a punishment for law-breakers.
- Dreaded by ordinary Russians because of severity of discipline.
- 45% of government expenditure on armed forces.
- Commissions bought and sold leaving little room for promotion through merit.

How did the Tsars rule?

- Autocrats without Parliament.
- Appointed 'yes men' ministers.
- Advice sought from court favourites.
- Employed civil servants to run country, mostly through nepotism.
- Most important rule - Minister of Interior.

