



Russian History 1855-1964



In Year 12 you will cover the period 1855-1917. It is split into two key areas:

1. Trying to preserve autocracy 1855–1894 – This topic looks at the reigns of Tsar Alexander II and Tsar Alexander III. We will study the political, economic and social changes and developments of the time.
2. The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917 – This topic includes the reign of Tsar Nicholas II, World War One and its impacts, the February 1917 Revolution (the collapse of the Tsarist system) and the October 1917 Revolution (the rise of the Bolsheviks/ Communists).

As this will be a completely new History topic for most of you, the following tasks will provide you with a useful overview and introduction to the course. You will need to do a little research of your own!

Task One

On an A3 sheet of paper, produce a timeline that covers 1855-1917. Mark on the following events:

- Alexander II becomes Tsar.
- The Abolition of Serfdom.
- Military Reforms. (1862-74)
- Zemstva established.
- Judiciary and Education Reforms. (1864)
- Assassination attempt on Alexander II.
- Introduction of the Dumas.(1870)
- Assassination of Alexander II; Alexander III becomes Tsar.
- Ivan Vyshnegradsky becomes Minister of Finance.
- Land Captains established.
- Widespread Famine. (1891-1902)
- Sergei Witte becomes Minister of Finance.
- Death of Alexander III; accession of Nicholas II
- War breaks out between Russia and Japan.
- ‘Bloody Sunday’ Massacre
- October Manifesto.
- Stolypin begins agrarian reform. (1906)
- Russia enters World War One.
- February Revolution; the Tsar abdicates.
- October Revolution; Bolshevik government established.

Please add colour and illustrations to the timeline!

Task Two

Complete a brief ‘pen-portrait’ (a paragraph) about the following important individuals. You could incorporate this information into the timeline, or do it on a separate sheet of paper.

- Tsars Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II.
- Ministers Vyshnegradsky, Witte and Stolypin.
- Grigorii Rasputin.
- Vladimir Lenin.