

Russia 1890-1924 [Revision Cascade]

Problems facing Russia in 1914	Russia was huge	Russia encompassed 125 million people, 21 nationalities spread across 2500 miles. The Trans-Siberian Railway did not solve Russia's communication problems; instead poor migrants flocked to the towns
	Economy	The economy was backward, especially agriculture, which was unable to feed the growing population, leading to famine (harvest failure 1891-2 claimed 400,000 lives) and poverty.
	Government	The Tsar was an autocrat. There was a Council of Ministers – but these were nobles that he chose. Opposition was illegal, and the Tsar used the Okhrana (secret police) to arrest and exile thousands of opponents. Nicholas was overwhelmed by the volume of work
	Gregorian calendar	A sign of Russia's backwardness was that it still used the Gregorian calendar, which ran 13 days late – so February in Russia was March in the rest of the world
	Violence	Riots, uprising and assassinations were endemic, particularly in rural areas
Russian society in 1914	Peasants	Three quarters of the people were impoverished peasants. The abolition from serfdom had worsened their position.
	Workers	No rights, long hours and low pay; appalling living conditions. As a result, socialism, communism, and anarchism progressively gained popularity in Russia
	Aristocracy	Just 700 nobles owned a quarter of the land and lived a life of luxury, waited on by lots of servants – but a sense of decline
	Bourgeois	A small but growing number of the middle class, including the intelligentsia – they were impatient for a say in the government.
	Church	Most people were members of the Russian Orthodox Church. Its priests told people it was a sin to oppose the Tsar. The head of the Church was one of the Tsar's ministers.
Nicholas II's government	Coronation catastrophe	Nicholas's reign began with an accidental catastrophe on the Khodynka army training field
	Autocratic	The Tsar was an autocrat; unable to cope with the huge detail of government
	Weak, indecisive and stubborn	Nicholas II was weak, indecisive and stubborn; he regarded any change as a threat
	Okhrana, cossacks and censorship	The Okhrana (secret police), informers, censorship, torture/imprisonment/execution. Increasingly, the government used the army, notably the Cossacks, to put down rebellions
	Alexei's haemophilia	The haemophilia of the heir to the throne fatally weakened the monarchy
The 1905 revolution	Defeat by Japan, 1904–1905	In 1905 – after Russia lost a war with Japan – there was a revolution
	Bloody Sunday, 9 Jan 1905	A peaceful march of workers (led by Father Gapon to ask the Tsar to improve their conditions) was attacked by the Cossacks
	Battleship Potemkin, Jun 1905	Sailors on the battleship Potemkin mutinied; workers and soldiers set up 'Soviets'
	October Manifesto, Oct 1905	The Tsar published the October Manifesto promising a Duma (parliament)
	Stolypin appointed Prime Minister, 1906	Stolypin introduced reforms which helped the peasants and health insurance for workers, but also imposed a strict repression

How did the Tsar survive the 1905 Revolution?	The army stayed loyal	The army remained loyal; it bloodily repressed the Moscow Soviet, using artillery to shell strikers' houses; other groups – the nobles, the Church, the peasants – also stayed loyal
	The Tsar borrowed 900million roubles	This strengthened the government's finances after the 1904-5 war with Japan
	October Manifesto, Oct 1905	The Tsar published the October Manifesto promising a Duma (parliament)
	Stolypin appointed Prime Minister, 1906	Introduced reforms which helped the peasants and health insurance for workers, but also imposed a strict repression
	Stolypin's repression	By April 1906, more than 14,000 people had been executed and 75,000 imprisoned
Stolypin's repression after 1905	Moscow Soviet suppressed	The army suppressed the Moscow Soviet
	'Stolypin's necktie'	Revolutionaries were tortured and executed; the noose was nicknamed 'Stolypin's necktie'
	Dumas dissolved	The Tsar dissolved the first two Dumas when they questioned his authority
	Fundamental Laws	The Fundamental Laws (1906) restored many of the Tsar's powers
	Stolypin's reforms blocked	Further Stolypin reforms (especially to taxes) were blocked by the Tsar
Traditional loyalties to the Tsar	The nobility	The nobility supported the Tsar – some even wanted to go back to autocracy
	The Octobrists	The 'Octobrists' were happy with the Tsar's reforms in his 1905 October Manifesto
	The Church	The Church told the peasants that the Tsar had been appointed by God
	The peasants	Many peasants loved and worshipped the Tsar
	Romanov tercentenary	The 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty saw a wave of popular support
Why did the Tsar's rule collapse?	Personal weakness of Nicholas II	Nicholas II was weak, indecisive and stubborn, unable to cope with the huge detail of government
	Oppressive government	e.g. the Okhrana (secret police), informers, torture/imprisonment/execution, censorship, the Cossacks and Bloody Sunday (1905)
	World War One	The Tsar took personal control of the army; so people blamed him for the defeats
	Rasputin	Rumours about his behaviour and death discredited the royal family
	The March Revolution	In March 1917 there were riots and strikes; the army refused to put them down, and the Duma set up a 'provisional government'
Opposition groups	The Kadets	Liberals (the 'Kadets') were middle class and wanted to reform the Tsar's government to become like Britain's
	Social Revolutionaries	Wanted to overthrow the Tsar and establish a peasant government
	Communists	Wanted to overthrow the Tsar and establish rule by the proletariat (industrial workers)
	Bolshevik Communists	The Communists were split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks (Lenin and Stalin were Bolsheviks)
	Menshevik communists	The Communists were split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks (one example of a Menshevik was Julius Martov)

Russia in the First World War	Initial patriotism	The war was greeted with enthusiasm; St Petersburg was renamed Petrograd because it was more 'Russian'
	Poorly equipped and led	A third of soldiers did not have rifles; the army used radio, but did not encode their messages – so the Germans knew their every move
	Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes	The Russians defeated at Tannenberg (August 1914) and the Masurian Lakes (Sep 1914)
	Brusilov offensive	The Brusilov offensive in Galicia (June 1916) was quite successful, but costly in casualties
	Death and desertion	By 1917, nine million Russian soldiers had been killed or captured, and soldiers were deserting, or refusing to follow orders
First World War: consequences	Railways requisitioned	The railways were jammed with soldiers, which disrupted the supply of food to the towns
	Runaway inflation	The move to military production (from consumer goods) created runaway inflation
	Starvation in the towns	Conscripting peasants into the army led to failed harvests; people in the towns starved in the winter of 1916–1917
	Rasputin ruined the Tsar's reputation	Whilst he was away with the army, the Tsar left the Tsarina Alexandra in control of the government; her domination by Rasputin utterly discredited the government
	Tsar blamed for defeat	In 1915, the Tsar took personal control of the army; so people blamed him for the defeats
The role of Rasputin	Rasputin dominated the Tsarina	While he was away with the army, Nicholas left the Tsarina and Rasputin in charge
	Alexei's haemophilia	The Tsar could not let people know the truth that his heir had haemophilia
	Rasputin's appointments	Rasputin (a drunkard) ruined the government by appointing his friends as ministers
	Rumours about Rasputin and Alexandra	Rumours that Rasputin was the Tsarina's lover further discredited the royal family
	Rasputin's murder by Yusupov, 1916	Rasputin's murder (1916) – by Prince Yusupov – also discredited the royal family
The Tsar's fall and abdication	Putilov strike, 4 Mar 1917	There were strikes (notably at the Putilov steelworks)
	Women's bread march, 8 Mar 1917	A women's hunger march led to riots
	Petrograd Soviet's Order No.#1, 12 Mar 1917	The soldiers refused orders to put down the riots and formed soviets; the Petrograd Soviet issued Order No.1 – soldiers must obey only the Soviet
	Provisional Government, 14 Mar 1917	When the Tsar refused to make decisions or reforms, the Duma took control and set up a 'provisional government'
	Tsar's abdication, 15 Mar 1917	The Tsar had been trying to return to Petrograd, but soldiers hijacked his train; he abdicated and was arrested
Why was the March 1917 revolution successful?	Winter, 1916–17	The harsh winter, food shortages and galloping inflation fuelled anger
	A popular uprising	There was a wave of strikes (notably at the Putilov steelworks); the revolution was started by the Women's Day bread riot
	The government was in chaos	The government was so weakened by the war, the Tsar's absence, the Tsarina and Rasputin that it was unable to respond adequately
	The army deserted the Tsar	The soldiers refused orders to put down the riots and formed soviets; the Petrograd Soviet issued Order No.1 – soldiers must obey only the Soviet
	The Duma deserted the Tsar	When the Tsar refused to make decisions or reforms, the Duma took control and set up a 'provisional government'

Weaknesses of the Provisional Government	Huge problems	The problems facing it – the war, economy, land, opposition – were immense
	Political freedom	Political freedoms (e.g. press, political prisoners, right to strike) helped their opponents
	Splits between Kadets and Mensheviks	It was divided: there were splits between Kadets and Mensheviks; in July 1917, Lvov resigned and Kerensky took over
	Dual Government	It was forced to share power with the Soviets – the Petrograd Soviet acted as a parallel government (Petrograd Soviet issued Order No.1)
	Lack of Army support	The Provisional Government never had full control of the armed forces (e.g. Kronstadt Mutiny of May 1917, Petrograd Mutiny of 3 Nov 1917)
Problems facing the Provisional Government	Dual Government	It was forced to share power with the Petrograd Soviet (Order No.1)
	Poor harvests and inflation	It inherited a disastrous economic situation from the Tsar's government – harvest failures, a weak industrial economy, inflation, food shortages in the towns
	Peasant demands for land	In the countryside the peasants were demanding to own their own land, but the government needed to keep the support of the landowners
	Communists and Social Revolutionaries	Political opposition from the Communists and the Social Revolutionaries
	The June Offensive failed	The War was the biggest problem; in 1917 the 'June Offensive' failed disastrously
Failures of the Provisional Government	Dual Government	Order No.1 meant the government was only obeyed if the Soviet agreed
	Poor harvests and inflation	Rationing made the government unpopular, and there was looting and crime
	Peasant demands for land	The government deferred the land question to the Constituent Assembly, and gave the land back to the nobles – causing riots in the countryside
	Growing opposition	Freedom of speech and the press allowed opposition groups such as the Bolsheviks and the Social Revolutionaries to grow stronger
	The June Offensive failed	The government continued the war, so the soldiers so people turned against it
The Provisional Government's failure: effects	Dual Government	Order No.1 meant the government was only obeyed if the Soviet agreed
	Poor harvests caused looting	Rationing made the government unpopular, and there was looting and crime
	Anarchy in the countryside	Deferring the land question and giving the land back to the nobles caused riots; the peasants took the land and killed the nobles
	Growing opposition	Freedom of speech and the press allowed opposition groups such as the Bolsheviks and the Social Revolutionaries to grow stronger
	Petrograd Mutiny, 3 Nov 1917	The government tried to continue the war, so the soldiers deserted and mutinied
Growing Bolshevik influence: events	Red Guards, Mar 1917	An efficient party organisation was set up, including 2 million members, a propaganda newspaper (Pravda) and a private army (the Red Guards)
	Lenin's April Theses, Apr 1917	The Germans smuggled Lenin back to Russia, and he published his April Theses promising 'Peace, Bread, Land' and 'All power to the Soviets'
	July Days, Jul 1917	An attempted Bolshevik Revolution failed
	Kornilov rebellion, Aug 1917	A revolution by a right-wing general named Kornilov almost succeeded; Kerensky had to ask the Red Guards for help – this made them popular
	Petrograd Soviet, Sep 1917	The Bolsheviks gained control of the Petrograd Soviet

The Kornilov Affair: events	Kornilov's plan, July 1917	After the July Days riots, Kerensky discussed setting up a strong military government with Kornilov and the Army; Kornilov moved the an army division near to Petrograd
	Kornilov dismissed, 27 Aug 1917	On 26 Aug, Kerensky was told that Kornilov wanted to set up a military dictatorship led by himself; next day he dismissed Kornilov
	Kornilov advanced, 29 Aug 1917	Kornilov sent the Third Cavalry Corps, led by General Krymov, to advanced on Petrograd
	The Red Guards defended Petrograd, 30 Aug 1917	Kerensky called on the Red Guards and the Kronstadt sailors to defend Petrograd; in the face of 25,000 armed Bolsheviks, the 7,000 soldiers retreated – the coup had failed
	Kornilov imprisoned, 1 Sep 1917	Some historians think that Kerensky tricked Kornilov into attacking so he could remove him, or that he encouraged him at first but changed his mind when he realised he would lose power
The Kornilov Affair: significance	Kornilov imprisoned	Kornilov was imprisoned; when the Civil War broke out, he escaped and joined the White army
	Army discipline collapsed	The failure of the coup destroyed the soldiers' last respect for their officers; discipline in the army collapsed – soldiers deserted and mutinied (e.g. the Petrograd Mutiny, 21 Oct 1917)
	Kerensky abandoned	Kerensky lost his one chance to establish a strong government with the support of the Army
	Bolshevik popularity	The Bolsheviks became the people's heroes; in Sep 1917 they gained control of the Petrograd Soviet
	October Revolution	Kerensky lost the support of the army; on 21 Oct the Petrograd garrison mutinied, and when the Bolsheviks attacked the Army did not support the Provisional Government
Bolshevik seizure of power: events	Petrograd Mutiny, 3 Nov 1917	Kerensky ordered the Petrograd garrison to the front; they refused
	Red Guards took key positions, 6 Nov 1917	Red Guards took over key buildings (bridges, telephone exchange)
	Winter Palace, 7 Nov 1917	After a bombardment from the battleship Aurora, the Red Guards took the Winter Palace (the government HQ)
	Congress of Soviets, 7–8 Nov 1917	The Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries walked out in protest at the Bolshevik takeover
	Lenin announced the new government, 8 Nov 1917	Lenin announced the Bolshevik regime and 'the construction of the socialist order'
Why could the Bolsheviks seize power in November 1917?	Lenin and Trotsky	Lenin provided a figure-head and ruthless, flexible leadership. Trotsky brilliantly organised the October coup, propaganda and formation of the CHEKA and Red Army
	Failure of the Provisional Government	It failed a solve a single one of its problems (Economic and land problems, splits, the Petrograd Soviet and lack of army support), leading to riots, mutinies and anarchy
	German support	The Germans smuggled Lenin into Russia and financed the Bolsheviks
	Bolshevik organisation	An efficient party organisation included 2 million members, Pravda, the Red Guards and a slogan ('Peace Bread Land')
	The October Revolution	An almost bloodless coup d'état

Lenin's new society	Land Decree, 8 Nov 1917	Took land from the landlords and gave it to the peasants
	Peace Decree published, 9 Nov 1917	Proposed immediate withdrawal from the First World War
	Workers Decrees, 12 Nov 1917	Workers were given an 8-hour day, paid holiday and sick leave, old-age pensions were introduced; the Bolsheviks allowed free love, divorce and abortion
	Women's equality, Jul 1918	Article 22 of the Russian Constitution gave women equal rights – they could be journalists, doctors, teachers and soldiers
	Decree to Eradicate Illiteracy, Dec 1919	There was a campaign to teach everyone to read
Establishment of Bolshevik rule	Constituent Assembly dismissed, 6 Jan 1918	Lenin dismissed the Constituent Assembly (6 January 1918) because 370 deputies were Social Revolutionaries (and only 175 Bolsheviks)
	Dictatorship of the Proletariat	He declared the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' and ruled by decree
	CHEKA	The CHEKA (secret police) pursued opponents; anti-Bolshevik publications were banned
	Red Terror, Sep 1918	After an attempt to assassinate him, Lenin launched the 'Red Terror' – 50,000 opponents were arrested, tortured or executed
	Constitutional Law, 1923	Set up the USSR; the government was run by a 'Council of Commissars' (Sovnarkom) controlled by the Communist Party's cabinet (Politburo)
Russia quits the First World War	Peace Decree published, 9 Nov 1917	Proposed immediate withdrawal from the First World War
	Armistice, Dec 1917	Armistice signed between Russia and the Central Powers
	German invasion, Feb 1918	Peace negotiations stalled because Russia refused to give up land, so the Germans invaded; Lenin agreed peace at any price
	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Mar 1918	Russia lost Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Ukraine – a third of its farmland, three-quarters of its coal and iron mines
	Compensation, Aug 1918	Russia paid Germany compensation of 6 billion marks
Russian Civil War, 1918: causes	White Russians	Supporters of the Tsar – nobles, generals, landowners – wanted to restore Nicholas
	Britain, France and the USA	Britain, France and the USA wanted to keep Russia in the First World War, and were motivated by fear of world communism
	Japan and Poland	Japan and Poland invaded to try to conquer Russian land
	Ukrainians and Georgians	The Ukrainians and Georgians wanted independence
	Czech prisoners-of-war	Czech prisoners-of-war escaped, took over the Trans-Siberian Railway, and robbed and looted
The Civil War, 1918–1921	Japan and Poland	Japan and Poland invaded to try to conquer Russian land
	Admiral Kolchak	Kolchak set up a 'White' government in Siberia and marched on Moscow; he was defeated in 1919
	General Denikin	Denikin (with French support) advanced from southern Russia; but defeated in 1920
	General Yudenich	Yudenich (with British money) attacked from Estonia and got to within 12 miles of Petrograd; he was defeated in 1920
	Czech prisoners-of-war	They advanced to Kazan, just 450 miles from Moscow, then bought safe passage home by handing over Admiral Kolchak and the White Army's gold

Bolsheviks victory: causes	Bolshevik zeal	The Bolshevik soldiers were motivated and fighting for a Communist state; the Whites were politically disunited and geographically split
	Agit trains	Propaganda – agit trains took mobile cinemas, speakers and leaflets round the country
	‘War Communism’	‘War Communism’ provided the Red Army with the supplies it needed
	The Red Terror	The Red Terror murdered 750,000 Whites; Red generals’ families were kidnapped to keep them loyal; the royal family was executed in July 1918
	The Red Army	Red Army – Trotsky brilliantly organised an army of 300,000; it was well disciplined and well equipped
Bolshevik victory: consequences	Bolshevik government	The Bolsheviks survived as the government of Russia
	Famine	Famine – 5 million died
	Inflation	Inflation – money became worthless; people reverted to barter
	Atrocities	Atrocities – massacres, tortures committed by both sides in the war
	The Red Terror	Some historians think that the brutality of the Civil War made the Bolshevik government particularly ruthless in power
Creation of the USSR	Creation of the USSR, 1922	Stalin announced the Declaration of the Creation of the USSR, which was agreed by the Soviet Socialist Republics of Russia, Transcaucasia, Ukraine and Byelorussia
	Constitutional Law, 1923	Set up the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Sovnarkom	The government was run by a ‘Council of People’s Commissars’
	Politburo	The government was controlled by the Communist Party’s ruling cabinet
	Russification	Russia dominated the USSR, and tried to destroy the language and customs of other nationalities
‘War Communism’: causes	Communist ideology, Jun 1918	The Decree on the Nationalisation of Industry abolished capitalism
	Economic crisis	During the Civil War, a quarter of all firms failed, production fell catastrophically, with large-scale unemployment and food shortages
	Bolshevik towns needed food	Supplies had been disrupted by the Civil War
	The Red Army needed supplies	Industry needed to be put on a war footing
	Inflation	Money was losing value, people were reverting to barter
‘War Communism’: features	The Council of People’s Economy	The government directed production; the Council of National Economy (VSNKh) told each factory what and how much to produce
	Military discipline of workers	Military discipline was imposed in factories and strikers were shot
	Nationalisation of industry	Large factories and banks were taken over by the government
	Prodrazvyorstka	Peasants had to give all surplus food to the government; CHEKA units seized grain and killed any peasants trying to hide food
	Ration cards replaced money	Food was rationed, with most food going first to manual workers, and professional people getting least

'War Communism': consequences	Economy ruined	Industrial output had fallen to 13% of the 1913 level, iron and steel production to 4%
	Food production declined	When all your surplus production was confiscated, there was no point in producing any more than subsistence
	Village riots	After 1920, there were riots in many villages when the CHEKA tried to confiscate grain
	Food procurements	Increased six-fold 1918–1921
	Red Terror	The CHEKA, strikers were shot, peasants hiding grain were executed
The Kronstadt rebellion, 1921: events	Workers' Opposition, 1920	The Trade Unions united to oppose 'War Communism' and the Bolshevik rules; in the countryside, peasants prevented the collection of the Prodravzvorstka
	Petropavlovsk mutiny, 28 Feb 1921	The crew of the ship Petropavlovsk declared their support for Petrograd workers who were striking against 'War Communism', and called for elections and freedom
	Kronstadt Soviet, 1 Mar 1921	A demonstration of 15,000 soldiers elected a new Kronstadt Soviet and abolished Bolshevik rules
	Trotsky's attack, 7–17 Mar 1921	Trotsky attacked and defeated the Kronstadt fortress; 10,000 Red Guards were killed
	Executions, 18 Mar 1921	500 captured sailors were executed without trial; over the next few months 2000 more were put to death
The Kronstadt rebellion, 1921: results	Arrest of opponents	In all, some 2,500 sailors were executed; Lenin used the Kronstadt rebellion as an excuse to crush the Workers' Opposition, and to arrest many other opponents (e.g. Mensheviks)
	Solovki concentration camp	Solovki concentration camp, set up for the sailors and other opponents, was the first Soviet camp, and the start of the gulag
	10th Party Congress: the Ban on Factions	The 10th Party Congress (Mar 1921) also banned all factions (disagreements within the Bolshevik Party); Stalin would later use this to eliminate his opponents
	10% Prodnalog	At the 10th Party Congress (Mar 1921) Lenin replaced the Prodravzvorstka with the Prodnalog (a tax in kind of 10% of produce) – much lighter, and the start of the NEP
	NEP, 1923	Although Lenin intended the tax in kind to be temporary, he never managed to reinstate 'War Communism', and instead had to introduce the New Economic Policy in 1923
New Economic Policy: causes	The Civil War was over	So the extreme measures of 'War Communism' were no longer needed
	Economy ruined	Industrial output had fallen to 13% of the 1913 level, iron and steel production to 4%
	Food production declined	Grain confiscation had reduced agriculture to subsistence farming
	Village riots	There were riots in many villages; this showed how much 'War Communism' was hated
	Kronstadt rebellion, Mar 1921	The Kronstadt sailors rebelled; although Trotsky brutally crushed the rebellion, Lenin realised he had to change his policy
New Economic Policy: features	Prodnalog	A food tax (Prodnalog) replaced Prodravzvorstka (confiscation of surplus produce)
	Kulaks	Farmers were allowed to sell their surplus produce for profit; kulak farmers prospered
	Nepmen	Private businesses were allowed; small factories were given back to their owners and 'Nepmen' set up private enterprises
	Nationalities	Nationalities (e.g. Ukrainians) were allowed their own language and customs
	Freedom of Religion	Freedom of religion was allowed to Christians and Muslims

New Economic Policy: consequences	Production increased to 1914 levels	Grain production doubled; coal tripled; electricity increased five-fold
	Kulaks	Farmers were allowed to sell their surplus produce for profit; kulak farmers prospered
	Nepmen	'Nepmen' set up private enterprises; some were resented for charging high prices
	Old Bolsheviks resigned	Many old Bolsheviks resigned, saying it was a return to capitalism
	Russia remained economically backward	Russia remained economically backward compared to the West
Communist rule in the 1920s: facts	Vozhd	Lenin was the undisputed vozhd (leader)
	Dictatorship of the proletariat, Jan 1918	Lenin dismissed the Constituent Assembly, declared the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' and ruled by decree
	Constitutional Law, 1923	Lenin set up the USSR and ensured the 'Council of People's Commissars' (Sovnarkom) – was controlled by the Communist Party's ruling cabinet (the Politburo)
	OGPU and Gulag	Opponents – both outside and inside the Communist Party – were arrested by the OGPU (secret police) and sent to the 'Gulag' (the system of labour camps)
	Agitprop, 1920	The Politburo set up an Agitprop Department to organise censorship and propaganda; 'agit-trains' took newsreels round the country
Roles and achievements of Lenin	Vozhd	Lenin was figurehead and accepted leader (vozhd); important in a party of revolutionaries
	German support	Lenin persuaded the Germans to smuggle him back to Russia and to finance the Bolsheviks in 1917
	April Theses	The April Theses provided the ideas and attracted support in 1917; Lenin brought in the new communist society
	Dictatorship of the proletariat	Lenin seized power in January 1918 and established Bolshevik rule by the Red Terror
	'War Communism'	Lenin introduced the system of 'War Communism' which gave the Bolsheviks unity and victory in the Russian Civil War
Roles and achievements of Trotsky	Pravda	As editor of Pravda, Trotsky was a great Communist thinker who defined the nature of the Communist state in Russia; he developed a form of Communism called 'Trotskyism'
	November Revolution	As leader of the Red Guards, Trotsky led the November Revolution
	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk	As Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Trotsky made the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany
	Red Army and Red Terror	Trotsky brilliantly organised the Red Army (he personally led the defeat of Yudenich at Petrograd) and the Red Terror which won the Civil War
	NEP	Although he ruthlessly defeated the Kronstadt Mutiny in 1921, Trotsky realised that things had to change, and it was Trotsky who devised the NEP
Trotsky: background facts	Revolutionary Military Committee	As head of the Revolutionary Military Committee, he had organised the November coup
	Commissar for Foreign Affairs	As Commissar for Foreign Affairs, he had negotiated the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
	Commissar for War	As Commissar for War, he had formed the Red Army, organised the CHEKA, won the civil war and put down the Kronstadt rebellion
	World revolution	Trotsky believed in 'world revolution', encouraging Communists elsewhere to rebel
	13th Party Conference	He was Jewish, had been a Menshevik (and at the 13th Party Conference in 1924, he and his 46 main supporters were marked for 'political annihilation')

Trotsky: weaknesses and mistakes	Malaria	Trotsky had malaria, and had to go to the Black Sea to recover just as Lenin died in 1924; this gave Stalin an advantage
	Lenin's Funeral	Stalin organised Lenin's funeral; he told Trotsky the wrong date, so Trotsky missed it – this made Trotsky look bad and Stalin, who was chief mourner, look loyal
	Trotsky's personal failings	Trotsky was arrogant and dictatorial; he was also Jewish, and had been a Menshevik
	13th Party Conference	Trotsky supported Lenin's Testament, but instead, at the 13th Party Conference in 1924, he and his 46 main supporters were marked for 'political annihilation'
	World revolution	Trotsky believed in 'world revolution', encouraging Communists in other countries to rebel – many Communists believed it would bring disaster
Stalin: background facts	Party activist	He had been a Bolshevik since 1905 – he had issued the very first edition of Pravda; he had twice been imprisoned in Siberia BUT may have been a tsarist informer
	Commissar for Nationalities, 1917	In 1917, he was made Commissar for Nationalities (with the task of destroying the national identity of the different races); he was ruthlessness and brutal
	'Comrade Card-index', 1922	As General Secretary of the Communist Party, he appointed the top Party officials (the 5000 nomenklatura) who appointed the 20,000 apparatchiki (party officials)
	Popularity	He was genial, pleasant and liked a laugh – this made him popular
	Socialism in one country	Stalin argued for 'Socialism in one country' – establishing Russia first, and going for world revolution later
Stalin and Lenin's death, 1924	Lenin's illness, 1924	Lenin died in 1924; during his final illness, he had been cared for by Stalin
	Lenin's Testament	Lenin wrote a Testament supporting Trotsky and warning against giving Stalin power
	Lenin's funeral	Stalin organised Lenin's funeral; he told Trotsky the wrong date, so Trotsky missed it – this made Trotsky look bad and Stalin, who was chief mourner, look loyal
	Lenin's ideas	Stalin pretended to be a follower of Lenin's ideas; he wrote a book on Lenin's ideas which made him popular
	Lenin Levy	Stalin organised the enrolment of hundreds of thousands of new members (the 'Lenin Levy'); they accepted Stalin as the leader
The struggle for power: facts	Trotsky supported Lenin's Testament, 1924	Trotsky forced the Politburo to discuss Lenin's Testament; he wanted Stalin expelled from the Politburo, but Stalin was saved by Kamenev and Zinoviev
	Trotsky was defeated, 1925	Stalin formed an alliance (the troika) with Kamenev and Zinoviev; they forced Trotsky to resign as Commissar for War and dismissed his 46 supporters
	Kamenev and Zinoviev were expelled, 1927	Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev formed the 'United Opposition', but Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky helped Stalin expelled them and 1500 supporters
	Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky denounced, 1929	At the 16th Party Conference, Stalin turned against the NEP; when Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky opposed him, he denounced them as 'deviationists'
	Trotsky was murdered, 1940	Trotsky was exiled in 1929, sentenced to death in a Show Trial in 1936, and was finally murdered in Mexico by a NKVD agent in 1940

Why Stalin won: causes	'Comrade Card-index', 1922	As General Secretary of the Communist Party, he appointed the top Party officials (the 5000 nomenklatura) who appointed the 20,000 apparatchiki (party officials)
	Popularity	He was genial, pleasant and liked a laugh – this made him popular
	Socialism in one country	Stalin argued for 'Socialism in one country' – establishing Russia first, and going for world revolution later
	Political strategy	Stalin formed alliances first with Kamenev and Zinoviev (the troika) then with Bukharin, Rykov and Tomsky – and then turned against them
	Stalin was ruthless	e.g. as Commissar for Nationalities/telling Trotsky the wrong date for the funeral/exile and murder of Trotsky
Stalin's rise to power: milestones	'Comrade Card-index', 1922	As General Secretary of the Communist Party, he appointed the top Party officials (the 5000 nomenklatura) who appointed the 20,000 apparatchiki (party officials)
	Constitutional Law, 1923	Set up the USSR and ensured the 'Council of People's Commissars' (Sovnarkom) – was controlled by the Communist Party's ruling cabinet (the Politburo)
	Vozhd, 1929	By his 50th birthday, in December 1929, Stalin had defeated all his rivals and was celebrated as the new vozhd (leader)
	Ryutin's Appeal to all Bolsheviks, 1932	Ryutin wrote An Appeal to all Bolsheviks calling for the return of the NEP, the end of collectivisation and 'the elimination of Stalin'
	17th Party Congress, 1934	Opposition to Stalin arose – he was sacked as General Secretary, and Kirov (the Leningrad Party leader) was more popular
The 1936 Constitution: facts	The Communist Party	The Communist Party was 'the leading core of all organisations' – i.e. the Communist Politburo was more powerful than the Sovnarkom (Council of People's Commissars')
	Stalin the Vozhd	Stalin held all power – he was First Secretary of the Communist Party, Chairman of the Politburo and Chairman of the Sovnarkom (the 'Council of People's Commissars')
	Freedoms and rights	The Constitution gave the vote to everyone over 18, freedom of speech, and the right to work, healthcare, housing and education; "the only fully democratic constitution in the world"
	Opposition was banned	Since all parties were banned except the Communist Party, none of the promises in the 1936 Constitution affected the Communist control over the government
	Direct voting	The new constitution introduced 'direct voting' for government members; this reduced the power of the local Communist parties
How did Stalin reinforce his dictatorship: ways	Constitution of 1936	It guaranteed freedom, but banned opposition parties, reinforced Stalin's control of government, and reduced the powers of local parties by direct voting
	The Great Terror	Including the Gulag and NKVD; called the Yezhovshchina after Nikolai Yezhov (nicknamed 'the Bloody Dwarf') who organised it
	The Purges	Stalin's opponents were purged from the Politburo, the Party and the Red Army
	Propaganda	Including the 'cult of personality' and constant praise for Stalin and Communism
	Censorship	All writers were controlled by the government censorship department Glavlit; history was re-written

The Purges: causes	Civil War atrocities	Some historians think that the brutality of the Civil War made the Bolsheviks particularly ruthless in power
	Kirov's challenge to Stalin	Opposition to Stalin arose at the 17th Party Congress – he was sacked as General Secretary, and Kirov (the Leningrad Party leader) was more popular
	Kirov was shot	Although, historians suggest Kirov was shot on Stalin's orders, Stalin used it as an excuse to order mass arrests
	Stalin's bloodlust	Stalin had always been ruthless (e.g. as Commissar for Nationalities); some historians believe he was paranoid (he personally approved lists of executions)
	The danger from Germany	Stalin argued that the USSR had ten years to prepare for an invasion by Nazi Germany, and that it had to make itself strong at all costs
The Purges: facts	Leningrad Party, 1934	Kirov's supporters in the Leningrad Party were arrested
	Politburo	7 out of 8 of Stalin's 1934 Politburo were eliminated
	Party Congress, 1935	Party activists was purged (including 1108 out of 1966 delegates to the Party Congress)
	Red Army, 1937	The Red Army commander and 81 out of 103 generals and admirals were purged
	Communist Party	About a million Party members were expelled or arrested
The Great Terror: facts	Nikolai Yezhov	The Terror was led by Nikolai Yezhov (nicknamed 'the Bloody Dwarf') and enforced by the secret police (OGPU/NKVD)
	Gulag	The Gulag was a system of labour camps in Siberia; in 1937, 1 million people were imprisoned in the Gulag; there were 790,000 executions
	Kulaks	5 million kulaks were 'eliminated'
	Russification	National dress and customs were forbidden, and both the Christian and Muslim religions were persecuted; 5 million Ukrainians starved, 1933–34
	Show trials	Public show trials of disgraced Bolsheviks (e.g. Zinoviev and Kamenev, 1936, and Bukharin, Rykov, 1938) for improbable crimes, which they admitted
The Great Terror: consequences	Informers and apparatchiks	Informers denounced their neighbours to get a flat; loyal 'apparatchiks' (party officials) got the best jobs, flats, etc.
	Stalin was undisputed leader	Stalin was constantly praised and applauded (he wasn't there, but the NKVD were)
	Everyone wore a 'smiling mask'	An atmosphere of fear and intimidation – children informed on parents; Tomsy committed suicide rather than face a show trial
	Russification	Russification destroyed national identity and attacked religion
	Weakened the Army	Some historians have suggested that Stalin's Purges of the generals weakened the army – hence Hitler's spectacular victories when he invaded in 1941
The cult of personality: features	Statues, paintings and banners	Statues, paintings and banners everywhere bore his face; every home had a picture
	Places named after Stalin	Towns (e.g. Stalingrad), roads and buildings were named after him
	Literature in his honour	Poems and books were written in his honour
	Stalin was almost worshipped	He was regarded as almost divine; it was said (e.g.) that he caused spring to come
	Constant praise and applause	He was afforded constant praise and applause

Censorship: features	Glavlit	The Censorship Department, Glavlit, had 70,000 employees
	Union of Soviet Writers	All writers had to be members of the Union of Soviet Writers
	Attacking Capitalism	The media had to attack Western capitalism and religion
	'Bourgeois pseudo-science'	Subjects like genetics and sociology were forbidden as 'bourgeois pseudo-science'
	Communist stories	Novelists had to write Communist stories with a happy ending
Propaganda: facts	Cult of personality	The media had to glorify Stalin
	Supporting communism	The media had to celebrate communism, and encourage hard work (e.g. Stakhanov) and informing on traitors
	'Socialist realism' in art	All art had to follow the rules of 'Socialist realism', celebrating the proletariat
	History was re-written	History was changed to make Stalin look more important; new pages were written and pasted into textbooks to 'write out' disgraced leaders from history
	Children were indoctrinated	Children were taught that Stalin was the Great Leader; they were encouraged to love Stalin more than their parents, and to inform on them
Stalin's economic changes: causes	The New Economic Policy was failing	By 1929, the New Economic Policy had only increased production to the 1913 level; the NEP was not improving things quickly enough
	'Scissor Crisis'	Prices of agricultural produce were falling, but the price of industrial goods was rising; this was impoverishing the countryside
	Agriculture was backward	Not enough food was being produced for the towns (there was a shortfall of 20 million tonnes of grain); Russia needed cash crops to export
	NEPmen and kulaks	The rich NEPmen and kulaks – capitalists selling at a profit – were hateful to Communists
	The danger from Germany	Stalin argued that the USSR had ten years to prepare for an invasion by Nazi Germany, but was 50–100 years behind the West
Collectivisation: aims	Kolkhoz	All the farms in the village were joined together into one collective (kolkhoz)
	Government targets	Farming was run by government officials to meet government targets
	Production for the towns	90% of production was taken by the government
	Motor Tractor Stations	Every kolkhoz was supposed to have a Motor Tractor Station (= modernisation)
	Eliminate the kulaks	Collectivisation gave Stalin an excuse to eliminate the hateful kulaks
Collectivisation: the process	Failed first attempt, 1929	Stalin ordered that peasants' farms had to be united into collectives (kolkhoz); there was opposition and he was forced to stop
	Kolkhoz restarted, 1931	Stalin restarted collectivisation and seized grain by force
	Peasant resistance, 1932	More resistance; the peasants killed their animals and burned their crops
	War on the Kulaks, 1933	Stalin blamed the kulaks and declared war on them; 5 million were sent to the Gulag
	250,000 kolkhoz, 1939	90% of peasants lived on one of 250,000 kolkhoz or 4000 state farms

Collectivisation: the results	250,000 kolkhoz	By 1939, 90% of peasants lived on one of 250,000 kolkhoz or 4000 state farms
	Increased grain production	In 1937, 97 million tonnes of grain were produced (compared with 73 million in 1928) plus cash crops for export
	Peasants migrated to the towns	17 million peasants left the countryside to work in the towns, 1928–1937
	Reduced livestock	The number of animals fell, 1928–1937 (cattle from 70 million to 50 million; sheep from 150 million to 66 million)
	Famine in the Ukraine	Agricultural production fell; there was a famine in the Ukraine 1933–34 (5 million people died)
Industrialisation: the Five-Year Plans	GOSPLAN	GOSPLAN (the state planning agency) drew up plans; targets were set for every industry, region, mine and factory, foreman and worker.
	Three 5-Year Plans, 1928–37	The First (1928) and Second (1933) Plans concentrated on heavy industry; the consumer goods promised by the Third (1937) never happened because of the war
	Young ‘pioneers’	Young ‘pioneers’ with Communist zeal started the projects
	Foreign experts	Foreign experts and engineers were called in
	Slave labour	For projects such as dams or canals, slave labour from the Gulag was used
Industrialisation: results	Heavy industry, 1928 & 1933	The First (1928) and Second (1933) 5-Year Plans concentrated on heavy industry
	Third 5-Year Plan, 1937	The Third 5-Year Plan (1937) promised consumer goods and better housing; it never happened – because of the war, later targets were changed to armaments
	Increased production, 1928–1937	Increased production 1928–1937 (e.g. coal production increased four-fold, electricity seven-fold); by 1940, the USSR was the world’s second-biggest economy
	Magnitogorsk	Towns grew, including new industrial centres such as Magnitogorsk
	Dnieper Dam and Belomor Canal	Achievements such as the Moscow underground, Dnieper Dam and the Belomor Canal
Industrialisation: working conditions	Terrible cost in human lives	Appalling conditions and a terrible cost in human lives (especially the kulaks) – e.g. some 100,000 people died building the Belomor Canal
	Atmosphere of terror	Atmosphere of terror – workers were bombarded with propaganda, posters, slogans and radio broadcasts lazy workers were punished, even shot
	Stakhanovites	Pressure to work harder; medals were awarded for ‘Stakhanovites’
	Wages and conditions worsened	Wages and conditions worsened
	Increase of alcoholism and crime	There was an increase of alcoholism and crime as workers tried to escape the pressure
Industrialisation: social consequences	Education and 87% literacy	Free universities and training schemes – all children received free state education; literacy had increased to 87% by 1939
	Free health care	Free health care – by 1940, the USSR had more doctors per person than Britain
	Poor industrial housing	Industrial housing was overcrowded and rundown
	Famine	There were food shortages as agricultural production fell; there was a famine in the Ukraine 1933–34 (5 million people died)
	Shortages of consumer goods	There were great shortages of consumer goods, especially in the mid-1930s

Industrialisation: political consequences	Cult of Stalin	The successes were celebrated in Soviet propaganda to reinforce the cult of Stalin
	International prestige	By 1940, the USSR was the world's second-biggest economy and there was NO unemployment – this compared favourably to the Depression in the West
	Inequality and privilege	Higher wages for teachers, engineers, skilled workers, managers and apparatchiks; all pretence of Communist equality was abandoned
	The Great Terror	Slave labour from the Gulag was used for projects such as dams or canals; it was part of the Great Terror
	War on the Kulaks	Stalin declared war on the kulaks; 5 million were sent to the Gulag and used on the construction project
Life in Stalin's Russia: working conditions	Terrible cost in human lives	Appalling conditions and a terrible cost in human lives (especially the kulaks) – e.g. some 100,000 people died building the Belomor Canal
	Atmosphere of terror	Atmosphere of terror – workers were bombarded with propaganda, posters, slogans and radio broadcasts lazy workers were punished, even shot
	Stakhanovites	Pressure to work harder; medals were awarded for 'Stakhanovites'
	Wages and conditions worsened	Wages and conditions worsened
	Increase of alcoholism and crime	There was an increase of alcoholism and crime and workers tried to escape the pressure
Life in Stalin's Russia: living conditions	Education and 87% literacy	Free universities and training schemes – all children received free state education; literacy had increased to 87% by 1939
	Free health care	Free health care – by 1940, the USSR had more doctors per person than Britain
	Poor industrial housing	Industrial housing was overcrowded and rundown
	Famine	There were food shortages as agricultural production fell; there was a famine in the Ukraine 1933-34 (5 million people died)
	Shortages of consumer goods	There were great shortages of consumer goods, especially in the mid-1930s
Women in Stalin's Russia	Creches were provided	Creches were provided so that women could go to work
	Universities and doctors	Treated as equal to men – sent to universities/became doctors
	40% of industrial workforce	By 1937, 40% of industrial workers and 72% of health workers were women
	Divorce and abortion prevented	Divorce was made more difficult and abortion abolished
	Child-bearing encouraged	Medals were awarded to women who had more than ten children
Education	Love of Stalin	Children were taught that Stalin was the Great Leader; they were encouraged to love Stalin more than their parents, and to inform on them
	History was changed	History was changed so that Stalin looked more important than he had been, and so that his opponents 'disappeared'
	Maths, Science and Technology	Discipline was strict, with an emphasis on Maths, Science and Technology
	'Bourgeois pseudo-science'	Subjects like genetics and sociology were forbidden as 'bourgeois pseudo-science'
	Communist youth organisations	Children had to join Communist youth organisations such as the Octobrists (8-10 year-olds), Pioneers (10-16) and Komsomol (19-23)

Different groups in Stalin's Russia	The elite prospered	e.g. higher wages and perks such as better housing, holidays and special shops, for teachers, engineers, skilled workers and apparatchiks
	Peasants suffered	e.g. they had none of the benefits of the industrial workers (e.g. electricity), and collectivisation caused famines
	The kulaks were 'liquidated'	Stalin blamed the kulaks for the resistance to collectivisation and declared war on them; 5 million were sent to the Gulag
	Nationalities were destroyed	e.g. Russian became the language of government, national dress and customs were forbidden; 5 million Ukrainians were allowed to starve, 1933–1934
	Religion was persecuted	e.g. churches were destroyed and priests sent to the Gulag
Stalin's successes: facts	Second-biggest economy	By 1940, the USSR was the world's second-biggest economy and there was NO unemployment – this compared favourably to the Depression in the West
	Increased grain production	In 1937, 97 million tonnes of grain were produced (compared with 73 million in 1928) plus cash crops for export
	Magnitogorsk	Towns grew, including new industrial centres such as Magnitogorsk
	Dnieper Dam and Belomor Canal	Achievements such as the Moscow underground, Dnieper Dam and the Belomor Canal
	Some social successes	e.g. the role of women, free education, improved literacy, free health care (by 1940, the USSR had more doctors per person than Britain)
How powerful was Stalin by 1941?	Vozhd	Stalin was First Secretary of the Communist Party, Chairman of the Politburo and Chairman of the Sovnarkom.
	Constitutional Law (1923)	Ensured the 'Council of People's Commissars' (Sovnarkom) – was controlled by the Communist Party's ruling cabinet (the Politburo)
	Constitution of 1936	It guaranteed freedom, but banned opposition parties, reinforced Stalin's control of government, and reduced the powers of local parties by direct voting
	The Great Terror	Including the Gulag and NKVD; called the Yezhovshchina after Nikolai Yezhov who organised it; Stalin's opponents were purged from the Politburo, the Party and the Red Army
	The cult of Stalin	Including the cult of personality, manipulation of education, censorship and propaganda
Soviet foreign policy before 1941	World Revolution	Initially, the Bolsheviks tried to provoke world revolution; there were communist uprisings in Germany, Italy, Hungary and the Baltic States 1919-24
	Socialism in One Country	Defeat of the 1919-24 uprisings, and defeat in the war with Poland, convinced Stalin that the USSR was not strong enough
	Maxim Litvinov	From 1930, Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, negotiated non-aggression pacts with Poland, the Baltic States, France and China.
	The USSR joined the League of Nations, 1934	Stalin hoped it would restrain Hitler's aggressive foreign policy; he believed that war with the Nazis was inevitable
	Nazi-Soviet Pact, 1939	When it was clear that the League was powerless, and that Britain and France were just going to appease Hitler, Stalin made the Nazi-Soviet Pact

Events of the Great Patriotic War	Operation Barbarossa, 1941	The Nazis launch Operation Barbarossa – the invasion of the USSR – taking Stalin by surprise. By December the Nazis had conquered huge areas of Russia, but had failed to take Leningrad and Moscow..
	Battle Stalingrad, 1942-43	The Nazi Sixth Army was stopped at the battle Stalingrad and eliminated
	Battle of Kursk, July-Aug 1943	Nazis defeated at the Battle of Kursk – the largest tank battle in history
	Nazis driven out of Russia, 1944	The Nazis were driven out of Russia
	Capture of Berlin, 2 May 1945	The Soviets captured Berlin
Why the USSR won	Propaganda	The Sovinformburo appealed to the nationalism, communism AND religion of the Soviet peoples
	Economy	The entire economy: was devoted to supplying the army. 1,500 factories were moved to the Urals and central Asia. Labour was mobilised: military discipline/ holidays abolished
	Natural factors	Russia's huge size and 'General Winter', along with the Soviets' 'scorched earth' tactics.
	Red Army	Draconian discipline, amazing heroism. 800,000 women recruited PLUS helped by huge amounts of foreign aid
	Stalin's leadership?	ALL decisions had to go through Stalin and he insisted on 'Not A Step Back' (Order No. 227), whatever the cost. Millions of Soviet soldiers died as a result, notably in the final attack on Berlin.
Results of the Great Patriotic War	Death	26 million Soviet citizens died from overwork and malnutrition, enemy action, or fighting in the Red Army.
	Destruction	Industry and agriculture ruined. 70,000 villages, 100,000 kolkhozy and 40,000 miles of railway track destroyed. Nearly 5 million houses destroyed; 25 million home
	Cold War	After 1945, Soviet forces stayed in the countries of eastern Europe as a 'cordon sanitaire' protecting the Soviet Union ... this was the cause of the Cold War.
	Orthodox Church	Its support for the war effort led to its being given greater toleration
	Remembrance	Victory Day is still one of the most important public holidays for Russian citizens.