



# CAUSES OF THE REVOLUTION

(1896 to October 1917)

SAMPLE

## SOURCE ANALYSIS: EXTRACT

Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### SOURCE

The political leader of the **Iskra** [newspaper] was Lenin. Martov was the literary power; he wrote as easily and as continuously as he spoke. Working side by side with Lenin, Martov, his closest companion in arms, was already beginning to feel not quite at his ease. They were still addressing each other as "ty" (thou), but a certain coldness was beginning to creep into their mutual relations. Martov lived much more in the present, in its events, in his current literary work, in the political problems of the day, in the news and conversations; Lenin, on the other hand, although he was firmly entrenched in the present, was always trying to pierce the veil of the future. ... The different political lines had not yet had time to form; in fact, they had not even begun to make themselves felt. Later on, through the split at the Second Congress of the party, the **Iskra** adherents were divided into two groups, the "hard" and the "soft." These names were much in vogue at first. They indicated that, although no marked divisions really existed, there was a difference in point of view, in resoluteness and readiness to go on to the end.

Leon Trotsky, *My Life* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1930), 150.

1. Identify the roles played by Lenin and Martov in regard to *Iskra*.

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2. Identify differences between Lenin and Martov in regard to revolutionary outlook and approach.

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3. Quoting from the extract and using your own knowledge, explain how the split between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks changed the political situation in Russia.

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SOURCE ANALYSIS: VISUAL REPRESENTATION

Examine the representation carefully and answer the questions that follow.

SOURCE



Postcard (c. 1905) celebrating the signing of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty. Image courtesy of Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-08199

1. Identify the three main leaders depicted in the representation.

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2. Identify symbols used in the representation to denote the country that brokered the Portsmouth Peace Treaty.

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3. Referring to the representation and using your own knowledge, explain the causes of the Russo-Japanese War.

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4. Evaluate the extent to which the representation gives a complete picture of the events and conditions that caused the revolution up to and including October 1917. In your response refer to parts of the representation and to other evidence and interpretations.

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SAMPLE

**SHORT RESPONSE**

- 1. Identify two significant individuals involved in Bloody Sunday and discuss their beliefs and values about Russian society.

Person 1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Person 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2. Discuss Bloody Sunday as a social and political turning point.

Para 1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Para 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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SAMPLE

## SHORT RESPONSE

1. What were the key sources of discontent in Russia between 1896 and 1917? What hope of change did Nicholas II offer?

Para 1

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Para 2

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2. To what extent did the events of 1905 damage Tsarist Russia?

Para 1

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Para 2

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## HISTORICAL INTERPRETATIONS

Read the two historians' viewpoints and answer the questions below.

SOURCE

### INTERPRETATION 1

A circumstance that enhanced the militant mood of the demonstrators was a lockout at the large Putilov metal works. The workers of this plant were proverbially turbulent<sup>1</sup>, with a long record of strikes; and when a wage dispute had come up in one department, the management on March 7th [Old Style: February 22nd] declared a general lockout. So a coincidence of three factors – the dissatisfaction with the food situation, the celebration of Women's Day and the Putilov labor dispute, which let loose over twenty thousand workers for active participation in the demonstration – combined to give the first impetus to the Revolution.

<sup>1</sup> Proverbially turbulent – known to be unsettled

W. H. Chamberlin, *The Russian Revolution, Volume I: 1917–1918: From the Overthrow of the Tsar to the Assumption of Power by the Bolsheviks* (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1974), 75.

SOURCE

### INTERPRETATION 2

The whole truth is that the fabric of the régime had completely decayed; there was not a live thread left. ... This revolution, we must remember was a paying-back for oppression, persecution, taunts, vile blows, suffered by the masses of the Russian people throughout the ages! ... The war itself, its victims, its horror, its shame brought not only the old, but also the new layers of workers into conflict with the czarist [tsarist] régime. It did this with a new incisiveness and led them to the conclusion: we can no longer endure it. The conclusion was universal; it welded the masses together and gave them a mighty dynamic force.

Leon Trotsky, *The History of the Russian Revolution, Volume One: The Overthrow of Tzarism* (New York: Monad Press, 1980).

1. According to Chamberlin, what were the key triggers of the February Revolution?

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2. According to Trotsky, what could the Russian people 'no longer endure'?

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3. To what extent do the two interpretations agree about the reasons for the overthrow of tsarism?

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## MEMORY AID

Memorise the following to assist you in your knowledge of the revolution.

### RHYME

On a sunny day in August 1915,  
Nicholas replaced Nikolaevich  
To become Commander Supreme.

### RHYME

The Battle at Galicia was a great success,  
But Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes  
Caused great distress.

### ACRONYM

Reasons for poor morale at the front – **LOLOAF**

**L**ACK  
**O**F  
**L**EADERSHIP  
**O**RGANISATION  
**A**MMUNITION AND  
**F**OOD

### ACROSTIC

Petrograd during the war – **ANY PORT IN A STORM**

**A**LEXANDRA  
**N**ICHOLAS  
**Y**USUPOV  
**P**ROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT  
**O**RDER NO 1 (SOVIET)  
**R**ODZIANKO  
**T**ELEGRAM  
**I**NFLATION  
**N**EWSPAPERS CLOSED  
**A**BDICATION OF NICHOLAS II  
**S**HORTAGES OF FOOD AND FUEL  
**T**SAREVITCH'S ILLNESS  
**O**CTOBER 25TH – REVOLUTION  
**R**ASPUTIN'S BEHAVIOUR  
**M**ORALE LOSS

### MISSPELT WORDS

Learn the correct spelling of the following misspelt words:

Tanninberg	defeets	mobalisation	revolutionares
Rusian Army	escalachon	patriatism	propoganda
Nikolas	bulets	allianze	rearmameant
Tsarena Alexander	hemofeelia	Bolshevicks	Serge Wite
Nicoli Nikolaivitch	Masourian Lakes	Dooma	Galisia
millitary	Archduke France	Brucilov	strategik
Rasspotin	Ferdinand	ambasadoor	desershion

## FACT FILE

Fill in the details below.

Define 'Duma':

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Dates of Dumas 1, 2, 3 and 4:

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Identify a key outcome of each Duma.

Duma 1.

\_\_\_\_\_

Duma 2.

\_\_\_\_\_

Duma 3.

\_\_\_\_\_

Duma 4.

\_\_\_\_\_

Identify 4 political parties represented in the Duma.

Party 1.

\_\_\_\_\_

Party 2.

\_\_\_\_\_

Party 3.

Party 4.

\_\_\_\_\_

To what extent did the Duma help or hinder Nicholas II?

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