



Russia 1 860-1 91 4

By Jessica and Nicole

Economic & Industrial Strength

*In 1860 free trade policies helped expansion, by the 1870's growth was disrupted by the economic problems in Europe. The early 1900's led to a general slump in the European economy caused by:

- - General European depression.
- - Government limited its involvement due to financial difficulties
- - Bad harvests
- - Lack of internal market
- *From 1906 onwards there was a renewed spurt with an expanding domestic market.

Transport & Exports

The Trans Siberian railway played a major role in the development of the economy and helped industrialization.

- - The railways boosted industry especially coal, iron, steel.
- - It was greatly helped by government, via grants, orders and guarantees.
- *Exports included oil, iron, coal and agriculture.

Agriculture

- Agriculture at the beginning of the 20th century faced peasants with many problems:
 - - The environment had a short growing season so profit wasn't consistent all year.
 - - Government policies meant peasants were taxed unfairly.
 - Backward agricultural methods including primitive technology.

Military Strength

*Conscription was extended to all Russian citizens not just the peasants.

*The military service was reduced from 25 years to 6 years, plus 9 years in reserve.

*Better officer training was provided.

*The reforms in the army meant smaller, better trained army, helped spread literacy among peasants. Also this reduced the financial burden on peasants as it wasn't a 'life sentence.'

Russia In War

- *Russia was defeated by Japan in 1904-1905, this sharpened the dissatisfaction of the Russian people with the corrupt, poorly run government.
- *Russia was unprepared for war as Tsar Nicholas focused on his family and not on the country that he was supposed to be running.

*Russia at this time was also threatened by social and political problems and this led to the revolution of 1905.

Overseas Empire

Russia covered 1/6th of the world's landmass.

Population of the Russian Empire in 1897 was over 124,960,000 people.

*People who made up the Russian Empire included Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, Germans and Caucasians.

*Russia was one of the most powerful empires in the world; unfortunately the empire was so far behind the rest of the world that it started to collapse in the late nineteenth century.

Overseas Empire Until 1914



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Nationalism/Patriotism

Russians were very patriotic towards their country and especially to their Tsar and believed that Nicholas wanted what was best for them.

Tsar Nicholas did want what was best for his people happiness and prosperity, but he knew very little about his people and didn't try to find out much more.

*The Russian people had an uprising against the Tsar in 1905, after Bloody Sunday. Up until then the Russian people loved Tsar Nicholas, they believed he was behind the assault on Bloody Sunday and many lost faith in his leadership.

Source

- “The daily work of a monarch he found intolerably boring. He could not stand listening long or seriously to ministers’ reports, or reading them.”
- Written by Kerensky, the leader of the government who took over from the Tsar in 1917, in his memoirs, *Crucifixion of Liberty*, in 1934.
- This suggests that Tsar Nicholas was not interested in running his government and that is a reason for the collapse of the Romanov dynasty. Also the people of Russia rebelling against Nicholas had lost faith in their Tsar after Bloody Sunday.

The Next 50 years...

- World War One started in 1914, Russia was on the side of the allies.
- Revolutionaries overthrew the Russian Government in 1917.
- U.S.S.R. was established in 1922.
- Education became free.
- From 1928 the U.S.S.R. economy grew rapidly under a series of plans emphasizing industrialization.
- Under communist leadership Russia became an industrial giant.

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- The country's major exports were timber and wood products, machinery, natural gas, petroleum, and steel.
- Its main imports were consumer goods, including grain and industrial equipment.
- Foreign Policy played a small role in Russia's economy.
- Russia became an industrial and military power.
- U.S.S.R led the world in space exploration.