THE WORK OF THE DUMAS

- GOVERNMENT (COUNCIL OF MINISTERS UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER):
  - To be appointed exclusively by the Tsar. The government was responsible to the Crown, not the Duma.

- LOWER CHAMBER (THE STATE DUMA):
  - Members elected under a system of **indirect voting** by estates – favouring the nobility and peasants (assumed to be supporters of the crown).
  - Deputies were to be elected for a five year term.

- UPPER CHAMBER (THE STATE COUNCIL):
  - The State Council – half elected by Zemstva, half appointed by the Tsar – noble representatives from the major social, religious, educational and financial institutions.

*indirect voting = Every man over 25 but only with more than 400 acres could vote directly. Each country had a district and each elected a delegate to vote on their behalf in the general election. Vote weighted 31% landowners, 42% peasants and 27% town dwellers.*
GROUPINGS IN THE DUMAS:

1\textsuperscript{ST} DUMA:
→ 182 Kadets + 136 Trudoviks (clear majorities)

2\textsuperscript{nd} DUMA:
→ 91 Kadets + 104 Trudoviks + 93 National Parties (More spread out).

3\textsuperscript{rd} DUMA:
→ 154 Octobrists + 147 Rightists.

4\textsuperscript{th} DUMA:
→ 154 Rightists + 95 Octobrists.
The Condition of Russia in 1914:

BAD:

→ Duma's powers were limited (Witte = “Greatest illusion of our century”)
→ Zemstva = Dominated by well-to-do voices rather than masses.
→ Stolypin’s agricultural reforms were harming some as well as helping.
→ 60% illiteracy.
→ Huge gap between rich and poor.
→ Disillusioned and suppressing Tsar.
→ Political and terrorist assassinations plagued Russia – no minister or tsarist official felt safe.
→ Violent wave of strikes 1913/4 (most organised by the Bolsheviks)
→ Tsar Nicholas 2 became increasingly detached + Rasputin scandal further blackened his name.