Mir was highly traditional institution. Subsistence farming and technical backwardness persisted, in 1878 only 50% of population was capable of producing a surplus. 36 Provinces 5.7 million hectares were cut off the land.

Barely any progress made under Bunge due to the importance he posed in financial and industrial policies to improve the budget.

Even though Vyshengradsky produced a lot of surplus by 1892, the Great Famine of 1891-92 left many peasants in a state of disease such as typhoid and cholera which ultimately left Vyshnegradsky to be removed.

Not a lot of agrarian progression during Witte as mainly prioritized on industrial growth.

Quantity of plough land was divided up differently, Peasants 4 hectares allocated.

**INDUSTRIAL-**

The Oil Extraction began on sea port of Baku in 1871 and the Naptha extraction began in 1879. Witte encouraged growth which increased by **900% between 1883 and 1895 under Witte**.

Government subsidies were offered to enable private entrepreneurs to develop railways under Von Reutern.

Under Bunge there was attempt to upgrade and expand the Russian railroad system, purchasing failing private lines and urging construction of new routes.

Vyshnegradsky took over in 1887 with Bunge’s policies to help the Iron industry of South Russia.

Witte from 1892 to 1903 invested in mining and the metal trades and oil. Witte encouraged engineers from France, Germany and other European powers to move to Russia and there was a massive expansion on the railway. By mid 1890s 40% of the railway was owned by the state.

By 1890 5.9 million tons of coal, 0.89 million of pig iron and 3.9 million of oil.

**HOWEVER-** Trans-siberian railway not completed until 1897, took until 1900 for the production to triple in materials.

Witte neglected vital light engineering areas, such as machine tool production, helping modernize manufacturing.

**FINANCIAL-**

Treasury reformed and publishing of budgets was put in place so the government knew how much money was being put on the reserves.
conservative king however; his tutor Vasily Zhukovsky and Alexander’s travels around the empire, understanding the extent of this poverty, could have been a reason for emancipation. His brother Grand Duke Konstantin and his wife Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna also influenced Alexander along with other enlightened bureaucrats such as the Milyutin brothers had been committed to the abolition of serfdom for a great amount of time, the presence of such liberal nobles in his royal court had no doubt fueled Alexander’s thoughts that Russia needed an opportunity for change.

The Crimean war was a massive factor to why Alexander II needed to emancipate the serfs. The war from 1853 to 1856 exposed to Alexander II Russia’s backwardness. The humiliations and inefficiencies of the Crimean War had revealed to Alexander that his agrarian economy was no match for the rest of the developing west. The Crimean War had consumed 45% of Russia’s expenditure, which had left the debt to 441 million roubles in 1860. With the combined effect of Russia’s economy leaving no internal market demand, no opportunities for entrepreneurs and no interest for efficient estates. The Crimean war had left Russia in a financial crisis, which Alexander felt emancipation could only solve.

The Crimean War also exposed to Alexander II to inefficiency of Russia’s army. Russia’s army was the largest in the world due to how the Tsar at any given time had 1.5 million conscripted serfs to his disposal. Military reform could only be reached if serfdom was abolished to create a smaller and more efficient army.

Altogether, there were many reasons for why Alexander II emancipated serfs in order to maintain the tsarist autocracy and secure the three pillars that his empire stood on. The risk of peasant revolt was a very important factor to why Alexander II emancipated the serfs. The other reasons combined with the catalyst of the Crimean war to present Russia’s inefficiencies were enough for Alexander II to emancipated 51 million serfs in 1861.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE SERFS CAUSED MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVED. EXPLAIN WHY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE

Intro-

Some peasants, kulaks did well out of land allocations, bought up extra land and produced surplus grain for export, producing more for the economy.

Peasants were now able to obtain passports and leave the village commune to go work in industrial cities, which raised living standards.

Landowners used compensation to get out of debt and individuals made profits.
was out of 95 million peasants. The combination of hatred towards emancipation and the lack of development towards rural Russia was one that had been growing and developing of opposition towards the Tsarist regime. Can be showed the Social Revolutionaries parties support consisting of 50% peasants.

Another reason for the 1917 revolution was the Ineffective government and lack of constitutional reform. Even after the October Manifesto which created the Duma, the fundamental laws created on 23rd April 1906 just 5 Days before the Duma met meant that the Tsar could dissolve the Duma in emergency powers. Such examples can be the result of the second Duma which Stolypin dissolved in order to pass agrarian reforms. Something he was able to do by spreading conspiracy theories of assassination towards the Tsar. This combined with the lack of representation was

Alexander II left the tsarist autocracy in a weaker position at the time of his death than it had been on his accession to the throne.’ Assess the validity of this view. [25 marks]

INTRO

In 1881, Alexander II passed away at the expense of the opposition group ‘Narodnya Volya’, in turn creating debate for whether the Tsarist autocracy had been left in a weaker position similar to his father uttered the familiar phrase as the Crimean war came to an end. However, the change that Tsarist society underwent in two decades could be considered to strengthen the three pillars of tsarism; autocracy, orthodoxy and nationalism.

REASONS IT WASN’T WEAKER POSITION

EMANCIPATION ‘From above rather than below’ decision to emancipate 51 million serfs to prevent peasant riots as 647 in 1861 alone. Reducing opposition

REFORMS

MILITARY reforms
- workers still earned 1/3 of the average in western Europe
- LENA GOLDFIELDS MASSACRE 270 workers killed in Siberia
- 90% strip farming carried on despite Stolypin’s reforms
- WORLD WAR ONE made unemployed and starving workers and started where 150,000 workers brought about the revolution with the bread rationing reaching critical
- Political discontent with the living conditions and 3574 stoppages made by the Okhrana in 1914
- 1911, still reports of typhus, cholera and other water born diseases due to poor sanitation
- Countryside was in revolt in 1906 due to the feeling they had been cheated by emancipation, October manifesto and despite efforts they had feelings of still being cheated by Tsarism and what they had been promised

‘In the years 1894 to 1914, opposition movements achieved little’

The years 1894-1914 saw two major events occur, the 1905 revolution and the beginning of World War One. It is argued that during this time opposition groups, despite growing in numbers, were ineffective due to the harsh, strict and thorough use of the police and Okhrana and the sense of nationalism towards the Tsar. However, it could be argued that opposition movements were able to achieve and relish off the events of 1905 revolution to create opposition and discouragement whilst debilitating the government.

EXTENT OPPOSITION GROUPS ACHIEVED LITTLE-
- Extensive use of the Okhrana in Russia, stoppages of 3574 in 1914 alone
- Use of cossacks crowd, 1905 cossacks stormed killing 13 students in protest and imprisoning 15000 students
- Social democrats took active part in the 1905 revolution and membership grew
- ‘Stolypin’s necktie’ dealt with opposition with ferocity
- exile of opposition leaders of SD and SR leaders

EXTENT OPPOSITION GROUPS ACHIEVED MUCH-
Assassinations of government officers – Pyotr Stolypin and Vyashchlev von Plehve
Managed to bring in the dumas after the 1905 revolution, having their voices heard
2000 political assassinations between 1901-1905 by the Social Revolutionary Party
Newspapers were launched, even if limited it was showing a sign against censorship

‘To what extent did Lenin fulfil the revolutionary aims of the early Russian Marxists during his leader of Russia’

The early ideas of Marxism in Russia were pedalled by figures like Nikolai Chernychevsky, Alexsandr Herzen and Mikhail Bakunin, all advocating early ideas of Russian Marxism in different ways. It could be argued that Lenin managed to transition Russia into a Communist state with some work left for Stalin. However, the theoretical ideas of early Russian marxists and Marx himself can be considered to have been unfulfilled by Lenin due to the time of revolution and the measures that had to be taken place in order to secure the Communist State of Russia.

LENIN DID FULFIL THE AIMS-
- Lenin’s decree on peace, bread and land at Findlansky station to for Herzen who said we should ‘go to the people’
- Class war against the ‘Burzhui’ to remove the middle and nobility class and hand down the power to workers
- Authorized land seizures in the countryside, ideas of Chernychevsky and how the peasants should be in control
- Killed the Tsar, ideas of killing the Tsar and ridding Russia of the dynasty
- WAR COMMUNISM – socialist economy, planned and unlike the capitalistic conditions, production owned by the state – BAKUNIN

LENIN DID NOT FUFIL THE REVOLUTIONARY AIMS
- War Communism stripped peasants off their grain, created awful living conditions for workers as they were 1/3 of the 1913 level, horses disappeared off the streets, 3000 houses in Petrograd stripped off to provide fuel, 100,000 red army officers had to be deployed to settle the differences
- NEP allowed for private trade and an allowance of capitalism and many people saw it as a ‘mark to end the communist experiment’

‘To what extent was the political authority exercised by Lenin and Stalin similar’