The Economy
Growing unpopularity of gov caused by absence firm leadership, spiralling cost of living + shortage of food. Gov printed more money + asked for loans to pay population. Massive inflation occurred, people realised wages worthless. *4 increase by 16.

Rural areas situation better. Loss of men from war good as solved overpopulation. Peasants had horses for army. Hyperinflation + lack of things to spend money on meant farmers sell less grain. Farmers therefore had surplus of grain + stored money in bank. Most surplus went to army + little towns.

War efforts planned poorly. Food badly distributed to front lines + cities away from war where people fled to. Unbalance in rural + Urban population caused famine + food shortage.

Start of War
Russian military mixed feelings about another war (Defeat Japan). Money spent on + army. 1914 3 times size of German. Russia take longer mobilise troops (poor transport system + lack of railway). Russia proved slow when war broke out. Russian still relied on cavalry (inefficient against machine guns). Methods of modern warfare not yet introduced into army. Slaughtered.

Course of War
Russia won some against Austro + Turkey, defeat vs. Germany. Human cost for Russia mounted. Peasant soldiers poorly equipped + no weapons (transport system). 1 million lost in 1916. Tactics didn’t change.

Because of failures Nick II went to frontlines (mistake as tsar not skilled). Absence at court created power vacuum.

Effects of War
Alexandra (Wife) left in charge of Gov. German heritage caused controversy with being spy. Reliance on Rasputin decreased pop. + being woman. As army lost Romanov gov. disintegrated.

Russia disorganised, couldn’t transport conc. Food from 1 area to other. Nom. Farm animals increased, death by famine increased.

Inflation raised prices, affected lower classes. Strikes in Moscow + St. Petersburg. People wanted more efficient tsarist gov.
Lenin + 1905 Revolution
Bolsheviks + Mensheviks unawares by 1905 Rev. Unrest broke out Trotsky + Mensheviks, radicals promote strikes + Workers committees. Lenin right man in wrong place. Exiled + too late to be effective. Mensheviks willing to work together (Bolsheviks no).

Crises of Provisional Government

Formation of Soviets. Spread from cities to rural. Not organised but represent major threat to Prov. Gov. Problems of food distribution not solved.

War badly for Russia. Gove hoped war unite population, instead opposite.

Lenin’s return
When come back from Switzerland realised potential power of soviets. Saw as alternative to Prov. Gov. “All power to Soviets”.

Prov. Gov. made last attempt against Bolshevik’s Kerensky condemned Lenin as German spy (fled to Finland). Germany helped return as thought him as threat to Gov.

Kornilov Affair

Kerensky portrayed as German agent plotting to surrender Moscow to enemy. Rev. council dominated by Bolsheviks. Full rev. imminent.