

The economy

1. Urban/ industrial
 - Industrialisation under Mikhail von Reutern
 - Improving state accounting:
 - Reform in the treasury and the publishing of state accounts
 - Getting rid of 'tax farming' which would now be made illegal, tax farmers invest in Russian industry programmes to make their money instead
 - Inflow of foreign resources, investment and expertise:
 - Low tariffs, import of raw materials, imports rose from 18,000 tons in 1863 to 158,000 in 1881
 - Import of British expertise: J.J.Hughes by 1884, New Russian coal, iron and railmaking company in Poland, largest producer in the Empire; 1890, 'Hughes and co' responsible for ½ of Russia's steel production
 - Hughes also created new town of Yuzovo, schools, pubs and 32,000 'Welsh-Russians' by 1904
 - Ludwig Loeb (Manchester) : Textile industry, cotton, wool farming
 - Nobel brother, Ludwig and Alfred : responsible for growth of modern oil industry
 - Providing capital for investments
 - State bank 1860, municipal banks in 1862. By 1878 there were 278 municipal banks
 - Exports rose by 60% in the 1870s and imports were carefully controlled
 - Grain exports 26 million tonnes 1864, 86 million tonnes 1880
 - Railway construction, influence of Britain
 - Overseas loan financed construction, 800 miles of track 1855, 1861 2000 miles, 1878 22,498 miles
 - 1880 94% of railway lines in private hands
 - Rail traffic increased x10 1865-75
 - Vyshnegradsky, minister of Finance, continued Reutern's policy of developing the railway
 - Success: Average annual growth rate of 6%
 - Failures : Short lived due to financial collapse in 1878 due to the Russo- Turkish War, growth was not self- sustaining, no middle class

The lives of the peasants

1. Living conditions
 - 22.5M serfs on private land, 42.9M state owned serfs
 - 80% of Russia was made up of serfs
 - 19th February 1861, emancipation, serfs were granted personal freedom over 2 years
 - Freed peasants granted ownership of the house they lived and plots they worked
 - Living was poor as government charged redemption dues in form of regular payments over period of 49 years, state peasants 5 years to transition to freedom
 - Average lifespan of serfs was 40 due to lack of healthcare
2. Working conditions
 - Land labour
 - They were granted plots, they were able to own property, run commercial enterprise
 - However, burden of redemption payments, financial difficulties
 - Farming and technical backwardness, 1878 only 50% of serfs were capable of providing a surplus
3. Political representation
 - 1864 Zemstvo, were set up to express views of rural serfs at a local level
 - Zemstvo chosen through a system of 'electoral colleges', separate colleges for nobles, townspeople and church, peasants - Composed of men who understand locality and its needs
 - Underground opposition
4. Repression
 - Mir and redemption payments

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