

Why was there a revolution in Russia in 1905?

One of the factors that led to the revolution was economic problems. The taxes on everyday products e.g. grain, alcohol and salt increased, while the peasant's wages were low. This meant that they could not afford to buy these items, therefore they were always hungry. Because a large proportion of people were hungry; outbreaks of violence and landlord's house being burned were regularly. To make matters worse there was an industrial slump, where many peasants lost their jobs, so in response, there were many strikes and demonstrations in the cities.

Another factor that led to the Russian Revolution, was the Russo-Japanese War. In 1904, Russia had gone to war against Japan, hoping for a quick morale-boosting victory, which had faded due to defeat. Humiliation was high, as Russia had sailed halfway around the world to be defeated by a smaller nation. In response there were many food shortages, this meant prices for food rose. Resulting in a large proportion of people starving. Also a lack of industrial material caused factories to close down.

Thirdly, another the Tsar had a role to play in the cause of the Russian Revolution. Nicholas II knew very little about the people he was governing. He did not visit factories, villages or go on tours. This meant that the public felt detached from their Tsar leading to many radical parties forming. Nicholas II's came from a small group of people who protected him from the public. Often, twisted stories were told to him.

Lastly, the factors I have mentioned above were set off by Bloody Sunday. On 22 January 1905, a priest called Father Gapon led a peaceful demonstration of 200,000 people, including men, women and children to the Winter Palace. They aimed to deliver a petition for change e.g. poor working conditions. Unfortunately, they were met by gun shots. The killing destroyed centuries old beliefs among the peasants that the Tsar was their 'Little Father' who had their interests at heart. This never seemed to recover.

To conclude I believe the Tsar is to blame for the Russian Revolution, because Nicholas II had the power to sort out economic problems. For instance, he could have toured around the country, so he could see for himself what needed to be changed. Rather than listen from a small group of people. You may argue that the economic problems caused the War and The Bloody Sunday. However we must pinpoint the source of the economic problems which led to the Bloody Sunday. The source is the Tsar. Nicholas can make the changes, but he refuses to.