

Worksheet 4 – The First World War, 1914-17

Review: Lecture 3- The Failure of Constitutionalism, 1905-1914

In the previous lecture of the unit, Professor Waldron considered the challenges which faced the State Parliament of Russia between 1905-1914.

✓ Based on what you learnt in the last lecture, answer the following questions:

- a) What was the name of the state parliament of Russia?
- b) How many state parliaments were there between 1905-1917?
- c) What was the name of the reformist Prime Minister who was assassinated in 1911?

Recall: Lecture 4- The First World War, 1914-1917

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. In August and September 1914, where did Russia's army suffer defeats?
 - a) East Prussia
 - b) France
 - c) Italy
 - d) Finland
2. Which country remained in control of large parts of Western Russia throughout 1916?
 - a) Britain
 - b) Austria-Hungary
 - c) France
 - d) Germany
3. In what year did Nicholas II become Commander-in-chief of the Russian army?
 - a) 1914
 - b) 1916
 - c) 1915
 - d) 1917
4. What happened to the Duma during the First World War?
 - a) It was dissolved
 - b) It met infrequently
 - c) It took control of the country
 - d) It no longer existed
5. Which Siberian peasant, considered by some to be a Holy Man, was thought to be influencing the Imperial family during the war?
 - a) Vladimir Lenin
 - b) Georgy Gapon
 - c) Gregori Rasputin
 - d) Pyotr Stolypin

Analysis

6. Why did Tsar Nicholas II make the decision to take personal command of the army in 1915? Give at least **two reasons** for your answer. [3:20-4:01]
7. In the lecture, Professor Waldron discusses the challenges facing Russia at the beginning of the First World War [4:05-5:15]. **Identify** two of those challenges and **explain** why they were problematic for the Tsarist Regime.

Evaluation

8. Nicholas II's decision to become commander-in-chief of the Russian Army in 1915 is often cited as one of the key factors contributing to the Romanov family's downfall. Discuss which other factors between 1914-1917 led to the abdication of the Tsar in February 1917.

Challenge: Evaluate the political, economic and social impact that World War I had on Russia and its people. Use the headings below as a guide.

- Political: To do with governance and power
- Economic: To do with finances and production
- Social: To do with the people, their interactions and their activities as a collective

Glossary

- **Abdication-** The act of formally giving up the responsibilities and authority of a monarch.
e.g. Nicholas' abdication meant the end of 300 years of Romanov rule.
- **Catastrophic-** Something unfortunate or sudden which leads to great damage or suffering.
e.g. Russia's military performance at the Battle of Tannenberg led to a catastrophic defeat.
- **Commander-in-chief** – Someone (usually a politician or statesman) who is in charge of all of a country's armed forces.
e.g. Nicholas' advisors did not want him to become commander-in-chief in 1915.
- **Demonstration** – A gathering which people take part in to show their opposition to something or their support for something.
e.g. Peaceful demonstrations began to take place in the cities of Russia.
- **Discontent-** Not being satisfied or happy with the current circumstances.
e.g. The discontent of the Russian population continued to grow.
- **Mutiny-** An open rebellion against those in charge of you, especially by members of the armed forces against their officers.
e.g. Sailors and soldiers refused to open fire on protestors, leading to a mutiny.
- **Potent-** To have great influence, power or effect
e.g. Nicholas had been a potent symbol of authority.
- **Scapegoat-** A person who is blamed for the wrongdoings, mistakes or faults of other people.
e.g. Rasputin was made a scapegoat by some in the Tsarist Regime.