

RUSSIA'S STRUGGLE

The Russian Revolution

GCSE History



About

This resource is for anyone with an interest in the history of the Russian Revolution, or the use of primary sources to learn about the past.

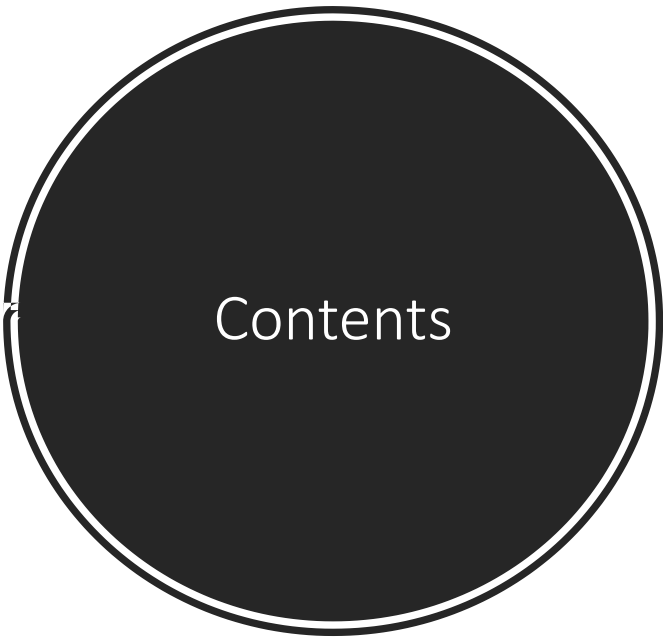
It has been designed to complement the following Edexcel GCSE History unit:

- Russia and the Soviet Union 1905-1924

This resource can be used by teachers in the classroom or by students at home. For any questions or to arrange a hands-on workshop on this subject please contact:

archives@warwick.ac.uk.

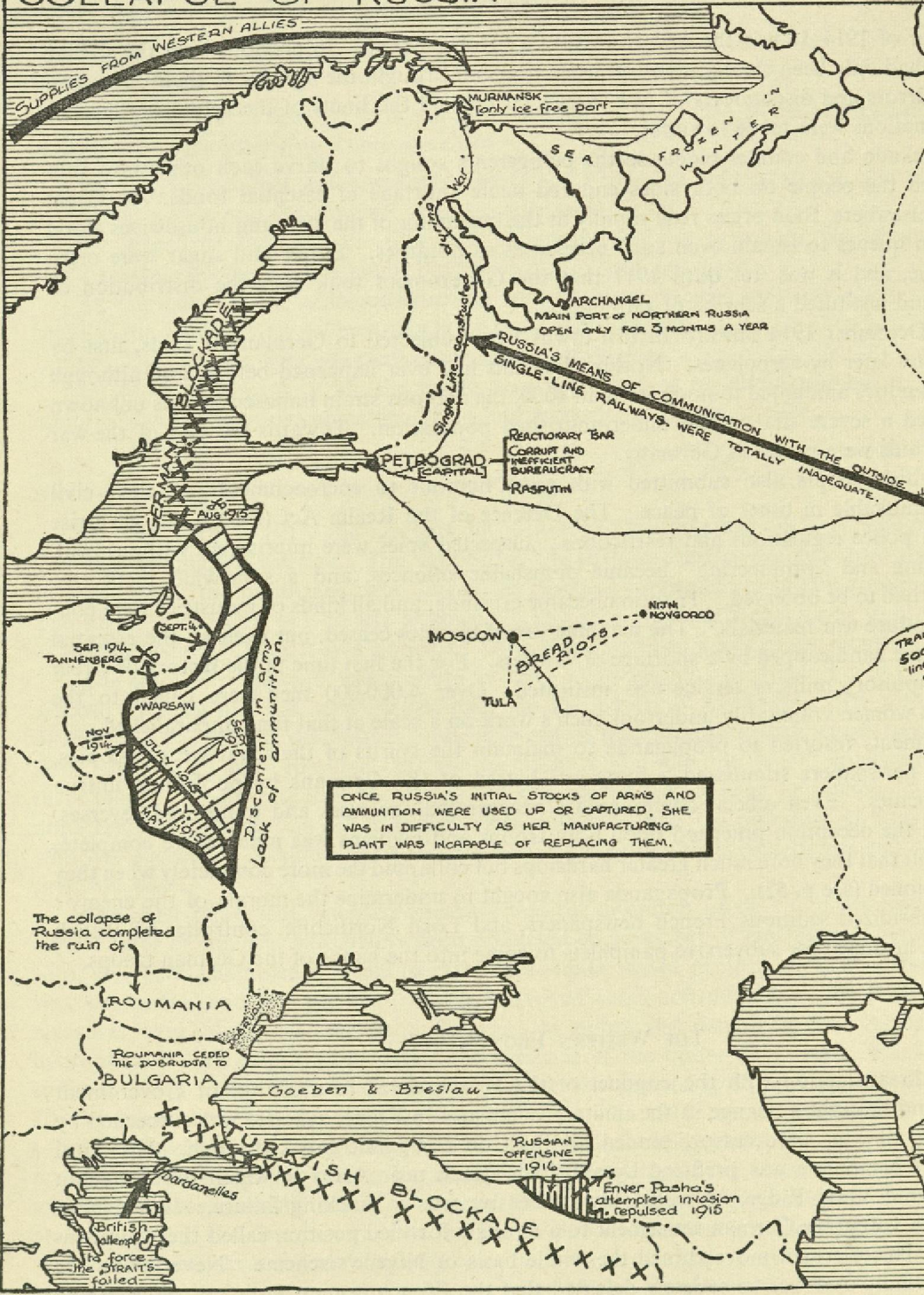




Contents

Russian Revolution	4-6
Lenin and the Bolsheviks	7
Propaganda	8-13
Research Activity	14

COLLAPSE OF RUSSIA



Source Analysis

World War One proved the last straw for the Tsar's government. Russian troops were slaughtered in their millions. Nicholas made things worse by going to the front to lead the army. This made him responsible for the defeats in most people's eyes. It also left the government in the hands of the Tsar's wife, the Tsarina, and the monk, Rasputin.

Look at the map on the previous page and answer the following questions:

1. Which three reasons are given for the revolution in Petrograd?
2. What reasons are given for Russia's defeat during WWI?
3. The war effort caused economic chaos and by February 1917, people in the towns were starving. According to the map where did the bread riots take place?

PROGRAMME

Ⓒ Doors open at 6 o'clock. Organ Recital by SYDNEY WRIGHT from 6 to 7 p.m.

Ⓒ The audience will then sing "When wilt Thou save Thy People?" and "What is this, the Sound and Rumour?"

WHEN wilt Thou save Thy people?
O God of mercy! when?
Not kings and lords, but nations!
Not thrones and crowns, but men!
Flowers of Thy heart, O God, are they;
Let them not pass, like weeds, away—
Their heritage a sunless day!
God save the People!

For many in Britain the revolution in Russia was initially seen as positive. Russia was a symbol of tyranny – a country which violently silenced anybody who opposed the government. Therefore the revolution was seen at first as a step towards freedom and democracy.

The programme above comes from a rally held at the Royal Albert Hall on 31 March 1917 to celebrate Russian democracy.

1. How do the hymn lyrics show support for what was happening in Russia?

Lenin and the rise of the Bolsheviks

In March 1917, when the Tsar's government collapsed, the members of the Duma set up the Provisional Government, led by Prince Georgy Lvov.

The Provisional Government was hugely unsuccessful, giving opponents such as Lenin's Bolsheviks plenty of ammunition with which to attack it.

Lenin's message of 'peace, bread and land' was just what the people, who were sick of war, hunger and hardship, wanted.





We demand : Protection from Flies—Dry Clean "Nappies"—Mother's Milk—Fresh Air and Sunlight
—Midwives, not Old Women—Healthy Parents.



The proportion of infants dying under one year from stomach troubles is as follows : .43 fed on milk of animals, .53 on substitute foods, and .17 on mother's milk. Mothers, nurse your children.



THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA

Propaganda

Source Analysis

Look at the cartoon on the previous page and answer the following questions:

1. What point do you think the cartoonist is making about the situation in Russia?
2. What means did people in Britain have to find out about what was happening in Russia?
3. Why do you think there was a difference between reality and what was reported?

Research Activity

Fake news is news or stories on the internet that are not true.

Research how to spot Fake News and find an example of a recent news story which was revealed to be fake.



THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA



We demand : Protection from Flies—Dry Clean “ Nappies ”—Mother’s Milk—Fresh Air and Sunlight
—Midwives, not Old Women—Healthy Parents.

The poster above was part of a propaganda campaign by the Russian Government to promote healthy living and to reduce infant mortality.

1. How effective do you think the poster is and why?
2. What do you think the benefit of this propaganda was for the Russian Government?

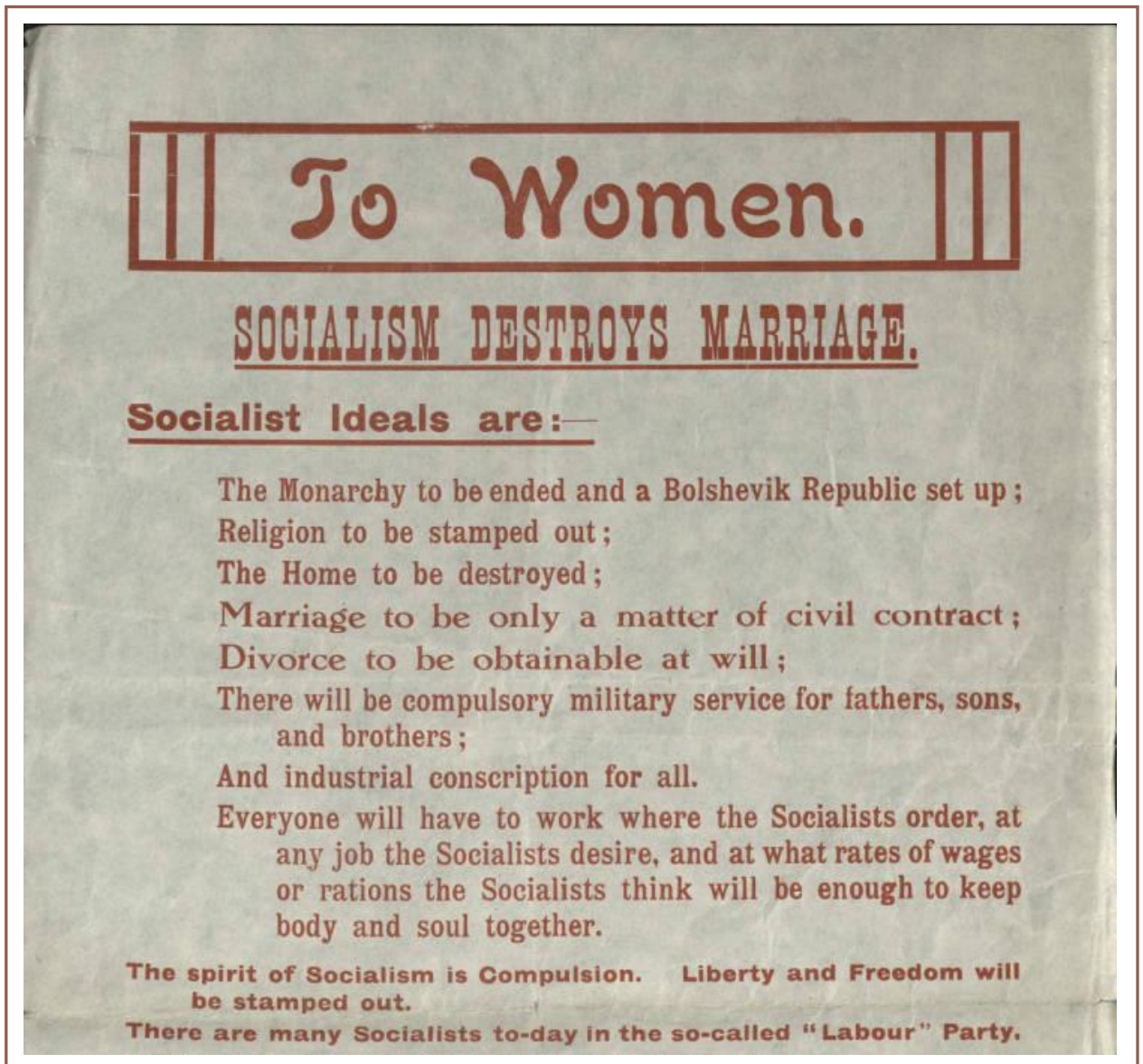
Research Activity

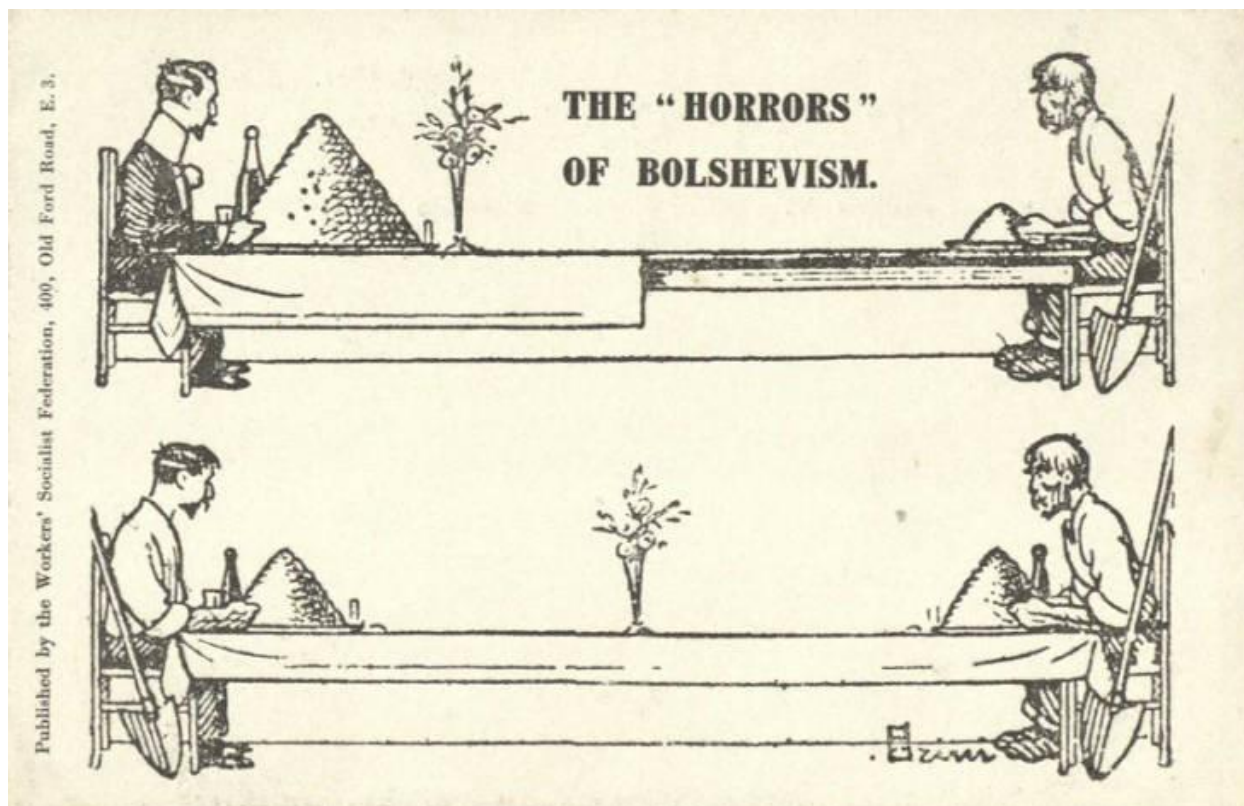
The Russian language is written using a different alphabet to English. Use Google Translate and design your own campaign banner, like the ones pictured, promoting healthy living.

Bolshevism in Britain

Whereas the February Revolution was greeted with optimism in Britain, Lenin's rise to power was feared because the Bolsheviks declared that they wanted to cause revolutions all over the world.

The source below produced by the Conservative Party shows how fear of socialism was used to get votes.





Source Analysis

Look at the image above of a postcard from the 1920s.

1. What differences do you see between the top and bottom drawings?
2. How does the cartoon depict Bolshevik or communist ideology?
3. Do you think the artist is for or against Bolshevism? Why?

Research Activity

Visit:

<https://bit.ly/3bvs5bU>

These tinted slides illustrated a talk on 'Russia's 'struggle' and the upheavals of the October Revolution and Russian Civil War.

- Select 5-10 images and create your own illustrated timeline of the key events leading up to the Russian Civil War.



Ivan III (1440-1505)



Ivan IV (1530-84)



Illness of intellectual



Arrest of agitator



Food of the workers



Bread queue



dismantling monument to Alexander



Giant Labour