

The Russian Revolution assessment

The following are a list of factors that directly led to the fall and assassination of Tsar Nicholas II and his family. You need to read the sources and decide whether it was inevitable that Tsar Nicholas was going to be the last of the Tsars. Or could another king / Tsar have done a better job.



Source A - Russia had the biggest army in the world, unfortunately Tsar Nicholas was both arrogant and a terrible commander.

He started a war with Japan in 1905, a small unimportant country (at this time) thinking he could beat them. The Russian navy sailed thousands of miles to get blown out of the water by their Japanese enemy.

It was highly embarrassing for Russia, because their army had been feared by others until they were beaten. The Russian people were also angry that they had lost.

Terry Jones, A modern Historian



Source B - The Tsar was a coward and a bully - he used fear as a tool to make the Russian people do as he wanted. It was inevitable that when the Russian people were sufficiently angry they would overthrow him. A good leader is respected by the people - Tsar Nicholas was not respected because he was seen as weak and kept losing wars.



He had a secret police force (Okhrana) to scare the Russian people into doing as they were told. They would be arrested, beaten up and even killed if they stepped out of line. The red army used this anger to turn the people against the Tsar, Lenin told the people to get rid of the Tsar and make him the new leader. **Sarah Harris, Russian History**

Source C - Tsar Nicholas took charge of the Russian army fighting in World War I. He was a very poor general and despite having many more soldiers than Germany, he lost several battles. In the first year of war Russia lost 1.4 million men and 976,000 were taken prisoner.

The Russian people could not believe how badly Tsar was leading the fighting. They started to protest and complain about the Tsar's ability to lead Russia. The soldiers were openly questioning the Tsar's ability to rule so he had to resign.



Michael Thomas, The Fall of Tsar Nicholas II

The Russian Revolution



Who had the biggest army in the world? Why was it embarrassing for Russia to lose to Japan?

Why did the Russian people feel angry that they lost the war?



What were the Okhrana?



Why did Tsar Nicholas use the Okhrana to keep people in control?

How did Lenin and the Red army persuade people to fight against the Tsar?

Why do you think the Tsar made himself the general in charge of the Russian army?



Was it a good decision? Explain your answer?
