

18/20 (7)

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⑨ The Revolution of ~~1905~~<sup>1905</sup> was the first of three revolutions in ~~the~~ Russia between 1905 and 1917. Although, it did not lead to major changes in ~~the political system~~<sup>the political system</sup>, as ~~the~~ Nicholas II stayed in power, it did show that ~~the~~ Tsar had lost parts of his authority and hence contributed to the ~~successful~~ overthrow of the Tsarist system in February 1917. The Causes of the revolution in 1905 were varied, ~~was~~ but one of ~~the~~ major causes was the Russo-Japanese war of 1904 to 1905 and the desire of the population for better living conditions, which led to peaceful demonstrations that were crushed by the ~~tsar~~<sup>tsar</sup> ~~government~~. ~~The~~ consequences of the ~~Revolution~~ were the Tsar's issuance of the October Manifesto, as well as the reintroduction of the Dumas and the ~~violent~~ treatment of many protesters. This essay will analyse the ~~causes~~ causes and consequences of the ~~October~~ 1905 revolution. ~~that are mentioned above.~~

One of the major causes of the 1905 revolution was Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904 to 1905. As Russia had lost important military positions, such as Port Arthur, and had been heavily defeated ~~by~~ by the Japanese the Russian public lost faith in the authority of the Tsar. ~~Due to the war there was~~ <sup>In combination to</sup> the effort that had been put into supporting the Russian army with food, the harvests in 1904 had been bad for the Russian peasants. This also led to further discontent in the Russian population, as ~~there~~ there were also food shortages. The discontent of the population due to economic reasons partly caused by the Russo-Japanese war and the loss of confidence in the Tsar's authority

made the population more inclined to join protests against the Tsar and hence was one of the underlying causes of the 1905 revolution.

Another major cause of the war was the population's discontent due to bad living conditions which triggered the protests of the Bloody Sunday in 1905.

Although the Serfs had been emancipated by Alexander II in 1861, ~~the~~ many of them were highly indebted by the <sup>redemption payments</sup> ~~loans~~ they had to pay for the land they had been given and hence were pushing for reforms. Industrial workers were <sup>un</sup>dissatisfied, as the working conditions were often harsh and ~~had~~ were asking for higher wages. There was also an increasing demand for more political power for Russia's population as the Dumas originally set up by Alexander II had been closed down by Alexander III. All the factors together triggered the peaceful demonstrations led by Father Gapon, who wanted <sup>to file</sup> a petition the petition that had been issued by the protesters, however was not recognised by the government and the army killed over 200 protesters. ~~This~~ Therefore, the events of Bloody Sunday triggered a wave of protests that are known as the 1905 revolution.

One of the immediate consequences of the 1905 revolution was the issuing of the 'October Manifesto' by Tsar Nicholas II. The 'October Manifesto' promised political freedom and freedom of expression, as well as the set up of <sup>an</sup> elected body, the Duma. However, the historian Michael Lynch argues that the

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'October Manifesto' was only an instrument for the Tsar to stay in power and hence ~~if~~ the Dumas were never aimed to produce big changes. This can be seen in the fact that many <sup>of the</sup> Dumas were dissolved by Stolypin and ~~the~~ hence it can be seen that the Tsar was not giving up his autocratic power. It is also argued by Lynch that many people were not actually interested in overthrowing the regime, but ~~just~~ wanted the Tsar to keep his authoritarian rule. Nonetheless, Richard Pipes argues that all revolutions were political and that the Duma was trying to achieve changes in the Russian society.

Another consequence of the Revolution of 1905 <sup>were</sup> was the violent acts of the government towards protesters. When the minister Witte was replaced by Stolypin, Stolypin was one of the main initiators of revenge actions against protesters. Stolypin initiated many of the peasants to be hung, which also gave <sup>the hangings</sup> ~~birth~~ the nickname 'Stolypin's necktie'. This shows that the revolution of 1905 did in fact not lead to a big change, as the ~~government~~ <sup>tsar</sup> still acted by using means of force and it also shows that the 'October Manifesto', where freedom of expression was set, was not fully supported by the Tsar.

Overall, it can be said that ~~the~~ ~~the~~ revolution of 1905 did not produce major changes in the political system of Russia. Discontent of the Russian people, which had been one of its major causes continued. However, the view of Michael Lynch that

The Russian society was not yet ready for a political change seems to be true, as they readily accepted concessions made in the October Manifesto.

Very well written Lena. Good use of historiography.

You could also mention the Fundamental Laws of 1906 which reiterated the autocracy of the Tsar and Stolypin's land reforms.