

# Russia 1906 - 1914

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## Stolypin

- **land reform**

- land privatization
- dissolve the **commune** and **mir** -> although they might help with equality, they can give money to those who are poor harvested
  - the peasants can buy and sell lands on their own -> to earn a more efficient use of land
  - part of the reasons why he faced resistance
- **aims**
  1. agricultural production
  2. derevolutionize the peasants - abolish mortgage repayments
  3. create a class of kulak

- **Duma**

- after dismissing the second Duma, Stolypin changed the election rule of the latter
  - he further diminished the right of the Bolsheviks to be elected as managers of the duma
  - only for those property class

## --- c) How successful was the Tsar in ruling Russia between 1906 and 1914? (10) ---

### Success of Stolypin land reform

Stolypin was pivotal after the 1905 revolution due to his landform. Unlike any other politicians, Stolypin urged land privatization to be taken place. He added that the culture of commune and mir should be abolished so that the inefficient strip system should be abandoned and the land could be sold and bought on their own. In addition, land banks were also established to provide funds for the independent peasant to buy his land. This series of policies were important as it aimed to reform what the Russians had been doing for centuries yet targeted solving the critical rural crisis that occurred after the revolution thanks to multiple bad harvests. Further, peasants who were productive could purchase lands from others who weren't that productive, and under their management, the agricultural output was deemed to grow, which was quite important for the Russian economy as a whole.

### Unsuccesses of land reform

Despite its importance, the land reform carried out by Stolypin also faced unsuccesses. To begin with, peasants in Russia were relatively conservative from progressive changes, and most peasants were reluctant to leave the security of the commune for the uncertainty of individual farming. Such resistance from the peasants - the targets of reformation - indeed made Stolypin difficult to execute his policies. In addition, the period of this land reform took too long. Stolypin himself asserted that 20 years were needed for his "wager on the strong" to output results, but the truth was, he was assassinated in 1911, and so the reformation would be even slower and harder as the firmest proposer and promoter had died. Moreover, by 1913 the government's own ministry of agriculture had itself begun to lose confidence in the policy, and by 1914, war came to Russia, which deprived the chance of reformation.

## **The success of Duma Stolypin**

Stolypin also played an important role in the Dumas. After the dismissal of the second Duma, Stolypin introduced new laws to the duma's election that deprived the right of peasants and workers to vote. Consequently, the leaders of the duma became those of the propertied class, and hence the third and the fourth duma were heavily dominated by the right-wing parties, unlike the first and the second duma, where duma members always openly criticized the Tsar and his policies, this change in leadership brought a much milder duma to the Tsar so that the latter can more smoothly admit it, which ensured the survival of such a representative national parliament.

## **The failure of Duma Stolypin**

Despite the success of the third and the fourth duma, the previous two dumas were complete failures. Under the Fundamental Law passed in 1906, the duma was forced to be bi-cameral and strongly lacked power in key aspects such as naming positions or establishing laws. In addition, duma radicalism also existed in which the chief minister of the first Duma, Ivan Goremyskin, demanded an increase in the duma's power but was refused by the Tsar and the duma was said to be dissolved. This caused 200 Kadet and Labourists deputies to reassemble at Vyborg, calling for people to defy the government through disobeying conscriptions and taxes. The Duma was aimed to be the last democratic resort of the empire so that people could vote on critical country-wise issues, but under Tsar's harsh limitations, it led to unfavourable consequences such as the rebellion, highlighting the Duma's failure.

## **The success of the industry front**

Under the Tsar's rule, successes were achieved in industries. There was an industrial boom in Russia between 1905 and 1914, with a 100% increase in aggregate production, and Russia became the fourth largest producer of coal, pig iron and steel. Simultaneously, factories became more efficient and used the most up-to-date mass-production methods, creating a double in the state revenue and increasing employment. All of these symbolized a large-extent economic growth, which could bring lots of benefits to the country, such as raising the country's position around the globe and a better living standard within the society, highlighting the Tsar's success.

## **The drawbacks of the industrial growth**

However, besides its benefit to the peasants and Russia herself, the industrial growth between 1905 and 1914 brought no benefits to the workers. The real wage level of the workers actually faced a decline compared to the pitfall amount before the revolution, while inflation led by the growth occurred in the society, giving workers only the ability to buy basic necessities, such as bread. Hence, workers began to rebel, complaining about the degrading working conditions. Moreover, as factories became larger during the boom, it was easier to start a strike. Therefore the resentment built between the workers and the government stimulated the former to carry on a strike in the Lena goldfields in Siberia, where they met the army, and a total of 170 deaths were created. This opened the floodgate for the worker's protest, and thus with such dissatisfaction between the workers and the government, the Tsar's government wasn't that successful between 1905 and 1914.

## **The success of the repression**

Besides his agricultural policies, Stolypin also put forward martial law, with military courts formed which could sentence and hang a person on spot, creating restraints on the peasants who continued violent disturbances in 1906. Between 1906 and 1911, there were over 2500 executions in Russia, which was a pretty huge amount threatening anyone who dared to rebel with deadly dangers, making hangman's loose even be referred to as the "Stolypin's necktie". In addition, the secret police were also active, requiring anyone to carry an internal passport with them when travelling yet registering once being outside their own district, making it hard to organize mass rebellions. Thus, with these fatal threats and strict restrictions, the government under the Tsar was able to push the public back to order as before the 1905 revolution and eliminate the aftermath of the 1905 revolution on the peasants, making it a success.

### **--- b) Why did the Russian people consider Rasputin a bad influence on the royal family? (6) ---**

Russian people consider Rasputin a bad influence on the royal family due to his promiscuous private life. It was rumoured that Rasputin organized gatherings and parties with women from the higher circles of the society, some were even wild drunken, where Rasputin seduced women with his hypnotic power. Although these might be rumours that were released by Rasputin's enemies, they would greatly reduce the reputation of the royal family within the Russian people that the former weren't that morally correct and should be condemned due to some conventionally unacceptable acts. People would so not be that respectful to the royal family, leading to some cracks within the social hierarchies.

Rasputin's notorious influence was also enhanced due to his abnormal relationships with the Tsar's family, especially with the Tsarina. To begin with, Rasputin emerged in the loyalty's sight as he was said to succeed in healing Tsar Nicholas's son, Alexis, who suffered from haemophiliac. However, rumours asserted that Rasputin wasn't really healing the son but was instead retarding the development of the disease and that the Tsar was cheated, leading to a damaging reputation of him as the monarch, the divine ruler and the supreme man in the country. In addition, Rasputin also had an indescribably close relationship with Tsarina, through which he even appointed his relatives to positions and ticked away his enemies. This was again a bad punch to the royal family's reputation, as it was even controlled by a rumoured and religious man who used to be a peasant. And the overly close relationship acted as proof of the Tsarina's moral corruptness, decreasing her authority, and people might not like the royal family that much any longer.

## **The reasons for the collapse of the Tsar's control**

### **1. World War One**

- because it shows the weakness of the Tsar's control
  - army
  - economy
  - just like the Russo-Japanese war
- people facing desperate war always wanted to change the government
  - bad living conditions during the war
- impacts on the army
  - the warfare and necessities were bad
    - creating useless deaths, making their resentment to the Tsar
- also, during the war, the Tsar had no time to care about some domestic issues

- the revolutionary groups might hence take the chance to overthrow the gov, together with the general historical background
  - Hence it might be false for the Tsar actually to maintain the existence of the RGs in the duma
    - despite it showing democracy to the West
- Tsar's going to the front
- 2. February revolution
- 3. Severe winter
- 4. Rasputin
- 5. Outrageous peasant
  - under the severe control
    - including high taxes
    - martial law
    - little land
    - secret police
    - censorship
- 6. Outrageous workers
  - bad working conditions and payments and etc.

**--- (c) 'The severe winter of 1916-17 brought about the downfall of Tsar Nicholas II.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10) ---**

The situation in the winter of 1916-1917 brought about the downfall of the Tsar as it led to a reduction in the supply of necessities. Railroads were frozen thanks to the severe winter, causing a collapse in the Russian railway system - some 575 railway stations were incapable of transporting freight by 1916. Therefore, there was a dramatic decrease in the number of necessities supplied, as railway transportation used to be the main means of food distribution. Statistically, states only received one-third of the food by 1917 compared to the pre-war period. Hence, such a dramatic decrease in the number supplied of necessities, e.g., food, together with a growing demand for calories and heat during frigid winter, skyrocketed the price of the necessities, making the public unable to even purchase the food for their basic need, which contributed to public's dissatisfaction and thus they might blame the government and the tsar, leading to a downfall of the latter.

In addition, the severe winter also caused unemployment. As the railways were frozen and unable to carry on transpirational tasks, raw materials couldn't be transported within states and hence factories would have to halt production. In extreme cases factories, without revenue from production, might bankrupt or dismiss employees to decrease spending. Hence, unemployment figures rose during the severe winter, which, combined with the rising food price during the simultaneous period, led to people's incapability to sustain daily lives, and thus they might blame the Tsar for his incompetence in handling the war-time domestic situation. Such a denouncement might even be strengthened as skyrocketing living burden might trigger social security issues, adding an insult to the injury of the Tsar's downfall.

However, inflation also brought about the downfall of the Tsar. Despite Russia's financial stability maintained by the gold standard by 1914, inflation occurred after the war, which was particularly severe in 1916 and 1917. Quantitative easing was carried out by the government to provide more notes to the circulation, which in short term helped with raising funds but made the money practically worthless in the long run. As a result, there was an approximately 3 times increase in the general price level from 1916 to

1917, causing the living standard to decrease and the public barely had money to purchase necessities to sustain their basic living. Hence, the population would begin to denounce the Tsar and the government for their incapability of solving the financial issues in domestic Russia, leading to distrust and condemnation of the Tsar as even their basic living needs couldn't be met, contributing to the latter's downfall.

On the other hand, the tragedy of soldiers brought about the downfall of the Tsar's regime as well. To begin with, Russian troops suffered from the inadequate supply. Soldiers were in great short of food and basic equipment such as boots to wear in the cold winter, and they hardly have any medical supplies to cure the wounded soldier, even the simplest bandaging. They saw their comrades being slaughtered in a futile manner, yet many died without weapons or ammunition. Combined with great losses on the battlefield, the morale of the Russian soldier was pretty low. However, despite such a tragic image on the war front, the Tsar was apathetic about the situation and hardly brought attention, let alone optimization. Hence, the soldiers were the ones who experienced the incompetence of the Tsar in the first place, which grew their resentment toward the latter. Additionally, low morale may also be accounted for the series of losses, leading to the dissatisfaction of the domestic public as well.

Tsar's going to the front was a huge mistake that led to his downfall. Due to the widespread view of wanting a strong central leadership to command the army, the Tsar formally took over the direct command of Russia's armed services in August 1915. This caused a series of problems as, at the front, the Tsar himself would be personally responsible for Russia's performance in the war. Hence, he would be credited if Russia began to earn victories, while would be blamed directly once the losses continued. The fact turned out that the situation didn't bounce back after the Tsar's commanding - several offensives against the Germans in 1916 failed, including Lake Naroch Offensive and the Baranovichi Offensive. Hence, people found out that it was not the central leadership problem that led to defeats but the problem of the Russian army, the Russian country, and the Russian Tsar. Hence, they would uprise as they believed that under the Tsar's control the Russian had no way to win this grand war.

Additionally, Tsar's going to the front also led to his downfall due to the Tsarina. Tsarina was taking charge of the country while Nicholas II was on the front field. People mistrusted her due to her German background and her close relationship with Rasputin, and indeed she messed up the country by appointing incompetent people who were friends of Rasputin to pivotal positions, and these massive changes in ministries caused disorganization in food, fuel, and other main supplies. Hence, the domestic situation worsened as the Tsar went to the front, and people would definitely lose respect for the loyal Tsarina and the loyal family, and such a resentment would also be transferred to the Tsar himself as well.

The humiliating defeat at the war front was also a vital factor in the Tsar's loss of power. Despite great expectations and confidence from the domestic public in the army, the Russian army suffered two magnificent defeats as WWI began. The first of which was the Battle of Tannenberg in August 1914, in which the Russian Second Army was almost completely destroyed, and the general suicide. Such a defeat occurring in the first month of the great war acted as a head-on blow to the enthusiasm of the Russian population. Coincidentally, the First Battle of the Mansurian Lakes following the Tannenberg one in the month after destroyed almost everyone in the Russian First Army. These two humiliating defeats led to the collapse of two legions really made the Russians doubt the strength of their army, and be sorry for the dead soldiers, who could be the ones that supply the family. The tax-payers would be infuriated as the huge amount of money generated from their tax revenue only built up such a weak army, and they would consequently blame the Tsar as he was totally in charge of the government and it was his responsibility to cultivate a strong army, but not these weak ones who were just going for death.

Army rebellions also contributed to the Tsar's loss of power. While the Tsar was at his military headquarters, the order of Petrograd totally broke down. Learning about the disturbances, the Tsar ordered General Khabalov to restore order, but it turned out that troops were either fighting against each other or doing the demonstrators, leaving no way to restore orders by violent means, let alone declaring martial law to forcefully calm down the public. By February 1917 most of the 150000 Petrograd garrison troops had deserted. Army measures were always the most useful but ultimate means to halt a demonstration/revolution, which was successfully used by the Tsar to pacify the 1905 revolution thanks to a royal army. However, since the army rebelled, Tsar has no other useful ways to actually stop the revolution without agreeing to the demands of the rebels. Under the furious troops and the public, the Tsar had no power to further command people for his own good. The Tsar hence definitely lost power.

The rebellion from the military leaders was also an instance of pushing the Tsar to lose power. When the Tsar decided to return to Petrograd on February 1917, the mutinous troops forced the back royal train to Pskov, 300 kilometers from Petrograd, where, a group of generals from Stavka and the old representative of the old duma met the Tsar and advised him to abdicate. The tsar tamely accepted the advice and renounce the throne on behalf of his son. Therefore, at the moment the Tsar decided to abdicate, the old man lost his last royal power thanks to WWI.

To begin with, Russia's political system contributed to the downfall of the Tsar's control due to the duma as the progression of the war. Duma demanded its own recall and reassembled in July 1915, after seeing a year of Russia's poor military. They proposed to form a "progressive bloc", adding political resistance to the Tsar as the latter didn't listen to their advice. In addition, a Provisional Committee was formed on February 1917, consisting of old members from the Duma. The Committee declared itself a Provisional Government in March, which was taking responsibility for governing Russia after the Tsar abdicated. The Russian public chose to give the governing right to the Provisional Government, contributing to the actual loss of the power of the Tsar. He was no longer the only divine ruler of the government, and he had no right to rule as it now belonged to the Provisional Government.

Tsar's playing on the Duma undoubtedly led to his downfall. Nicholas II agreed to form a totally democratic and legislative duma in which "no law can be made without the state duma". However, under the Fundamental Law passed in 1906, the duma was forced to be bi-cameral and strongly lacked power in key aspects such as naming positions or establishing laws. The Duma was expected to be the last democratic resort of the empire so that people could vote on critical country-wise issues, but the expectations failed under Tsar's rules, contributing to people's (especially the liberals') suspicion towards the Tsar and damaging the latter's reputation.

#### **--- a) Describe the downfall of the Tsar in March 1917. (4) ---**

On 7th March, 40000 thousand workers went on strike at the Putilov factories in Petrograd, which was followed by a demonstration organized by socialist groups five days later on 22nd March. Thereafter, most of the 150000 Petrograd garrison army deserted and a general strike began. Hearing the disturbance occurring in Petrograd, the Tsar decided to come back on a royal train, which was then forced to divert to Pskov. This was where the generals from Stavka and old Duma members forced the Tsar to abdicate and passed the position of the Tsar to his son Alexis.

**--- a) What powers did the Petrograd Soviet have during 1917? (4) ---**

Since many of its members were mutinied soldiers, the Petrograd Soviet set up soldiers committees throughout the arms force, undermining the authority of the officers much like trade unions and influencing the army. In addition, it helped the Provisional Government regain control during the Kornilov Affair, and it coordinated the national soviet movement which became an alternate government in 1917, which gradually fell into Bolsheviks' control.

**--- a) What were Lenin's 'April Theses'? (4) ---**

'April Theses' were a series of directives issued by Lenin in which he spelt out future Bolshevik policy. Lenin condemned all that had happened since the fall of the tsar in this 'April Theses' and suggested that the Bolsheviks should abandon cooperation with all other parties, overthrow the Provisional Government as it was simply the old and class-driven duma in a new garb, and work for a true revolution entirely by their own efforts.

**--- b) Why was the Provisional Government ineffective in ruling Russia? (6) ---**

The Provisional Government was ineffective in ruling Russia as it couldn't stop the great war. Despite the Tsar's abdication, he left Russia nearly bankrupt. Hence, to maintain an adequate amount of capital for the daily operation of the country, the Provisional government could only fight the war as only so would the Western Allies supplied Russia with resources and war credits. However, the biggest problem that Russia was facing was the endless exhaustion of resources and casualties from the war, and the largest will of the public was to withdraw from WWI. Hence, such a dilemma made the Provisional Government ineffective as to sustain Russia's operation, it would have to continue enrolling in the war, but the war was the fundamental problem that the Empire was facing, and continuing fighting it would not only bring damages in the socioeconomic aspect but dissatisfy the public.

In addition, relentless defeats on the battlefield also contributed to the ineffectiveness of the Provisional Government. The war minister Kerensky campaigned for Russia to accept the conflict with Germany and call for a national-wide dedication to the war. However, the result turned out that Russia failed badly in a major offensive in June 1917 on the south-western front, leading to mutinies of soldiers as their force was completely incomparable with the Austrians and Germany, and their morale was low thanks to Bolsheviks' agitations. While this deteriorated the military power of the Provisional Government, a series of losses on the battlefield also weakened its reputation, eroding the support the government had initially enjoyed, which made them less incapable of ruling the Russian public.

In addition, unfavorable land policies also contributed to the ineffectiveness of the Provisional Government. The peasants expected that they would gain private control of the land after the revolution, but the result turned out they weren't - the Provisional Government was afraid of the disintegration of the army as peasants came to the army due to conscriptions, and they would easily have chosen to return to their farms had they gotten their own land to sustain their livings. This miss in expectations triggered disturbances in the countryside where peasants began to seize the land from their landowners by themselves. It also reveals that the February Revolution was a political change in the form of the government, but not a social upheaval that benefited the government. Hence, people grew dissatisfaction with the government, making the latter less capable of ruling the public.

### **--- b) Why was Lenin a threat to the Provisional Government? (6) ---**

Lenin was a threat to the Provisional Government due to his slogan of "Peace, Bread and Land". Lenin cried for the halt of the war with Germany, the halt of the chronic food shortage, and the peasant's ownership of lands. These were the basic yet the most fundamental problems regarding Russia, which precisely addressed what the public was concerned about, leaving him tremendous public support. In contrast, the Provisional Government was the one that couldn't solve these issues but did the opposite actions such as continuing the war with Germany. Hence, Lenin was a threat to the Provisional Government as his sayings would shape him into a publicly embraced counter-government hero which had the power to challenge the PG's authority.

Lenin was a threat to the PG also because of his slogan of "All Power to the Soviets". Lenin argued that the Provisional Government could not solve the fundamental issues of "peace, bread and land" because the government ministers were only interested in their own interests, and he also opined that it was time to overthrow the democratic and capitalized Provisional Government to embrace a shift to socialism. Lenin's contradictory thoughts about the PG meant that he would try his best to diminish the latter's control on governmental issues, creating much of a threat to the PG. The threat became even larger considering the supports from the public and the Bolsheviks to Lenin.

### **--- Why was there July Days? (6) ---**

There was the July Days due to the independence of Ukraine. In June 1917, the Provisional Government deputation offered independence to Ukraine, the southern Russia region known for its largest non-Russian population and its largest food-producing capacity. Hearing this message, the Kadet ministers in the government decided to resign and argue that only an all-Russian constituent assembly could properly decide the independence of Ukraine. Coincidentally, massive demonstrations were held in the street of Petrograd. These demonstrations soon turned into a direct challenge to the Provisional Government stimulated by the desperate atmosphere of the south-western offensive and the government's mounting problems.

In addition, the shameful failure from the south-western offensive was also a key for the outbreak of the July Days. The war minister Kerensky campaigned for Russia to accept the conflict with Germany and call for a national-wide dedication to the war. However, the result turned out that Russia failed badly in a major offensive in June 1917 on the south-western front, leading to mutinies of soldiers as their force was completely incomparable with the Austrians and Germany, and their morale was low thanks to Bolsheviks' agitations. While this deteriorated the military power of the Provisional Government, such a defeat acted like a splint that lighted up the anger toward the government inside the public's heart, pushing them into an uprising which was the July Days.

### **--- Why was there Kornilov Affair? (6) ---**

There was Kornilov Affair because of the intention of the new commander-in-chief, General Kornilov. He himself was a person who had never accepted the February Revolution and believed that the socialists and Lenin should be killed in advance to defeating the Germans. He thought that Russia, as a country, wasn't fitted for democracy at all and aimed to restore military dictatorship. This greatly opposed the will of the Provisional Government, causing conflicts between Kornilov and Kerensky, which finally caused the Kornilov Affair.



Kornilov Affair took place also because of Kornilov's willingness to restore the army's morale. As a military leader, Kornilov was tired of the agitations spread by the left-wing SRs on the battlefield, which negatively influenced the morale of the soldiers, causing them even to surrender or flee. Hence, he believed that it was pivotal to kill Lenin and the socialists in advance of defeating the Germans, and so the Kornilov Affair was raised.

--- **b) Why was the Kornilov Affair significant? (6)** ---

To begin with, the Kornilov Affair was significant as it greatly weakened the Provisional Government. By revealing that the Provisional Government actually appointed someone who had the aim to overthrow itself, its political weakness was shown to the public. In addition, the Provisional Government issued weapons to all the citizens and called them up to defend the city of Petrograd. This was a disaster as even commoners were gotten involved in such a military affair with no helpful armies, revealing how the Provisional Government was vulnerable to military threats, which greatly damaged its reputation.

Furthermore, the Kornilov Affair was also pivotal for the Bolshevik's gains from such an event. First of all, the Bolsheviks were released from prison and or came out of hiding to defend Petrograd using weapons given by the Provisional Government. Hence, due to the failure of Kornilov, they successfully presented themselves as defenders of the Petrograd and the February Revolution, thereby diverting attention from their failure in the July Days yet gaining a reputation. In addition, the fact that the Provisional Government was badly weakened increased the chance of the Bolsheviks to overthrow the further's control, bringing significance to the whole Kornilov Affair.

--- **'The leadership of Trotsky was the main reason why Bolsheviks took power in 1917.' How far do you agree?(10)** ---

1. Trotsky -> military leader of MRC
  - he had at his disposal the only military force in Petrograd
2. Trotsky -> organizer of the October Revolution
  - leaflets, occupying vital positions, organizing the attack to the Winter Palace
3. Desertion of the Petrograd Garrison (**not important**)
  - only a few were defending the PG
  - Red Guard easily entered the Winter Palace
4. Dual authority
  - weaken the actual power and speech rights of the PG
  - just acted as an interim government
5. No real influence on the military, no military rights
6. The incapacibilities of PG -> solving war and land/food issues
7. The weaknesses of the other social parties
  - due to their support of the war
  - awaited for the construction of the Constituent Assembly
8. Misunderstandings
  - Kerensky feared about the rights than the lefts
9. Bolshevik's ruthlessness
10. Lenin's importance
  - chose the right time to uprising

- after the Kornilov affair
- before
  - the meeting of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets in Late October
  - the elections for the Constituent Assembly in November
- so that the Bolsheviks had the legitimacy for

## 11. Kornilov Affair

Leadership of Trotsky was the main reason why the Bolsheviks took power in 1917 because of his leading position in the MRC. When the MRC was set up by the Soviets to defend Petrograd from any potential German or Kornilov-type attack on October 1917, Trotsky used his influence to become one of the troika appointed to the MRC. This was pivotal as Trotsky now had the legitimate force of the military, which helped Lenin in his uprising by giving out military support and making sure that The Bolsheviks were freed from the threats of being attacked militarily.

In addition, Trotsky was also important for his pivotal role in organizing the October Revolution. It was Trotsky who handed out leaflets as the propaganda of the October Revolution, creating public influence in Petrograd. In addition, Trotsky appointed the Red Guards to occupy the key venture points of Petrograd, such as the bridges, when Lenin decided to uprising, creating a strategic advantage for the Bolsheviks. Lastly, Trotsky was the organizer of the attack on the Winter Palace, helping the Bolsheviks to occupy the Winter Palace, which symbolized the complete loss of control of the Provisional Government and highlighted that it was the Bolsheviks who were now taking charge of the political authority. To conclude, Trotsky was the main reason for the Bolshevik's success as he impacted the latter both strategically, publicly, and politically.

However, Lenin was also important for the Bolshevik's success in the October Revolution as it was he who chose the right time for the uprising. Lenin decided to uprising after the Kornilov affair, which greatly weakened the Provisional government so that the Bolsheviks had a higher chance to overthrow it. In addition, Lenin assisted to carry out the revolution before the meeting of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets in Late October and the elections for the Constituent Assembly in November, as after the two assemblies, the legitimacy of the Bolshevik's revolution wouldn't be justified and it would pose tremendous difficulties for the Bolshevik's to gain power. Hence, without Lenin's promotion to uprising when the right time came, the Bolsheviks would lose such a adequate time after the Kornilov Affair and before the two assemblies, which might make their journey to success a hard and even impossible one.

Dual authority was a factor for Bolshevik's success in October Revolution as well. Under the terms of dual authority, the provisional government couldn't carry out any meaningful policies without the agreement of the Petrograd Soviet, leaving poor authority and power to them. In addition, the dual authority was meant to be caretakers of Russian before the All-Russian Constituent Assembly, which was the first democratic parliament of Russia. Hence, both the Petrograd Soviet and the Provisional Government were just interim governments that had no rights to exercise the authority that properly belonged to the Constituent Assembly alone, contributing to their limited strength. These limited authorities gave Lenin a chance to overthrow them as the dual authority had no military and political means to stop Lenin.

The faults of the other non-Bolshevik parties were also significant to the Bolshevik's success. To begin with, they did not impose a significant attention on the Bolsheviks, and through that the latter's belief was too extreme to gain public support and overthrow the government. This gave Lenin a chance to develop his influence without being deterred. In addition, the strategy of the non-Bolshevik parties, that was, their gradual withdrawal from the Petrograd Soviet, was also a key stimulus for the Bolshevik's success. For example, they even permitted Trotsky to become one of the troika of the MRC, which the latter used to

militarily help with the Bolshevik's uprising in October 1917, contributing tremendously to their success.

**--- a) Describe events in Petrograd on 6–7 November which brought the Bolsheviks to power. (4) ---**

Red Guards moved out and took control of the bridges, the main telegraph office, the railway stations, and the power stations on the morning of 7 November. They carried on seizing the key places the next day, having no resistance as Kerensky had already left Petrograd. Hence, with mild disturbances, the bolsheviks moved into the Winter Palace where the defenders were all giving up, and took control of the Petrograd.

Menshevik -> bolsheviks so extreme people may not support them

Petrograd Soviet -> Mensheviks gradually withdrew from and Bolsheviks gradually gained power