

**Exciting and Useful Data #7**  
**Silver Age, Revolution, Duma, & Stolypin**  
**(1900-1914)**

**Some Important Moments in Late Imperial Russia**

<b>1898</b>		Formation of Russian Social Democratic Workers Party (RSDWP) Illustrated journal <i>World of Art</i> begins publication (mark of Silver Age)
<b>1899</b>		Strike movement among university students
<b>1901</b>		Organization of police-sponsored workers' unions begins under Sergei Zubatov Formation of Party of Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs)
<b>1902</b>		Assassination of Minister of Interior D. S. Sipiagin Lenin publishes <i>What is to be Done?</i> Publication of anti-positivism essays, <i>Problems of Idealism</i>
<b>1902-03</b>		Beginnings of rural unrest in several provinces & Georgia
<b>1903</b>		Split of Social Democrats (SDs) into Bolsheviks & Mensheviks (in London) Formation of Union of Liberation in Switzerland
<b>1904</b>	Jan	Outbreak of Russo-Japanese War
	July	Assassination of Minister of Interior V. K. Plehve
	Nov	Banquet campaign and Congress of Zemstvos
	Dec	Decree promising rule of law, greater religious freedoms, but <i>not</i> representative gov't Fall of Port Arthur to the Japanese
<b>1905</b>	Jan	Bloody Sunday: gov't troops fire on unarmed crowd led by Father Gapon General strike in Warsaw
	March	Russia loses land battle at Mukden, in Manchuria, to the Japanese
	April	Major decree extending (and promising) greater religious freedom
	May	Destruction of Baltic Fleet by Japanese at Tsushima Formation of Union of Unions, uniting several professional unions against autocracy
	summer	Beginning of peasant unrest in countryside
	Aug	Nicholas II approves idea of a consultative assembly, or Duma
	Oct	General Strike in Moscow; creation of first council (soviet) of workers deputies Nicholas II issues October Manifesto
	Dec	Armed insurrection in Moscow, brutally suppressed by government
<b>1906</b>	Feb	Beginning of elections to first Duma
	April	Promulgation of Fundamental Laws Opening of the First Duma; Peter Stolypin named minister of interior
	July	First Duma closed. Liberals issue the Vyborg Manifesto in response
	Aug	Courts-martial established for re-establishment of order
<b>1907</b>	Feb	Convening of Second Duma
	June	Stolypin's <i>coup d'état</i> : Second Duma shut down; new electoral law introduced
<b>1907-12</b>		Session of Third Duma (the only to last its full 5-yr term)
<b>1908</b>		Publication of critical essays, <i>Landmarks</i>
<b>1911</b>		Assassination of Petr Stolypin
<b>1912</b>		Lena goldfields massacre (Siberia) leads to growing labor militancy
<b>1912-17</b>		Fourth Duma (prorogued in 1914 with beginning of war)
<b>1913</b>		Notorious trial of Mendel Beilis
<b>1914</b>		General strike World War I begins; Russia begins offensive into Austrian Galicia

### Terms, Institutions, & People:

Silver Age	positivism / idealism	Vladimir Soloviëv
Fëdor Dostoevsky	Lev Tolstoy	<i>Problems of Idealism</i>
<i>Landmarks</i>	Father Georgii Gapon	Bloody Sunday
Russo-Japanese War	Social Democrats (SDs) = Marxists	Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs)
Union of Liberation	Black Hundreds	Union of Russian People
Decree of 12 December 1904	"Bulygin Duma"	Union of Unions
Sergei Witte	soviets	October Manifesto
State Duma	Octobrists	Fundamental Law
State Council	Pavel Miliukov	Curia
Petr Stolypin	Kadets (Constitutional Democrats)	communal tenure
hereditary tenure	repartitional commune	consolidation

### The first three Dumas (by number of representatives)<sup>1</sup>

1 <sup>st</sup> (April-July 1906) <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Feb-June 1907)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (1907-1912) <sup>3</sup>
Various Left = 124	Various Left = 216	Various Left = 33
Kadets = 184	Kadets = 98	Kadets = 54
Unaffiliated <sup>4</sup>	-	-
Various Right = 45	Various Right = 60	Various Right = 147

### Major Political Parties of Russia, 1905-1914 (from left to right):

Anarchists, not really a party since they don't participate in organized politics

Social Democrats (Marxists), divided into Bolsheviks (more radical) and Mensheviks (less); believe in forthcoming socialist revolution, but some disagreement about how to get there.

Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs), Russia's main peasant party, the heirs to the populist tradition (some members involved in terrorism)

Trudoviki (Labor) group, really a Duma faction rather than party as such; spoke for peasant interests, though not as radical as SRs.

Constitutional Democrats (Kadets), Russia's liberals, want substantial, but more moderate change; sympathize with workers and peasants, but want change to occur legally, in orderly fashion.

Octobrists, very moderate liberals (their name comes from the fact that they considered the October Manifesto of 1905 to be a sufficient concession from the government).

Monarchists, United Nobility, not really organized as a political party as such; represent noble, conservative, and reactionary viewpoints.

Black Hundreds, Union of Russian People, not really political parties, but extremist groups of the far right, espousing nationalism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism

<sup>1</sup> First two Dumas had 524 seats; 3rd and 4th had 442. Data here does not include info on all parties.

<sup>2</sup> Social Democrats (SDs) and Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs) for the most part boycotted elections to the First Duma.

<sup>3</sup> Boycotted by Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs).

<sup>4</sup> Mostly peasants with oppositionist stance.

### **Significant moments in the history of the Russian peasantry (1881-1917):**

- 1883 Establishment of Peasant Land Bank, designed to offer cheap credit
- 1886 Elimination of soul (poll) tax, originally introduced by Peter I in 1719  
New law restricts right of household head to subdivide allotment
- 1889 Establishment of land captain (part of counter-reform)  
New law on migration: state encourages resettlement to Siberia
- 1891-2 Famine and cholera epidemic
- 1893 New law restricts withdrawal of individual peasants from commune
- 1902 Rural unrest
- 1903 New law terminates collective fiscal responsibility
- 1904 New law ends corporal punishment for peasants
- 1905-6 Rural unrest among peasants in revolution of 1905
- 1905 Manifesto forgives half of remaining redemption dues (from emancipation)
- 1906 Remaining redemption payments are cancelled  
Joint peasant responsibility for public obligations is abrogated  
New law offers possibility of individual title to allotments previously vested in commune