

**R. Powers**  
**WH II College Prep**  
**Russian Revolution**

**Lesson: Russia Under Nicholas II**

**Objective:** Students will learn about the various struggles in Russian society under Nicholas II through direct instruction, document analysis, and timeline construction.

**Essential Question:** What was the social and economic situation in Russia before the revolution?

**Conceptual/Topical Understandings:**

- Revolutions often occur when the needs of people are not being met by a government
- The social and economic structures of Russia had not changed in hundreds of years
- World War I and problems of the czar created the conditions necessary for the Russian Revolution

**Standards Addressed:**

WHII.22 Summarize the consequences of Soviet communism to 1945. (H, E)

- A. the establishment of a one-party dictatorship under Lenin
- B. the suffering in the Soviet Union caused by Stalin's policies of collectivization of agriculture and breakneck industrialization
- C. the destruction of individual rights and the use of mass terror against the population
- D. the Soviet Union's emergence as an industrial power

**Skills Assessed:**

- Students will be able identify various government structures (monarchy, democracy, etc.)
- Demonstrate how political/economic/social factors contribute to revolution

**Materials Needed:**

- **14-1 Guided Reading Sheet**
- **Russian Revolution Timeline Assignment**
- **Selected documents of Tsarist Russia**
- **Document Analysis Sheets**
- **Assignment Overview Handout**

**Procedure:**

1. For homework the previous night, students will have completed 14-1 Guided Reading.
2. To begin class, students will work on the following free write prompt:  
"Explain what life was like in Russia during the 19th century"
3. Following class discussion, students will be divided into four groups. Each group will be given the overview sheet, a folder of documents and analysis sheets, and timeline materials. The teacher will explain the process of the activity and let students begin the assignment.
  - a. Students will read the directions on the overview sheet
  - b. Students will analyze the document in order and match each one with an event on the timeline assignment

- c. After analyzing, students will create an annotated timeline of the following events during the lead up to the Russian Revolution:**
- i. Alexander III dies (Nicholas II takes power)
  - ii. Treaty of Portsmouth signed (Russia loses the Russo-Japanese War)
  - iii. Bloody Sunday
  - iv. Nicholas II creates the Duma (October Manifesto)
  - v. Russia enters WWI
  - vi. Nicholas II abdicates
- d. Lastly, students will construct a summary of the timeline that answer the lesson's essential question.**
- 4. As students are working through the document, the teacher will check for understanding by discussing their analysis sheet answers with the groups.**
- 5. At the conclusion of class, the teacher will assess where the student groups are in the process, and close the class accordingly.**

**Assessments of Student Learning:**

**Informal -**

- Student participation in the class discussion
- Teacher interactions with groups during the activity

**Formal -**

- Completed timelines and summaries (see overview sheet for grading criteria)
- 14-1 Guided Reading completion
- Russian Revolution Quiz - Students will be asked to support the conceptual/topical understanding statements with information from this activity on the next formal quiz