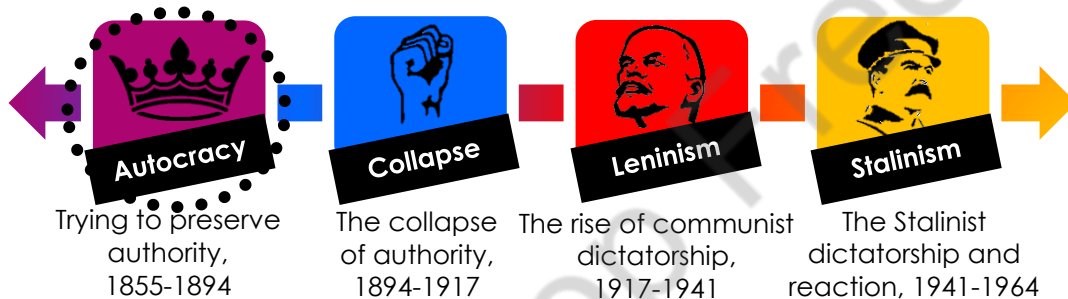


NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



## TSARIST AND COMMUNIST RUSSIA, 1855-1964

Where are we in the course:



### CONTENTS:

**Why was ruling Russia an almost impossible job?**

Pages 2 - 7

**Was the Crimean War solely responsible for instigating an "era of self-evaluation" in Russia?**

Pages 8 - 12

### KEY COURSE QUESTIONS:

Russia is a breadth study, focused on change across time along the lines of the following key course questions:

1. How was Russia governed and how did **political authority** change and develop?
2. Why did **opposition** develop and how effective was it?
3. How and with what results did the **economy** develop and change?
4. What was the extent of **social and cultural change**?
5. How important were **ideas and ideology**?
6. How important was the **role of individuals and groups** and how were they affected by developments?

**Task:** Identify evidence throughout the booklet which could be used to answer these key questions.

### CONTEXT:

As a result of the defeat of Napoleon in 1812, Russia had developed from an isolated nation, neither really a part of Europe nor Asia, into an impressive new player on the global stage. Increasingly westward-looking, Russia realised that it needed to modernise and industrialise to maintain and strengthen its new global reputation. Most of Russia's population were still confined under serfdom, which hindered the economy as well. Women were suppressed in the patriarchal feudal society and the class structure was firmly embedded. Education levels were low and civil rights were almost non-existent. There was only a very small, underdeveloped middle class. The elite (boyars) were also limited in comparison with the elites in other European countries who were gaining economic power and, increasingly, political power and legal rights. The state owned most of the fledgling industrial sector and a high percentage of the serf population. The Russian Orthodox Church was also an influential force in society, the economy and in politics. However, political power rested solely in the hands of the Tsar, who was revered by much of the population as the Tsar Batiushka ('Little Father'). Russia was a highly autocratic state with a secret police force and preventative censorship. Yet revolutionary ideas were still on the rise.

RUSSIA CONTEXT GLOSSARY

KEY TERM	DEFINITION	IN A SENTENCE...
Tsar		
Autocracy		
Nationalism		
Orthodox		
Serfdom		
Boyar		
Slavophile		
Westernizer		
Tsar Batiushka		
Moscow		
St Petersburg/ Petrograd/ Leningrad		
Empire		

## WHY WAS RULING RUSSIA AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE JOB?

### GOVERNMENT

Explanation:

Challenges this creates:

### SOCIETY/DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

Explanation:

Challenges this creates:

### RELIGION AND THE CHURCH

Explanation:

Challenges this creates:

### ECONOMY

Explanation:

Challenges this creates:

### GEOGRAPHY AND DIVERSITY

Explanation:

Challenges this creates:

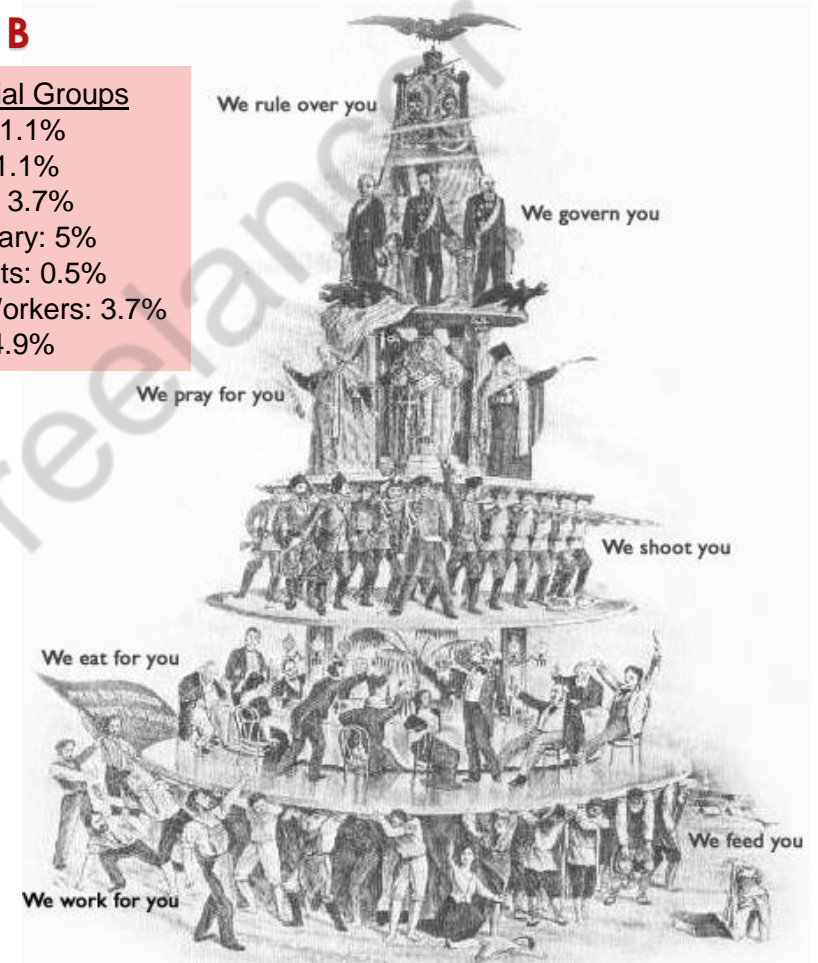
## Source A



## Source B

### Russia: Social Groups

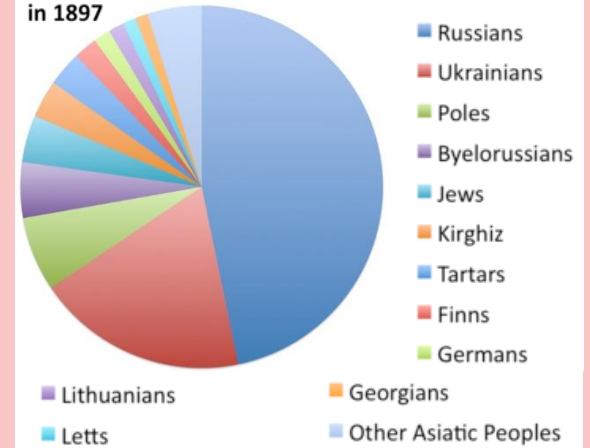
- Nobility: 1.1%
- Priests: 1.1%
- Officials: 3.7%
- The Military: 5%
- Merchants: 0.5%
- Urban Workers: 3.7%
- Serfs: 84.9%



## Source C



Population of the Russian Empire, according to consensus in 1897

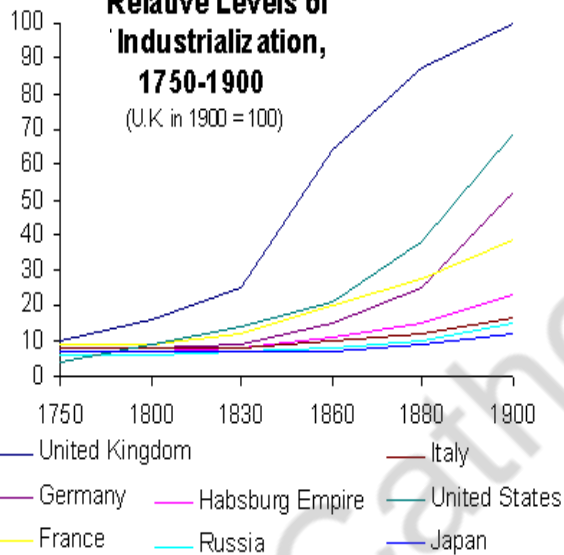


# Source D

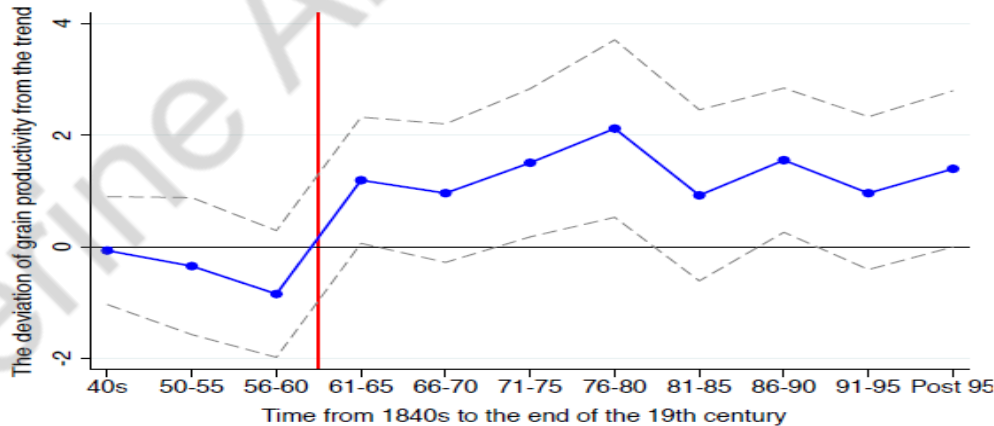


# Source E

**Relative Levels of Industrialization, 1750-1900**  
 (U.K. in 1900 = 100)

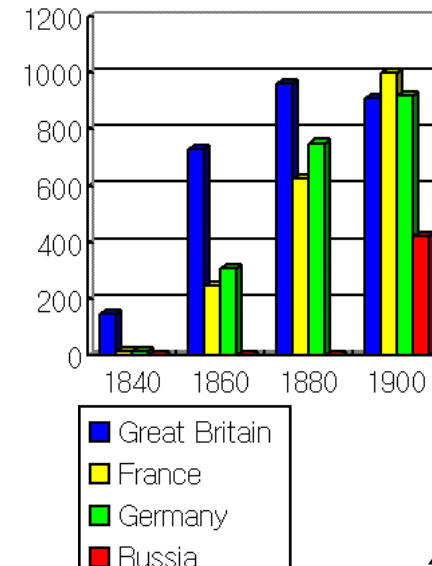


**Source F** Grain productivity (yield to seed ratio)  
 Vertical line marks the abolition of serfdom



# Source G

**KMs of railroads built**



## Source H

Russian Orthodox churches towered over all other rooftops in both major cities (like St Petersburg – *right*) and in rural towns. The Russian Orthodox Church is a Christian Church, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant, adapted from the Greek Orthodox Church back in 988 AD.

It was very powerful: from the Patriarch in St Petersburg to the local priest or monastery (such as the Simonov monastery in the Moscow area – *left* – or the Ipatiev Monastery where the first Romanov tsar was crowned – *middle*), the Church's presence was everywhere. It ran most schools, taught complete obedience to God and to the Tsar and acted as a censor. But the reach of the Orthodox Church was not as complete as either the Church nor the Tsar (head of the Church) liked to pretend. While it is true that many Russian peasants were deeply religious, maintaining an icon and a portrait of the Tsar in their homes, many ethnic and regional groups followed other religions such as Judaism, Islam (in the south-east), Roman Catholicism (Poland) and Protestantism (Baltics).



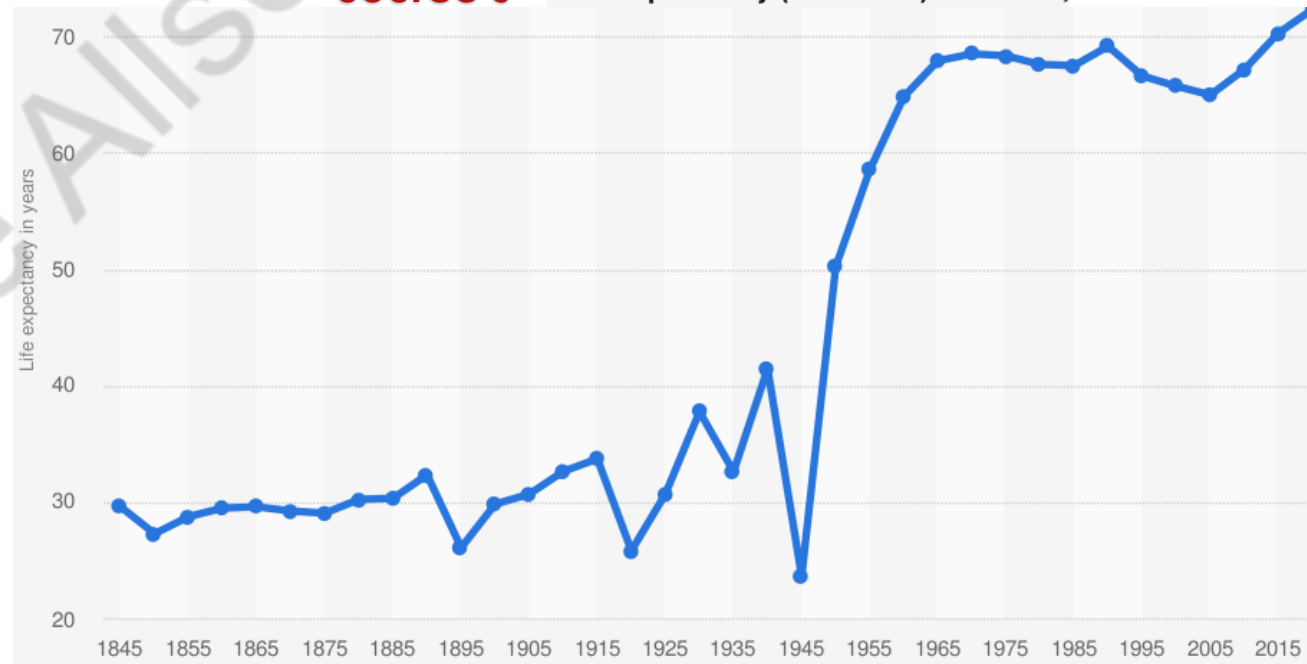
## Source I

Words taken from an official pamphlet issued to mark the tercentenary of the Romanovs (the royal family), 1913.

" " Today we celebrate a day of great...joy, when three hundred years ago, after grave strife the Russian people invited the young boyar Mikhail Fedorovich Romanov to rule the Tsardom. His Royal Line, by God's blessing, has now ruled over the Russia State for three hundred years. Under the wise rule of the Romanov Tsars, undertaken with great love for the fatherland and the people, Holy Rus has grown strong and expanded its borders. So on this day of the tercentennial celebration may the fervent prayers of all the Russian people be borne aloft...May the Lord remember the now reigning Great Emperor Nikolai Aleksandrovich...and give him strength...and continue his Tsarist line...[surrounded by] that holy, great love for the Tsar and for his Fatherland with which every honest, loyal son of Russia [is]...filled. [Long may the] mighty great song of the Russian people ring out]: GOD SAVE THE TSAR!"

## Source J

Life expectancy (from birth) in Russia,



HOW HAD RUSSIA'S TSARS ATTEMPTED TO RULE RUSSIA?

TASK: Refine your note-taking skills! No excessive words, use abbreviations/symbols...



**Prince Vladimir**  
980-1015

1



**Tsar Mikhail Romanov**  
1613-1645

4



**Tsar Alexander I**  
1801-1825

7



**Tsar Ivan III**  
1462-1505

2



**Tsar Peter I – Peter the Great**  
1672-1725

5



**Tsar Nicholas I**  
1825-1855

8



**Tsar Ivan IV – Ivan the Terrible**  
1547-1575

3



**Tsarina Catherine II – Catherine the Great**  
1762-1796

6

**The Tsars of Our Course:**



**Tsar Alexander II**  
1855-1881



**Tsar Alexander III**  
1881-1894



**Tsar Nicholas II**  
1894-1917

## WHAT WAS RUSSIA LIKE IN 1855?

In 1855 Russia was considered a great power due to its sheer size, with its Empire covering a sixth of the world's surface and still growing. However much of this territory was inhospitable, bringing problems to Russia of both a political and economic nature.

The Russian Empire was run along the lines of a police state, preventing freedom of speech, travel abroad etc. This censorship existed at every level of government with the security network run by the 'Third Section' of the Emperor's Imperial Council. They had unlimited powers to arrest, imprison or exile any individual suspected of anti-Tsarist behaviour.

Within the vast land mass of Russia there lived many different ethnic groups, with less than half of the total population in 1855 being Russian. Furthermore  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total population lived in European Russia (Western Russia).

In 1855, 85% of the Russian population were peasants, tied to their communes and forced to work the land in conditions that would have seemed primitive to Western Europeans. There were few cities and those that did exist were little more than administrative or market centres. There was a small 'intelligentsia' or educated group of Russians, who fulfilled the roles of minor government officials or doctors etc.

The head of the governing structure in Russia was the Tsar, who took the title of 'Emperor and Autocrat of all Russia'. According to the laws of Russia, 'The Emperor of all the Russia is an autocratic and unlimited monarch; God himself ordains that all must bow to his supreme power, not only out of fear but also out of conscience'.

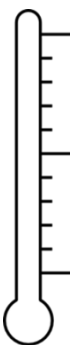
### TASK:

#### Problems:


Political  
Economy  
Social  
Religion  
Geography  
Ethnicity

## WHY WAS RULING RUSSIA AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE JOB?


ANSWER THE ENQUIRY QUESTION:



**Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Justification:**



**Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Justification:**





**Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Justification:**









# WAS THE CRIMEAN WAR SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTIGATING AN "ERA OF SELF-EVALUATION" IN RUSSIA?

## The Crimean War Infographic

 16 October 1853 – 30 March 1856  
(2 years, 5 months, 14 days)

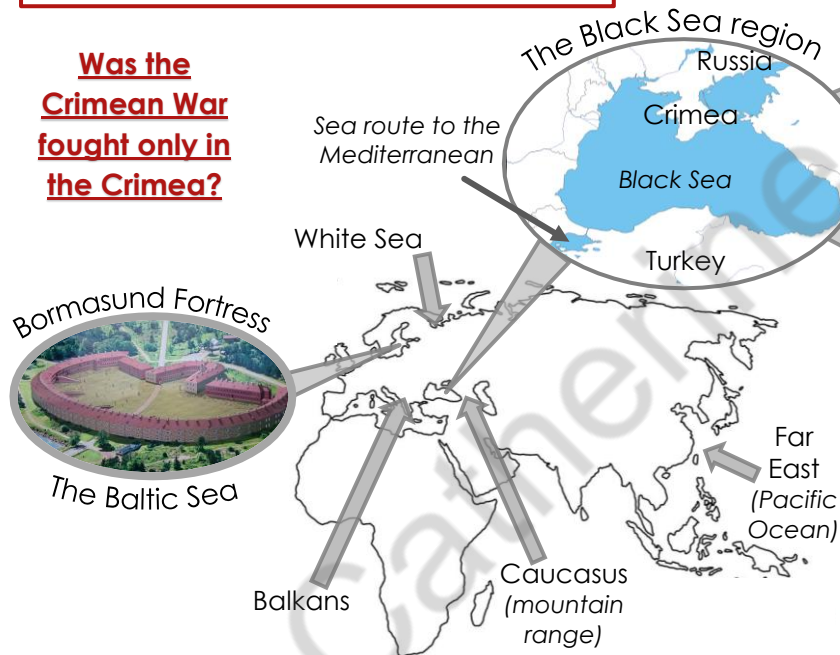
 Crimean Peninsula, Caucasus, Far East, Balkans, Black Sea, Baltic Sea, White Sea

 889,000   
603,132   

 Allied victory; Treaty of Paris

"Russia's strength, or appearance of strength, proved to be a serious political liability, for it tended to make other countries even more fearful of Russia."

### Was the Crimean War fought only in the Crimea?



### Causes

**Turkey** was seen as the "sick man of Europe". Its collapse would overthrow stability in Europe.

**Nicholas I** aims to defend the rights of Orthodox Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, which were undermined by Turkey's preferential treatment of French Roman Catholics.

**France** had a strained relationship with Russia after its defeated Napoleon and increased power status.

**Britain and France** aimed to end Russia's Black Sea navy.

**Russia** wanted to secure its access to the warm water port of the Crimea.

**Austria** resented Russian influence in the Balkans and didn't side with them, as Nicholas expected.

**Britain** aimed to increase its influence in the Near East and to reduce Russia's.



Was the Crimean War really about the **rights of Orthodox pilgrims**? Or was it really a European **power struggle**?

British and French land at Sebastopol (Crimea)



Battle of Balaklava – British victory



"The Paris Congress delivered a crushing blow to Russia's reputation as a Christian protector in the Balkans and to its prestige as a great power...Russia was no longer viewed as a major European power, because it now carried less weight in European affairs than any time since the end of the Great Northern War in 1721. In addition, the entire southern border was revealed as defenceless."

### Outcomes



210,000



223,513



### Terms of the Treaty of Paris



- No Russian forts or fleets in the Black Sea
- No special protections for Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Empire
- Russia's international reputation as a major power was destroyed

Russia and Turkey went to war again in 1877

### Why was Russia defeated?

*Categorise Tsygankov's reasons for the defeat*

"Despite the large size of the Russian army – 1.8 million regular troops – only about 100,000 could be deployed to defend the Crimea, the most important front of the war. Other troops had to be deployed elsewhere to defend various regions of the empire."

"The Crimea fought bravely, but eventually fell because of insufficient supplies."

"Nicholas could not fight the war alone against major European powers for very long."

"Russia's economic and military capabilities were progressively declining relative to those of the other European powers."

"Russia was defeated not by external forces of the Western alliance, but by its own internal weaknesses, in particular the peasant revolts against serfdom."



In the mid-nineteenth century, the **empire of the Ottoman Turks** stretched from the Middle East across the Black Sea Straits and into the Balkans. However, ever since the 1820s, the Sultan had struggled to control the Christians in his European dominions and consequently Tsar Nicholas I had seized the opportunity to increase **Russian influence** in the area by posing as the **Protector of Slavs and Christians**.

In June 1853, Nicholas sent a Russian army to Moldavia and Wallachia (now part of present-day Moldova). This provoked the Turks into declaring **war** in October. The Russians were the stronger, and triumphantly sank a squadron from the Turkish Black Sea Fleet, which had been at anchor in **Sinope** Bay on the Black Sea. This brought the **British** and **French**, who were anxious to protect their own **trading interests** in the area, into the war in defence of Turkey. They sent a joint expeditionary force of more than 60,000 men to the Russian Crimea, where they mounted a land and sea attack on the major Russian naval base of **Sebastopol**.



**Battle of Sinope** – a Russian naval victory.



**Siege of Sebastopol**

The war was marred by incompetence on both sides, and the death toll was made worse by an outbreak of cholera. Russia suffered badly from outdated technology, poor transport, and inadequate leadership. **Transport** was a major problem for the Russians as it took them longer to get equipment to the front line than it took France and Britain to send soldiers and materials from the channel ports. Russian **equipment** was also outdated. Their muskets were inferior and there was only one to every two soldiers. The Russian navy still used sails and wooden-bottomed ships, while Western ships had metal cladding and were powered by steam. Furthermore, the inshore fleet contained galley boats, rowed by **conscripted serfs**. While the Russian conscript army was larger in number, it lacked the flexibility and

determination of the smaller French and British units. The Russians were defeated at Balaklava in October 1854 and at Inkerman in November 1854.



**Battle of Balaklava** - the Russian advance was halted by the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders who, (according to *The Times* war correspondent William H. Russell) stood in a 'thin red streak tipped with steel' between the Russians and the British base at Balaklava. This extraordinary courage discouraged the Russians from attacking the British in an open space again.

Shortly before his death in March 1855, Nicholas I addressed his son, the future Alexander II, with the words, "I hand over to you my command, unfortunately not in as good order as I would have wished". By September, the fortress of Sebastopol had fallen to its enemies, leaving the tsarist government shocked and humiliated.

Although they had gone to war in a spirit of utmost confidence, the course of the fighting had revealed Russia's **military and administrative inadequacies**. In every respect, the war was little short of disastrous. Trade had been disrupted, **peasant uprisings** escalated, and the **intelligentsia** renewed their cries for something to be done to close the gap between Russia and the West. The concluding **Treaty of Paris** (1856) added the final humiliation by preventing Russian warships from using the Black Sea.

Failure in the Crimean War provided the "wake up call" Russia needed. With the death of Nicholas decades of stagnation came to an end. In 1855 there came to power not only a new Tsar, Alexander II, but also a new generation **of liberal minded nobles and officials** who were to have a major influence on his reign. The dilemma was how to match the other European powers in economic development without weakening the autocratic structure that held the empire together. Two schools of thought on the correct path to Russia's future came to greater prominence: the **Slavophiles** and the **Westernizers**.

**Key Concepts**

**WESTERNIZER**

Believed Russia should develop on Western European lines (economy/technology/liberal gov.)



**SLAVOPHILE**

Believed Russian civilization was unique; Mir/autocracy/orthodoxy should be preserved



Factor	How did this contribute to Russia's defeat?	What problem did this cause for Russia and autocracy?
Reputation ("defender of the Slavs"/ "great power status")		
Death toll		
Technology		
Transport and communication		
Army leadership		
Peasant-based army		

**WAS THE CRIMEAN WAR SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTIGATING AN “ERA OF SELF-EVALUATION” IN RUSSIA?**



**ANSWER THE ENQUIRY QUESTION:**

**Extract A:** Orlando Figes, *The Crimean War* (2010), 442-443.

'The image many Russians had built up of their country – the biggest, richest and most powerful in the world – had suddenly been shattered. Russia's backwardness had been exposed....The Crimean disaster had exposed the shortcomings of every institution in Russia – not just the corruption and incompetence of the military command, the technological backwardness of the army and navy, or the inadequate roads and lack of railways the accounted for the chronic problems of supply, but the poor condition and illiteracy of the serfs who made up the armed forces, the inability of the serf economy to sustain a state of war against industrial powers, and the failures of autocracy itself.'

Key argument:

Evidence which supports this:

Overall, does the extract support or challenge the enquiry question?

**Extract B:** David Moon, *The Abolition of Serfdom* (2001), 51 & 53-4.

'Russia's victory over Napoleonic France 40 years earlier had created an exaggerated illusion of Russian might...which had led to complacency. Over the first half of the nineteenth century, the technological and societal changes associated with the industrial revolution had had a considerable impact on the armed forces of northwest European states. The extent to which Russian forces had fallen behind became apparent...[and] Alexander II [gave]...tentative hints about the possibility of social change. ...There is no direct evidence that Alexander II decided to abolish serfdom because of the need to reform conscription. The timing, however, does suggest that there was a connection. The end of the Crimean War was followed by military reforms, and by steps that led eventually to the abolition of serfdom. Yet, this was not the first time that major reforms of military service were enacted in the aftermath of a major war.'

Key argument:

Evidence which supports this:

Overall, does the extract support or challenge the enquiry question?

**Extract C:** Lindsey Hughes, *The Romanovs* (2008), 81.

'The Petrine principles of devotion to duty, concern for the common good, pride in Russia and its armed forces, determination to maintain and expand the empire and win respect abroad were to remain the models for his successors, even if some paid only lip service. Western cultural norms were never reversed among the elite, even if later some questioned the wisdom of excessive borrowing of alien cultures and some embraced Neo-Russian culture and ideas. Ironically, Peter's very successes added to his successors' burden...Extending "Civilization" was to be tackled by Peter's successors, with mixed results.'

Key argument:

Evidence which supports this:

Overall, does the extract support or challenge the enquiry question?