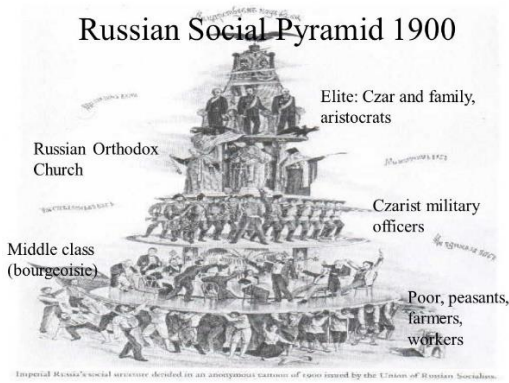


“Tsarism, 1881 — 1905” by Cawood and Bell



Nobility 1.1%
Priests 1.1%
Official 3.7%
Military 5%
Merchants 0.5%
Urban workers 3.7%
Serfs 84.9

Czar/tsar = Russia Emperor



Use these questions to help you understand the text. You are not expected to make detailed notes or lengthy answers. The idea is to get an idea of some of the issues facing the tsarist government pre-1917.

Read the article. You will be looking at the problems that faced Russia in the lead up to 1917.

Do not worry if there are things you do not understand. This is to give you a favour of Russian society before you start your A Level.

1. What does the social structure (above) tell you about Russian society in 1900?
2. The article talks about “reformer” and “reactionaries” in the government. What do you think is meant by those terms?
3. What is meant by the “emancipation of the serfs” in 1861?
4. Why did this event and the attitude of the tsar and his ministers make governing Russia so difficult?
5. Identify why the bureaucracy was so ineffectual in tsarist Russia
6. What were the features of the tsarist “police state”?