

autocrat

ruler with unrestricted  
or absolute power

bloody Sunday

striking ironworkers on a  
peaceful march to the Winter  
Palace were shot down by  
Cossack troops on 9 January  
1905

bolsheviks

the majority group of  
the Social Democrats  
after 1903, led by Lenin

commune

basic peasant social unit  
in the countryside linked  
to a communally worked  
farm

duma

parliament established after the  
1905 revolution which, together  
with the state council, made up  
the Russian legislature from  
1906 to 1917

kadets	the political party formed after the 1905 revolution and headed by Pavel Milyukov, made up of middle-class liberals who wanted a constitutional government based on an elected legislature
marxists	followers of Karl Marx who believed a proletarian revolution to overthrow capitalist society was inevitable
menshevik	the minority group of the social democrats formed after the party split in 1903
October manifesto	the Tsar's promise in 1905 of the creation of an elected legislative parliament and the granting of civil liberties
Octobrists	conservative liberal party created in 1905 that accepted the October Manifesto and sought no further reform until after the outbreak of the first world war

okhrana

tsarist secret police

Petrograd

name given to St Petersburg in August 1914 as an anti-German gesture

Putilov iron works

a huge iron foundry in St Petersburg and centre of proletarian dissent

Romanov

the last ruling dynasty in Russia, 1613-1917

Russification

the imposition of the Russian language and culture on the non-Russian peoples of the Russian empire

Russo-Japanese war	the war between Russia and Japan in 1904 over control of Korea and Manchuria
social democrats	marxist socialist political party, which in 1903 split into Mensheviks led by Martov, and Bolsheviks led by Lenin
social revolutionaries	peasant-based socialist party founded in 1902; by 1917 it was the most popular party in Russia
soviet	workers' or soldiers' council
St Petersburg	capital city of the Russian empire built by Peter the Great

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Tsar

the autocratic  
emperor of Russia

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Tsarina

the Empress of Russia,  
wife of the Tsar

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zemstva

institutions of local  
self-government in  
European Russia

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