

Documentary Film Notes: *The Russian Revolution* (on Netflix - 50 mins)

1. What occurred in the 1881 that caused a restriction of civil liberties and a tightening of autocratic control in Russia?
2. Despite his historical reputation as a reactionary bully, what positive traits do the historians claim Alexander III possessed?
3. What was Nicholas II's reputation, starting in boyhood? Why would this be problematic later on?
4. Why was the Ulyanov family an unusual one in Russian society? Why might that have impacted how Lenin and his family felt about Russian aristocratic and bourgeois elites?
5. What problems plague Nicholas II from the outset of his rule? (Starting with even his marriage and coronation events.)
6. Why was Lenin first exiled? Why was it a strange set of circumstances for "exile"?
7. What two rising powers sandwiched Russia and alarmed Nicholas II and his advisors?
8. How was the Bloody Sunday massacre typical of Nicholas II's reign?
9. Why didn't the 1905 Revolution effect real change in Russia?
10. What was Lenin's initial impression of Stalin?

11. How did Rasputin's involvement with the Romanov family affect the Russian public's perception of the royals?
12. Why was WWI a disaster for Russia in general, but Nicholas II specifically?
13. According to the historians in the film, why did Nicholas II abdicate?
14. What was the Provisional Government? What problems plagued its start in the February Revolution?
15. How did Lenin receive aid from the Germans in the early spring of 1917?
16. What did Lenin convince members of the Bolshevik party needed to happen? Why?
17. Why do the historians in the film place importance on the militaristic and violent psychology of the growing Bolsheviks/Reds?
18. What was the outcome of the Russian Civil War in 1922?
19. Why does one historian say the Bolshevik (Soviet) government was automatically fated toward abusing power?