

Factor	FRENCH 1789	RUSSIAN 1917
Socio-Economic hardship faced by majority of population	<p>[Description]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. France encountered a series of disastrous harvests from 1778-1787, which led to a hike in food prices. During the severe winter of 1788-1789, prices went up so high such that 88% of a labourer's wages were spent on bread alone. 2. Massive unemployment, production and employment in textile industries had also dropped by half. <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People discovered that tithe owners and landowners hoarded grain and speculated prices → ordinary people believed economic crisis was caused by nobility 2. Many encouraged to take first tentative steps towards direct political action → economic crisis resulted in politicisation of 3rd estate. 	<p>[Description]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land reforms by Stolypin, Chief minister had backfired, and produced a growing class of alienated poor peasants, causing them to remain poor and hungry for land 2. Average wages for workers were pitiful, with dreadful living and working conditions, barely sufficient for subsistence. These caused them to strike and remain disillusioned with economic and political progress. 3. Devastating impact of WWI in the cities, with inflation, unemployment, shortages of food, fuel, raw materials that had been used to supply soldiers in war. Peasants hit by loss of sons in war and loss of animals to army, resulting in losses of main sources of income, and loss of manpower for their food production, causing food production to fall and food prices to rise <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stirred discontent among peasants and workers towards the Tsar and the government, especially since these were long-term persisting problems that they had been continuously unable to resolve
Shortcomings of existing leader	<p>[Description]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Absolute monarchy; all power in the hands of the king → King was an ineffective and inefficient ruler 2. Unable to impose reforms to change the taxation system to lessen the burden on the Third Estate [EVIDENCE: Shown through Assembly of Notables event] 	<p>[Description]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tsar was indecisive, weak, unwilling to abandon autocracy, and was not prepared to make concessions to a representative government. Created a duma but curtailed its power dramatically, resulting in Russia still largely being an autocracy that was repressive, often corrupt and outdated 2. Inefficiency and ineffectiveness of Tsar → made

	<p>3. Extravagant spending, resulting in country's debt [Evidence: Spending on Versailles palace, Marie Antoinette's extravagant spending on lavish expenditures, American War of Independence] → Unable to resolve financial crisis afterwards [Too much debt, became bankrupt, taxes mounted on Third Estate failed as they didn't have much to contribute]</p> <p>4. First and Second Estates controlled all national matters; Third Estate had no political power, no representatives</p> <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Country not ruled well → weakening of the crown, paralysis of government, weakened power of monarchy and provoked more contempt towards it due to its unpopular measures and inefficiency to solve country's and people's problems 2. Unfair taxation system caused resentment among the Third Estate; too many obligations 3. Third Estate strived for more political powers, took direct political action against the monarchy 	<p>unwise decision to go to the front of the war to take personal charge, after which from then on he was held personally responsible for defeats</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. While Tsar was at the front, Tsarina and Rasputin made a terrible mess of running country, dismissing able ministers in favour of incapable friends who performed poorly. Caused situation in cities to deteriorate rapidly, resulting in Tsarina and Rasputin totally discredited 4. Tsar's lack of vision and ignorance for failing to make political reforms. During war, Tsar had the chance to make concessions to political reforms that might have saved the monarchy, but he rejected the suggestions of the progressive bloc to establish constitutional monarchy. Held on to the greatly oppressive and unpopular governing system of autocracy 5. Provisional Government was inefficient and ineffective → Power limited by the Soviets and was unable to command, could not appeal to war-weary, impatient people. Claiming that it was provisional, PG postponed decisions and was unable to make fundamental changes such a land reform, delaying its response to critical social problems. Also made fatal and widely unpopular decision to continue war <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for Tsar eroding fast at all levels. Higher echelons of society and army generals became disenchanted with Tsar's leadership. By end of 1916, generals told Tsar that they no longer support him. 2. Inefficiency and inability of PG caused growing conviction of workers and peasants that problems
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		could only be solved by Soviets → increasing support for Soviets' revolutionary measures
Rise of new groups/power centres	<p>[Description]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rise of THIRD ESTATE 2. Could mobilise support from majority of the population, who held strong resentment for the monarchy because they felt oppressed under the unfair taxation system 3. Formed their own National Assembly (proclamation of Third Estates' power and right to assume control over its own affairs and decide taxations) 4. In the end, clergy voted to join National Assembly → direct challenge to the king 5. Took an oath to never abandon assembly until constitutional monarchy achieved → at the point from which they became more radical 6. Eventually stormed the Bastille for ammunition, destroying a symbol of ancient regime, and even dismantling the bricks by hand <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Third Estate was able to rally support of the entire nation, and turned the entire nation against the King 2. By the storming of the Bastille, the King had lost control of Paris, and real power had passed from King to the Third-Estate-led National Assembly 	<p>[Description]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rise of Bolsheviks 2. Lenin's ideas of advocating uncompromising opposition to war and Provisional Government 3. Quickly succeeded in converting party to his course and had widely popular propaganda themes expressed in his slogans – "All power to the soviets", "Peace, Land and Bread" → resonated strongly with needs and problems of the masses and garnered strong support from them 4. Rising in influence (eventually more than majority) in the Petrograd Soviet, which already had substantial influence governing the country in a dual government with the Provisional Government
New ideas inspiring vision of a better future	<p>[Description]: ENLIGHTENMENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enlightenment movement questioned and challenged whole range of views and ideas especially regarding the ancient regime. Believed that change was necessary to destroy 	<p>[Description]: Communist and socialist ideas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communism ideas by Marx 2. Resonated strongly with the masses → ideal situation that promised solutions to the problems 3. Suggested things like equal distribution of land to

	<p>inequalities of ancien regime</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophes' ideas attacked all assumptions on which ancient regime was raised John Locke believed in democracy and the theory of self-government. Voltaire believed in separating the church from the state, and in a constitutional monarchy. Rousseau believed in having a social contract and a society where man was born free. <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophes' ideas and approaches influenced many of the to-be revolutionaries to strive for such ideal governing systems where freedom and equality was given to the people instead of having all power concentrated in the hands of an absolute monarchy. 	<p>everyone → resonated with peasants</p> <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Was eventually the basis for the party ideologies of Bolshevik Party Helped increase support for Bolshevik party
Leadership/Organisation of masses	<p>[Description]: Estates System</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> First Estate, Second Estate (Powerful, minority), Third Estate (poor, majority) Wealth and power and influence concentrated in the hands of the first and second estate First Estate received income from rents and dues attached to Church land and tithes; controlled education and governed daily lives of most in France, and being of the highest status in society, wielded greatest influence in Estates-Generals. Had many privileges → own law courts and exemption from the taille and most other significant taxes Second Estate → Nobility, most powerful and had many privileges such as right to bear arms, special treatment in law courts and exemption from certain taxes and military service 	

	<p>5. Third Estate was made up of 80-90% of population, generally poor, consisting of peasantry, serfs, bourgeoisie. Had very little wealth compared to First and Second Estate. NO PRIVILEGES, many obligations such as taxes (which were increased enormously to fund France's wars), unpaid labour service for the Crown and considerable feudal dues.</p> <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stratified society and generated considerable resentment among Third Estate for the oppressive system 	
Catalytic event	<p>[Description]: Meeting of the Estates-General, Tennis Court Oath, STORMING OF THE BASTILLE</p>	<p>[Description]: WW1 (short term),</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Military failures, heavy defeats with huge number of Russians killed in 1914-1915 2. Chaos in the country with Tsarina and Rasputin left to lead the nation while the Tsar was at the front 3. Tough living conditions for the people; devastating economic impact of war in the cities especially for peasants <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. led to disillusionment and anger about the way Tsar and government conducted war 2. Discredited the Tsar and rapidly eroded support from him at all levels, especially higher echelons of society and generals 3. Aggravated masses and peasant's discontent for the Tsar <p>[Description for Oct 1917]: Kornilov Affair</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Kornilov wanted to usurp the Provisional Government, PG turned to Bolsheviks for help and PG survived Kornilov confrontation ONLY WITH HELP

		<p>OF BOLSHEVIKS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To assist the Bolsheviks in defeating Kornilov, PG even gave weapons to them and they formed their OWN ARMY → RED GUARDS! After crushing General Kornilov, Bolsheviks held on to weapons, refused to disarm Meanwhile, Trotsky and Lenin managed to raise support for their idea of revolution [24 Oct 1917] Red Guards took over key positions in Petrograd [31 Oct 1917] Red Guards took over Moscow as well, leaving Bolsheviks in Russian cities that had MOST GOVERNMENTAL POWER <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Showed that PG WAS WEAK (such that they had to seek Bolsheviks' help, unable to defend itself) Showed that Bolsheviks were the ones who held REAL POWER IN PETROGRAD and were ARMED
Extraneous factors (minor factor that still played role)	<p>[Description]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Disastrous Foreign Policy → American War of Independence, where France intervened on rebel side and provided financial and military support. Cost great deal of money and worsened already weak financial situation of the Crown, resulted in mounting debts Rejection of reform by Assembly of Notables <p>[Significance]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> During war, soldiers who fought got exposed to ideas such as liberty and democracy, and many demanded similar rights for people of France → driving them to push for revolution Rising debts drove king and ministers to 	<p>[Description]</p> <p>Ruinous wars e.g. Russo Jap War Rasputin and Tsarina</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Further discredited Tsarist regime and led to people's contempt for and distrust in the Tsar <p>Undeveloped country → result in multiple hardships Disunited country → inability of Tsar to manage country</p>

	squeeze maximum amount of money through raised taxes and imposed temporary taxes → further burdening of Third Estate and aggravating their discontent	
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Summary of the summary!

Shortcomings of existing leader

1. Ruler made poor decision that affected country
 - a. Louis: American War of Independence, Tsar: WW1
2. Inability to lead/Not prepared to lead
 - a. Both Louis XVI and Tsar
3. Incompetent
4. Lack of reforms
 - a. France: Taxation system, debts, Estates-General,
 - b. Russia: Duma (which was powerless and for show), Progressive Government's weaknesses

Rise of new groups/opposition

1. Role of the masses
 - a. Better to focus on Oct 1917 → better shows popularity of Lenin and Bolshevik party (slogans, and stronger and organised compared to PG)
2. Strength and role of opposition parties

New Ideas inspiring better future

1. Ideas that pushed forward agitations for political change- where advocates of these ideas believed that it was **necessary for change** as previous system was outdated
 - a. USE FRENCH REVOLUTION
 - i. Enlightenment: John Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau

ii. French soldiers returning from American War of Independence

1. Liberty, Democracy
2. Representation without taxation
2. Provided direction and framework

Socio-Economic hardship faced by people

1. Unfair social system
 - a. **RAISE FRENCH REV: ESTATES SYSTEM**
2. Heavy burden of peasants weighed down by taxes
 - a. **RAISE FRENCH REV: UNFAIR TAXATION SYSTEM**
3. Living conditions for majority of people was poor, regularly below point of survival especially with impact of war
4. **Strain of war and low morale among soldiers and peasants** led to **opposition to existing system** **[USE RUSSIAN REV IMPACT OF WWI]**

Catalytic events

1. Triggers, also known as *immediate causes*
2. Causes which happen close to the moment the change or action happens
3. **[FRENCH REV] STORMING OF BASTILLE**
4. **[RUSSIAN REV] KORNILOV AFFAIR**

Extraneous Factor

1. Not constituting vital element or part
2. Not essential, not pertinent