

Causes of the 1905 Revolution

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Alienated intelligentsia

- Liberals
- Students – repressed

Revolutionaries

- SRs: peasant revolution = socialism
- SD (Marxists): workers revolution - Communism

National minorities
e.g. Finns, Poles, Jews

- Finns, Poles, Jews sought independence
- End russification

Peasants

- Tsar Help Us!
- Poverty, more land, high taxes, famines, redemption payments

Workers

- Unions, long hours, low pay, working / living conditions

Tsarist regime

- Weak, indecisive tsar
- Repressive programs
- Ignored call for constitutional government
- No freedoms: press, political parties
- Ignored the many nationalities – protests squashed

Witte's economic policy

- Industrialization policy bad
- High taxes
- Low wages
- Post 1902: high unemployment
- Bad harvests = violence / starving

CATALYST

Outbreak of Russo-Japanese War, February 1904

- Shocking defeats
- Lost Port Arthur
- Navy destroyed
- Food & Fuel shortages
- High prices
- Unemployment
- Tsar seen as incompetent

SPARK!

