

# Enrichment: Russia, 1894-1945: Tsardom and communism

## General resource - podcasts:

Revisionist History New takes on a wide range of historical events, people and ideas along with unusual and undiscovered stories. Episodes cover everything from civil rights to our relationship with technology. References and extras can also be found on the website. [revisionisthistory.com](http://revisionisthistory.com)

## SUGGESTED WEBSITES

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\***GCSE POD** - you can access this through the Goldington Academy website. This contains a large number of short video clips linked directly to our units of study.

### \*Senecalearning

\*[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=felti2KRHnY&list=PLygA1\\_PUbd9czijbNOPzIPoBIWp\\_pX754&index=21](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=felti2KRHnY&list=PLygA1_PUbd9czijbNOPzIPoBIWp_pX754&index=21) (about the 1917 revolutions - from the GCSE I'm Stuck revision site)

## BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE ARTICLES (copies available on request from History Department)

\*August 2018, Helen Rappaport, '*Romanov murders*' (the article considers the theory that George V could have saved Nicholas II from his brutal fate)

\*February 2019, Simon Boyd, '*A lady in the line of fire*' (an introduction to Sybil Grey, a frontline nurse who witnessed the Russian Revolution)

\*March 2019, Nick Hewitt, '*Britain's Russian fiasco*' (about the bloody, chaotic Allied intervention into the Russian civil war)

\*July 2019, Clifford Williamson, '*Britain's Red Summer*' (a look back at the riots and revolutionary fears of 1919)

\*October 2019, Janet Hartley, '*Catherine the Great*' (a defence of the Russian empress against the charge that she was a sex-mad tyrant)

<https://www.historyextra.com/> is the home of BBC magazine articles and podcasts. You can search by topic

[OTHER JOURNAL ARTICLES \(copies available on request from History Department\)](#)

## **NON-FICTION BOOKS**

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Non-fiction we have in the school library:

### **The Long Walk by Slavomir Rawicz**

Slavomir Rawicz was a young Polish cavalry officer. On 19 November 1939 he was arrested by the Russians and after brutal interrogation he was sentenced to twenty-five years in a gulag. After a three-month journey in the dead of winter to Siberia, life in a Soviet labour camp meant enduring hunger, extreme cold, untreated wounds and illnesses and facing the daily risk of arbitrary execution. Realising that to remain meant almost certain death, Rawicz, along with six companions, escaped. In June 1941, they crossed the trans-Siberian railway and headed south, climbing into Tibet and freedom in British India nine months later, in March 1942, having travelled over four thousand miles on foot through some of the harshest regions in the world, including the Gobi Desert, Tibet and the Himalayas. First published in 1956, this is one of the greatest true stories of escape, adventure and survival against all odds. In 2010, a film, *The Way Back*, based on the book, was released.

Non-fiction not in the school library:

### **History of the Russian Revolution - Leon Trotsky**

Regarded by many as among the most powerful works of history ever written, *The History of the Russian Revolution* offers an unparalleled account of one of the most pivotal and hotly debated events in world history. This book presents, from the perspective of one of its central actors, the profound liberating character of the early Russian Revolution. It is still the most vital and inspiring record of the Russian Revolution ever published.

## The Clever Teens Guide to the Russian Revolution – Felix Rhodes

The communist system unleashed by the Russian Revolution of 1917 was the greatest political experiment ever conducted. The revolution promised freedom from the shackles of imperialism, corruption and exploitation but until its collapse in 1991, the peoples of the vast Soviet empire endured 70 years of misguided socialism and totalitarianism. *The Clever Teens' Guide to the Russian Revolution* covers all the major facts and events giving you a clear and straightforward overview: from the circumstances behind the rise of Lenin and the Bolsheviks, to the consequences of their struggle for a new socialist utopia. Fully illustrated with contemporary photos.

### FICTION

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#### Books, novels and plays:

- a. *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- b. *Dr Zhivago*, Boris Pasternak
- c. *The Russian Revolution*, Sheila Fitzpatrick
- d. *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1924*, Orlando Figes
- e. *Ten Days that Shook the World*, John Reed  
(contains eyewitness account of 1917)
- f. *The Russian Revolution: A very short introduction*, S. A. Smith

Fiction we have in the school library:

#### **Blood Red, Snow White by Marcus Sedgwick.**

The Russian Revolution. Fairy tale, spy thriller, love story. One man's life during the last days of the Romanovs. Set in the rich and atmospheric landscape of Russia during the revolution that sent shockwaves around the world, this is the partly true story of Arthur Ransome - a writer accused of being a spy.

Fictionalising history and blending it with one man's real life, Sedgwick expertly crafts this innovative and stimulating novel of three parts - a fairy tale full of wise and foolish kings, princesses, wishes and magic; a bleak and threatening spy thriller, and a love story . . .

### **Rubies in the Snow by Kate Hubbard**

It is June 1911, and ten year-old Anastasia lives a life of parties, strawberry ice and skating on the palace lake. But if this seems like a fairytale, it isn't - Anastasia's beloved Russia is a country in turmoil, and her world is about to change forever.

Fiction (not in school library):

### **Tsarina by J Nelle Patrick**

Natalya knows a secret. A magical Faberge egg glows within the walls of Russia's Winter Palace. It holds a power rooted in the land and stolen from the mystics. A power that promises a life of love for her and Alexei Romanov. Power, that, in the right hands, can save her way of life. But it's in the wrong hands. An epic romance with glittering magical elements, "TSARINA" is swirling with beautiful prose, stark Russian contrasts, and lavish visuals.

### **Between Shades of Grey by Ruth Sepetys**

The haunting and powerful Second World War novel by Ruta Sepetys that inspired the feature film, *ASHES IN THE SNOW*. One night fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother and young brother are hauled from their home by Soviet guards, thrown into cattle cars and sent away. They are being deported to Siberia. An unimaginable and harrowing journey has begun. Lina doesn't know if she'll ever see her father or her friends again. But she refuses to give up hope. Lina hopes for her family. For her country. For her future. For love - first love, with the boy she barely knows but knows she does not want to lose . . . Will hope keep Lina alive? Set in 1941, *Between Shades of Gray*, is an extraordinary and haunting story based on first-hand family accounts and memories from survivors.

## **FILM AND TELEVISION**

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- a. *Dr Zhivago* (a love story set in the Russian Civil War)
- b. *The Russian Revolution In Colour* (A superb documentary available online)
- c. *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971 film about the last of the Romanov dynasty)
- d. *The Last of the Tsars* (a documentary)

- e. *Netflix - The Russian Revolution (cert. 12).*  
Starting in 1881, this film describes how the personal battle between the royal Romanovs and Lenin's Ulyanov family led to the Russian Revolution.

\*This three-part series gives a useful insight into how Russia was ruled under the Romanovs (episode 3 focuses specifically on the revolution):<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b06vm9qp/empire-of-the-tsars-romanov-russia-with-lucy-worsley-1-reinventing-russia>