

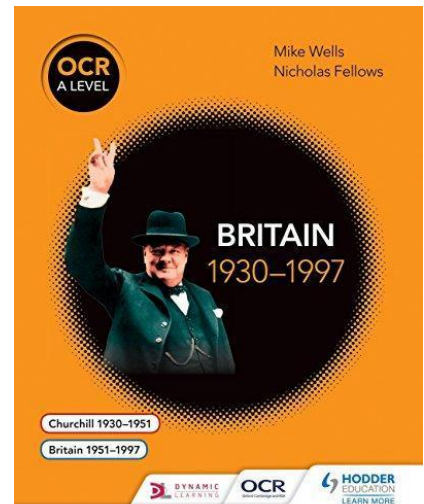
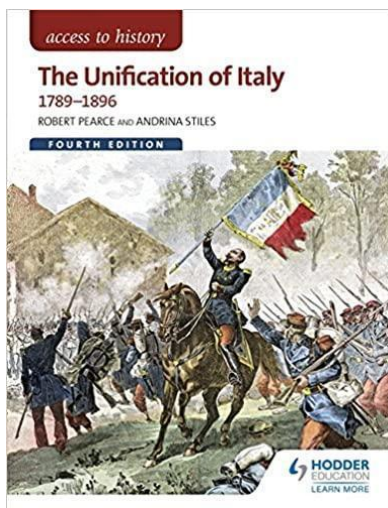
A-level History preparation



Below, we have set out a number of things we would like you to work your way through over the next weeks/months. The idea is to prepare you not only for the specific courses you will be undertaking but also to broaden your wider historical knowledge. The Task box for you to fill out is at the bottom of this document.

Textbooks...

You will have an opportunity to get these from the library in September but if you like to buy your own, these are the main text books we use.



For your wider reading the following are great...



Podcasts

I have included podcasts to listen to in addition to things to watch via youtube and articles to read. Remember that In Our Time has a huge back catalogue of all manner of History and is well worth a listen to.

Britain

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0005br9/thatcher-a-very-british-revolution-series-1-1-making-margaret>

There are five episodes in this, dealing with one of the most influential and controversial Prime Ministers of modern Britain. Few Prime Ministers genuinely changed Britain. Thatcher is one of them.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b07vs2hb> - Neville Chamberlain (Great Lives) controversial choice!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0blmn5l/the-flu-that-killed-50-million>

Learn more about the Spanish Flu. This virus killed 50,000,000 as WW1 came to an end.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b01083zj>

The Prime Ministers - this series on BBC sounds goes through all of the British Prime Ministers - if you want, just listen from 1931 but feel free to indulge.

Italy

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000d8rv> Seige of Paris 1870-71

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0008jd2> Napoleon's retreat from Moscow

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/b05zzlb4>

Napoleon - the man and the myth

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b083qx9j> Garibaldi and the Risorgimento

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Giuseppe Garibaldi and the Italian Risorgimento. According to the historian AJP Taylor, Garibaldi was the only wholly admirable figure in modern history. Born in Nice in 1807, one of Garibaldi's aims in life was the unification of Italy and, in large part thanks to him, Italy was indeed united substantially in 1861 and entirely in 1870. With his distinctive red shirt and poncho, he was a hero of Romantic revolutionaries around the world. His fame was secured when, with a thousand soldiers, he invaded Sicily and toppled the monarchy in the Italian south. The Risorgimento was soon almost complete

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00547gg> Legacy of the French Revolution

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the French Revolution. In 1789 the Bastille was stormed, the King Louis XVI was put under national guard and the calendar was turned back to zero. The French Revolution began its upheavals in the name of Liberté, Egalité and Fraternité. On this side of the English Channel there were those who thought it 'bliss in that dawn to be alive', but the statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke was not among them. He said, "The age of chivalry is gone. That of sophisters, economists, and calculators, has succeeded; and the glory of Europe is extinguished for ever". What was really the end of an age? What was the impact of this revolution on the culture of Europe? And did it really change political life in Britain forever?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9cf>

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the reign of terror during the French Revolution. On Monday September 10th 1792 The Times of London carried a story covering events in revolutionary France: "The streets of Paris, strewn with the carcasses of the mangled victims, are become so familiar to the sight, that they are passed by and trod on without any particular notice. The mob think no more of killing a fellow-creature, who is not even an object of suspicion, than wanton boys would of killing a cat or a dog". These were the infamous September Massacres when Parisian mobs killed thousands of suspected royalists and set the scene for the events to come, when Madame La Guillotine took centre stage and The Terror ruled in France. But how did the French Revolution descend into such extremes of violence? Who or what drove The Terror? And was it really an aberration of the revolutionary cause or the moment when it truly expressed itself?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b019gy9p> 1848 Year of Revolutions

Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss 1848, the year that saw Europe engulfed in revolution. Across the continent, from Paris to Palermo, liberals rose against conservative governments. The first stirrings of rebellion came in January, in Sicily; in February the French monarchy fell; and within a few months Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy had all been overtaken by revolutionary fervour. Only a few countries, notably Britain and Russia, were spared. The rebels were fighting for nationalism, social justice and civil rights, and were prepared to fight in the streets down to the last man. Tens of thousands of people lost their lives; but little of lasting value was achieved, and by the end of the year the liberal revolutions had been soundly beaten.

Russia

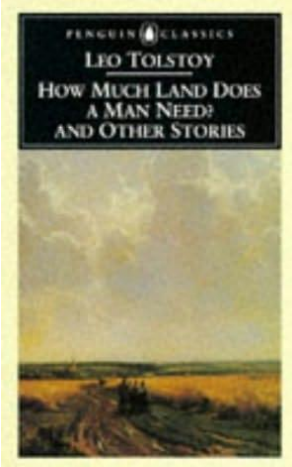
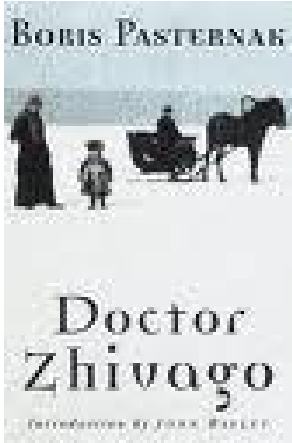
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9b2> Tsar Alexander II Assassination

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the assassination of Tsar Alexander II. On 1st March 1881, the Russian Tsar, Alexander II, was travelling through the snow to the Winter Palace in St Petersburg. An armed Cossack sat with the coach driver, another six Cossacks followed on horseback and behind them came a group of police officers in sledges. It was the day that the Tsar, known for his liberal reforms, had signed a document granting the first ever constitution to the Russian people. But his journey was being watched by a group of radicals called 'Narodnaya Volya' or 'The People's Will'. On a street corner near the Catherine Canal, they hurled the first of their bombs to halt the Tsar's iron-clad coach.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546pv> Lenin

For some time, in some intellectual quarters in the West, Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov - also known as Lenin - was regarded as an understandable revolutionary, perhaps a necessary revolutionary given the actions of the Tsars, certainly a sympathetic revolutionary compared with his successor - Stalin. He became an icon in Russia - his body unburied, lying in Red Square in a state of permanent, imminent resurrection.

Immersing yourself in Russia!

| Genre | Title | | Synopsis |
|--|---|---|---|
| L i t e r a t u r e | Tolstoy, <i>How much land does a man need? And other Short Stories</i> |  | <p>By perhaps the greatest Russian author, these short stories provide a window into the last century of Tsarist rule. Tolstoy, motivated by his belief in Christian anarchism, paints a compelling image of rural Russia, highlighting the virtues of the Russian peasant and the evils of Western modernisation. Short and accessible.</p> |
| | Pasternak, <i>Dr. Zhivago</i> |  | <p>Written during Khrushchev's rule, this book follows the story of one man's struggle to find love and a place for the individual within the chaos of the Revolution. It covers both the end of Tsarist Russia as well as the Soviet period which followed. If you read anything, let it be this (and if not, then you can just watch the film)!</p> |
| | Turgenev, <i>Fathers and Sons</i> | | <p>Turgenev wrote <i>Fathers and Sons</i> as a response to the growing cultural schism that he saw between liberals of the 1830s/1840s and the growing nihilist movement. Both the nihilists (the "sons") and the 1830s liberals sought Western-based social change in Russia. Additionally, these two</p> |

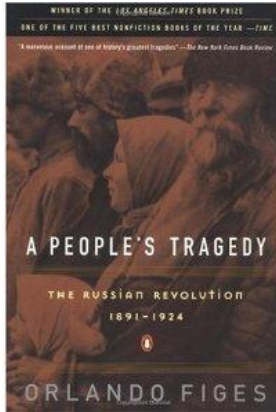
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| | |  | <p>modes of thought were contrasted with the conservative Slavophiles, who believed that Russia's path lay in its traditional spirituality.</p> |
| | <p>Chekhov, <i>The Cherry Orchard</i></p> |  | <p>Set at the turn of the century, this play captures the decline of the aristocracy in Imperial Russia. In doing so it examines the changing social and economic roles within society. In particular it highlights the rise of the middle classes.</p> |
| <p>F i l m</p> | <p>Doctor Zhivago</p> |  | <p>The classic adaptation of Pasternak's famous Novel. A wonderfully evocative presentation of Russia at the time of the Revolution which effectively characterises the end of Tsarist rule and the beginning of the Soviet period. A must see! Timeless.</p> |
| | <p>Nicholas and Alexandra</p> | | <p><i>Nicholas and Alexandra</i> is a 1971 biographical film which tells the story of the last Russian monarch, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, and his wife, Tsarina Alexandra. Tom Baker (aka Dr Who) plays Rasputin. This film provides a great chronology of the period and helps explain why the supposed relationship between the Royal family</p> |

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | |  | <p>and Rasputin was so damaging.</p> |
| | <p>Enemy at the Gates</p> |  | <p>This film is set in Stalingrad during the Second World War. It is based on the story of a famous Soviet sniper, and whilst rooted in reality, it is perhaps better for its evocative action scenes more than its detailed historical accuracy. Nonetheless, good for the atmosphere!</p> |

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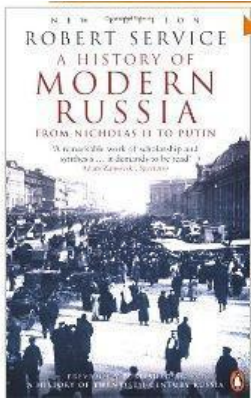
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Figes, *A People's Tragedy*



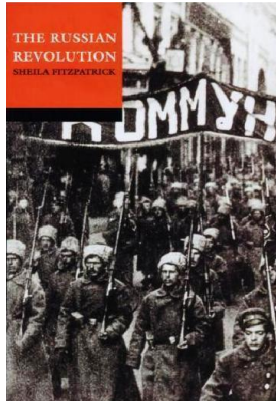
A really useful text which is great for dipping into. Full of excellent anecdotal examples and source material. This book covers 1891-1924, and in doing so puts the Revolution in its broader context and gives some vital information on the nature of Tsarist Rule. Particularly useful analysis of Russia's experience in WWI and its impact.

Service, *A History of Modern Russia*



A comprehensive overview of twentieth-century Russian history that treats the years from 1917 to 2000 as a single period and analyses the peculiar mixture of political, economic and social ingredients that made up the Soviet Union.

Fitzpatrick, *A History of Modern Russia*



Making use of a huge amount of previously secret information in Soviet archives and unpublished memoirs, this detailed chronology recounts each monumental event from the February and October Revolutions of 1917 and the Civil War of 1918-1920, through the New Economic Policy of 1921 and the 1929 First Five-Year Plan, to Stalin's "revolution from above" at the end of the 1920s and the Great Purge of the late 1930s.

Music

You may wish to explore the following composers. Very evocative of the periods studied.

- **Tchaikovsky** (*1812 Overture* tells the story of the Russian defeat of Napoleon and glorifies Tsarism. An epic overture which includes cannons as an instrument.)
- **Stravinsky** (particularly *The Rite of Spring* – watch the ballet on youtube!)
- **Shostakovich** (particularly *To October*. A composer under Stalin’s rule, often thought to be subtly critical of the regime.)

Really want to challenge yourself?

Futurelearn is an online degree level programme. If you have any desire to continue with History beyond A-level then these courses look amazing on your university application (there is more here than History if you really want to look)

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses?filter_category=16&filter_course_type=open&filter_availability=started&all_courses=1

Expand your knowledge of recent history with 60 15 minute podcasts

This sequence of radio programmes are each just 15 minutes long and go through 60 British people who shaped the first 60 years of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b01jxs2c>

To do

On your copy, please complete the following table. You need to select at least one example from across the three main units we study to watch, read, listen to. Please feel free to complete as many as you wish but we need evidence of at least one area.

Having completed this research, please write down 5 key things you have learnt. We will be using this information in the first lesson to build up a picture of the time and place we are studying.

| Unit | Podcast/Film/Book | Your take 5 takeaways |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Russia | | |
| Britain | | |
| Italy | | |

Finally we would like you to find definitions to the following key terms. These are central to the Russia Unit but have some crossover. Please type out your definition next to the key term.

Democracy

Feudalism

Capitalism

Socialism

Communism

Marxism

Marxism-Leninism

Bolshevik

Stalinism

Totalitarianism

Autocracy

Orthodoxy

Nationalism

Imperialism

Russification

Proletariat

Bourgeoisie

Revolution

