

# What do you currently understand by the following terms?

1. democracy

2. political authority

3. government

4. the economy

5. society

6. culture

7. ideology

8. Tsar

9. autocratic

10. emancipation

11. serfs

12. Orthodox Church

13. icons

14. feast days

15. granaries

16. fallow

17. export

18. Pale of Settlement

19. nomadic tribesmen

20. emaciated



**History A Level  
Induction 2025**

# KEY QUESTION:

Why was it so  
challenging to  
rule Tsarist  
Russia c.1855?



**What was a  
Tsar?**

**What were  
the key  
features of  
Tsarist  
Russia?**



**Discussion - Analyse this cartoon from the 1850s. What does it reveal about Tsarist Russia?**



**Discussion - Analyse this cartoon from the 1850s. What does it reveal about Tsarist Russia?**



**A political cartoon produced in the mid 1850s. The bundles on the tables depict **serfs**.**

**Discussion – Analyse this painting from 1896. What does it reveal about Tsarist Russia?**



**Coronation of the Emperor Nicholas II in The Uspensky Cathedral, 1896  
Valentin Serov.**

**Discussion – Analyse this painting from 1896. What does it reveal about Tsarist Russia?**



**Coronation of the Emperor Nicholas II in The Uspensky Cathedral, 1896  
Valentin Serov.**

**Discussion - Analyse this painting from 1880. What does it reveal about Tsarist Russia?**



**Discussion - Analyse this painting from 1880. What does it reveal about Tsarist Russia?**



**Religious Procession in Kursk Province  
Artist - 1880-83, Ilya Repin,**



**Painting of Tsar Alexander II announcing the **emancipation** of the serfs in 1861.**

**A satirical cartoon from  
Vanity Fair Magazine in  
1869.**



**A satirical cartoon  
from Vanity Fair  
Magazine in 1869.**



**An illustration of the  
assassination of  
Alexander II by the  
People's Will.**



**Alexander II on his  
deathbed in 1881**



Въ Бозѣ почившій Государь Александръ II, 1 марта 1881 года.



alamy stock photo

H6RYRJ  
www.alamy.com



**The monument to Alexander II, The Liberator Tsar, completed in 2005.**

**It is on the site of a monument of Alexander destroyed in the early 1920s.**





# Set up for **Summer Task 2:** What was serfdom?

Why was it abolished in Russia in  
1861?

['The Emancipation of the  
Serfs']?



# What was serfdom?

A system that tied Russian peasants to their landlords.

The landlord could control the life and work of any peasant who lived on their land.

Serfs were property of their landlords, not citizens of the state.

## Key features of serfdom:

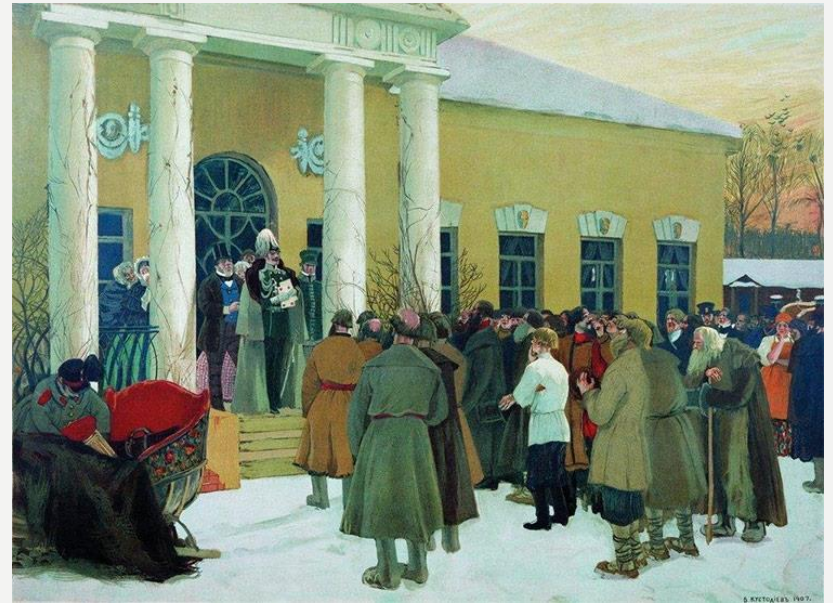
- Required to provide labour on the noble's land
- Bound to landed estates – could not leave
- No access to legal systems
- No rights as individuals – could be sold, traded and forbidden to marry.



# emancipation

**The process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions.**

- In 1861, Tsar Alexander II issued the **Emancipation Edict**. This abolished serfdom and made serfs legally free.
- They could marry whom they liked, travel, vote in local elections and trade. Peasants would also have land to go with their freedom.
- However, as you will find out, emancipation also involved continuing restrictions, burdens and limitations.



# Why did Alexander II emancipate the serfs?

- risk of revolt?

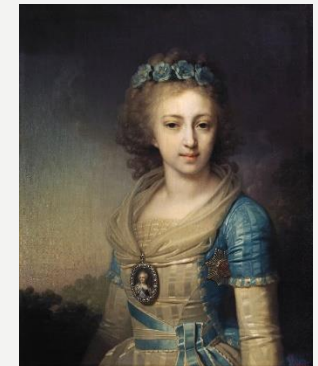


- humiliating defeat in the Crimean War 1853-56?

- economic reasons?

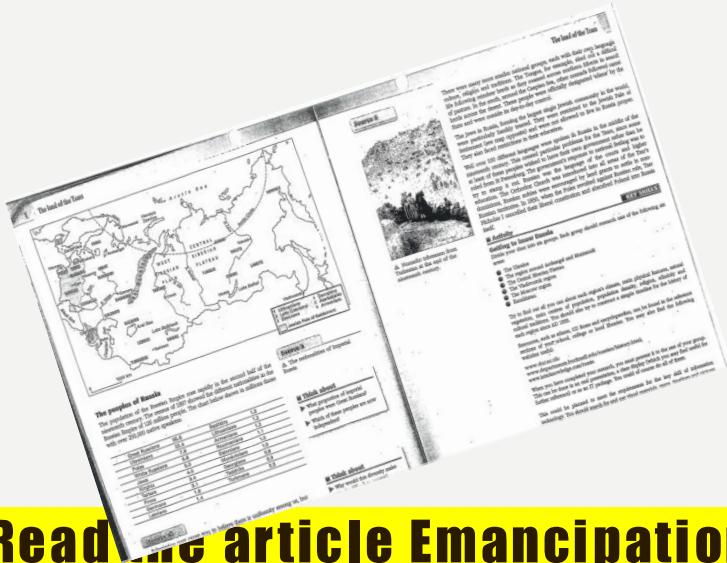


- Or, was there a moral case?



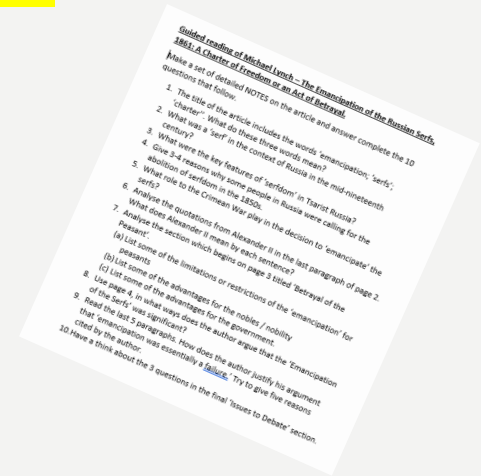
# Summer Work – Russia – Due first lesson back in September

## 1. Use the reading pack (Resource A) to add more detailed and specific notes to your big table.



What was Tsarist Russia like and why was it so problematic to rule?			
Research question	Key terms / Key concepts	Findings using sources and reading	Any questions?
1. ...how Russia was governed in the mid nineteenth century? ...and if there was any opposition to the government?			
2. ...Russian society and culture? Consider different social groups and the relationships between them e.g. nobles, peasants, urban workers, middle classes			

## 2. Read the article Emancipation of the Serfs: A Charter of Freedom or an Act of Betrayal (Resource B) and answer the comprehension questions on Resource C in full



## Summer Work Task 2

### Guided reading of Michael Lynch – The Emancipation of the Russian Serfs, 1861: A Charter of Freedom or an Act of Betrayal.

Make a set of detailed NOTES on the article and answer complete the 10 questions that follow.

1. The title of the article includes the words 'emancipation; 'serfs'; 'charter'. What do these three words mean?
2. What was a 'serf' in the context of Russia in the mid-nineteenth century?
3. What were the key features of 'serfdom' in Tsarist Russia?
4. Give 3-4 reasons why some people in Russia were calling for the abolition of serfdom in the 1850s.
5. What role to the Crimean War play in the decision to 'emancipate' the serfs?
6. Analyse the quotations from Alexander II in the last paragraph of page 2. What does Alexander II mean by each sentence?
7. Analyse the section which begins on page 3 titled 'Betrayal of the Peasant'.
  - (a) List some of the limitations or restrictions of the 'emancipation' for peasants
  - (b) List some of the advantages for the nobles / nobility
  - (c) List some of the advantages for the government.
8. Use page 4, in what ways does the author argue that the 'Emancipation of the Serfs' was significant?
9. Read the last 5 paragraphs. How does the author justify his argument that 'emancipation was essentially a failure.' Try to give five reasons cited by the author.
10. Have a think about the 3 questions in the final 'Issues to Debate' section.

1. Read through Lynch's article on the emancipation of the serfs. (Resource B)
2. Make a set of detailed notes on the article
3. Answer the questions (Resource C) to help your understanding

Conclusion challenge... what have you learned?



Use what you have learned from your research into the context of Tsarist Russia c.1855 to:

- (a) **Suggest** what may be happening in the painting above.
- (b) Explain what the painting reveals about Tsarist Russia.

The reveal – how close did you get?



***Barge Haulers on the Volga, 1870, Ilya Repin***

- (a) How close was your suggestion to the revealed painting?
- (b) Explain what the painting reveals about Tsarist Russia.





- **I. What is political authority?**

a) The influence of wealthy individuals in society.

b) The legitimate power held by individuals or institutions to make and enforce laws.

c) The ability to produce and trade goods.

- **What is democracy?**

- a) A system where one person rules with total power and citizens have no say.

- b) A system where citizens elect representatives and leaders to make decisions on their behalf.

- c) A religious system where leaders are chosen by divine right.

- **3. What is government?**

- a) A group of people responsible for making and enforcing laws in a country or community.
- b) A religious organisation that performs ceremonies.
- c) A business that manages trade and commerce.

- **4. What is the economy?**

- a) The system by which a country manages its money, jobs, trade, and production of goods and services.
- b) The rules and laws of a religion.
- c) The way people vote in elections.

- **5. What is society?**

- a) A group of people living together in an organised community with shared laws, traditions, and values.
- b) A religious ceremony held on feast days.
- c) A type of government led by a monarch.

- **6. What is culture?**

- a) The shared beliefs, customs, arts, and social behaviour of a particular group or society.
- b) A farming technique used in rural areas.
- c) A political system based on voting.