

(On your Marx) Get Set... For History A Level

Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964 (AQA 1H)

This course is all about the big changes in Russia over this 100 year period. In Year 12 you will be learning about the weakening position of the old Tsarist regime in Russia, under the leadership of Tsar Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II. You will assess the different styles of their authority and their relative successes and failures, including politically, economically and for wider Russian society. Ultimately you will be tracing the drastic changes that Russia underwent in the C19th and analysing the reasons why Russia experienced a Communist Revolution in October 1917. In Year 13 you will studying the ways in which Lenin and Stalin established a Communist state in Russia and the political and economic consequences of this. You will particularly focus on the brutality of Stalin's regime and the ways in which imposed an authoritarian state on his people. Finally you will contrast Stalin's Communist rule to his successor, Khrushchev. Fundamentally, you will be drawing comparisons and making parallels between the Tsarist and Communist systems; assessing the extent to which the main institutions of power in Russia really changed.

Key themes/ideas:

- Political power and authority
- Opposition to the regime
- Economic and social change



Get Set... Things To Watch

TV

Netflix series—The last Tsars (warning! a bit raunchy at times!)

BBC iplayer—Stacey Dooley investigates Russia's war on women

BBC iplayer series—War and Peace

BBC iplayer—Russia with Simon Reeve

BBC iplayer—Putin: the new Tsar

All4—Putin: A Russian spy story



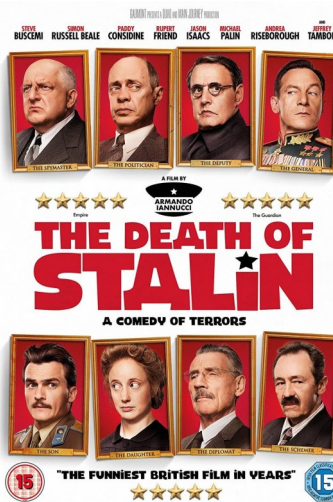
Films

Dr Zhivago

Anna Karenina

Stalingrad

The death of Stalin (warning! Explicit language)

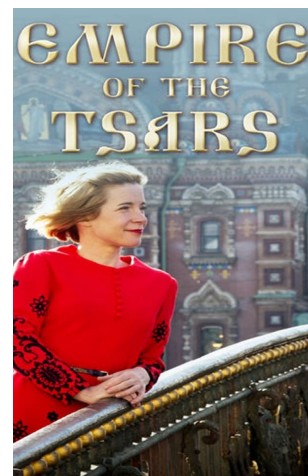


Documentaries

Lucy Worsley—Empire of the Tsars (youtube)

BBC Witness History—Soviet Russia

Stalin, man of Steel (youtube)



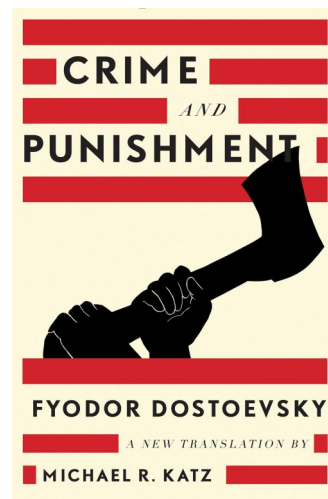
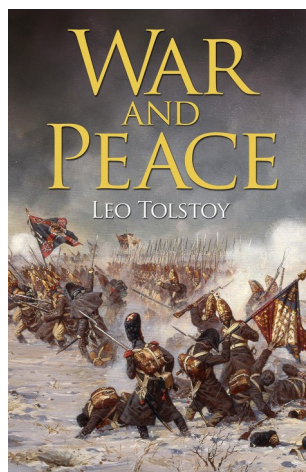
Get Set...Things To Read

Russian Classics

Tolstoy

Chekov

Dostoyevsky



Historical Fiction

A gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

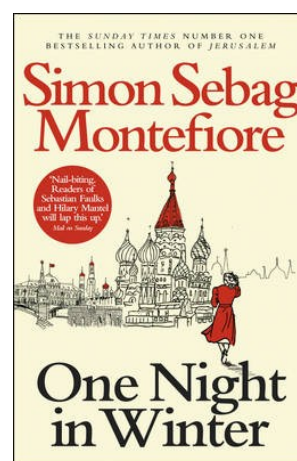
The Russian concubine by Kate Furnival

Stalin's ghost by Martin Cruz Smith

Sashenka by Simon Sebag Montefiore

One night in winter by Simon Sebag Montefiore

The siege by Helen Dunmore



Academic

BBC Historyextra online—The legacy of the Romanovs

BBC Historyextra online—Russia's revolutions: how 1917 shaped a century

Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991 by Orlando Figes

Russia: A 1000 year chronicle of the wild east by Martin Sixsmith

The Romanovs by Simon Seabag Montefiore

The Last of the Tsars by Robert Service

A History of C20th Russia by Robert Service

Get Set...Things To Listen To

BBC Sounds—Inside Putin's Russia

BBC Sounds—Russia, the drive to Empire

BBC Sounds—A to Tsar of Russia with Adrian Chiles

BBC Sounds—It's just a joke, comrade: 100 years of Russian satire

'In our time' podcasts by Melvyn Bragg (Emancipation of the serfs, Assassination of Alex II)

