BLOODY SUNDAY 1905

Background: Throughout the 19th Century, Russian Czars attempted to westernize and industrialize, without allowing ideas from the Enlightenment and French Revolution such as “equality,” “freedom,” and “liberty for all” to spread. The Russian czars were mostly unsuccessful at preventing these ideas from spreading, and many Russians called for reform (change/improvement). In response, the Czars became harsh and oppressive (cruel). A rigid (no mobility) social class system added to this problem by denying the majority peasant class many basic rights. The peasant class, made up of both farmers and city workers, were mostly poor, overworked, and hungry. Reformers saw a chance to change things while Russia was being defeated in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905). On January 9th, 1905, about 200,000 workers and their families marched to the czar’s Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to present their demands.

1. **Explain why many Russians called for reform in the early 1900’s.**

SOURCE ANALYSIS

Read the provided sources and fill in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source 1</th>
<th>Source 2</th>
<th>Source 3</th>
<th>Source 4</th>
<th>Source 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Source (primary/secondary)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Created</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do we learn about Bloody Sunday 1905 from the source? (Content)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does this source tell us about the changing perceptions of the Tsar?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess how useful this source would be for an historian studying the failure of the Romanov Dynasty.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Sunday January 9th, 1905, almost 200,000 workers and their families marched in front of the czar’s Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to present their demands to the Czar. Nicholas II was not in the palace at this time; however, his generals ordered soldiers to fire on the crowd. More than 1,000 people were wounded and several hundred were killed. This event became known by Russians as “Bloody Sunday”. Although the czar was not in attendance, he was widely blamed for the deaths.

Bloody Sunday led to a wave of strikes and violence that spread across the country. This became known as the Revolution of 1905. In October of 1905 (9 months after Bloody Sunday), Nicholas reluctantly (unwillingly) promised more freedom. He approved the creation of the Duma — Russia’s first parliament. A parliament (Duma) is an elected body of lawmakers. The Duma hoped to make Russia a constitutional monarchy which limited the czar’s powers. However, Nicholas didn’t want to share his power and he dissolved the Duma after only ten weeks.

The Russian people continued to suffer and Nicholas continued to be an ineffective leader over the next nine years. The problems would worsen for Nicholas in 1914 when he entered Russia into World War I. Russia’s misery and frustration with Nicholas would reach a boiling point during World War I that would lead to major changes in Russia that would change history forever.

1. **Why did the January protests become known as Bloody Sunday?** (What did the soldiers do to the crowd?)

2. **Evaluate whether Nicholas II responded effectively (well) to the strikes and violence that took place after Bloody Sunday?**
   (Did Nicholas want to share his power? What happened to the Russian people as a result?)

3. **Evaluate whether the Revolution of 1905 was successful or not for the Russian people. Explain your answer.**
Source 1
Extract from the petition that George Gapon hoped to present to Nicholas II on 22nd January, 1905.

The demands made by George Gapon and the Assembly of Factory Workers.
(1) An 8-hour day and freedom to organize trade unions.
(2) Improved working conditions, free medical aid, higher wages for women workers.
(3) Elections to be held for a constituent assembly by universal, equal and secret suffrage.
(4) Freedom of speech, press, association and religion.
(5) An end to the war with Japan.

Source 2
A still shot from the Soviet Propaganda film Devyatoe Yanvarya (9th of January) by Vyacheslav Viskovsky in 1925
Nicholas II, diary entry (22nd January, 1917)
A painful day. There have been serious disorders in St. Petersburg because workmen wanted to come up to the Winter Palace. Troops had to open fire in several places in the city; there were many killed and wounded. God, how painful and sad.

Extract from the report of Sir Charles Hardinge, the British ambassador in St Petersburg, on the events of 9 January 1905
…The entrances (to the palace square) were closed by the troops, who were assembled in large numbers…the fact that the troops were at the distance of only 20 yards from the crowd, who could hardly move whether they wished to do so or not, made the fire doubly and even more effective, and the results were appalling. Amongst the killed were several women and children, who at the sight of the arrival of the troops had tried to turn and flee. And who were shot in the back. Here there were between 80 and 100 killed and many wounded.

A comment from Aleksandra Kollantai, member of the Bolshevik faction of the social democrats, who took part in the bloody Sunday march.
'I noticed that mounted troops stood drawn up in front of the winter Palace itself, but everyone thought that it did not mean anything particular. All the workers were peaceful and expectant. They wanted the Tsar or one of his highest, to come before the people and take the humble petition… At first I saw the children who were hit and dragged down from the trees. We heard the clatter of hooves. The Cossacks rode right into the crowd and slashed with their sabers like madmen. A terrible confusion arose.'