

List 1

HIU34071-72 From Tsarism to Putinism: A History of Russia in the 20th & 21st century (Harrington)



The 20th century was a tumultuous period for the people of Russia and its surrounding regions, which saw the toppling of the Tsarist Empire, the dramatic ascent and eventual decline of the Soviet Union, and the subsequent arrival of oligarchic capitalism and Putinism to Russia. In this module, we will examine the main social, political, economic, and cultural transformations that occurred in the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and its successor states during the twentieth and twenty first centuries. How each successive regime attempted to confront its imperial legacy, redefine the Russian nation, and navigate the challenges presented by governing a ethnically heterogeneous state will be the main focus of this module. We will, however, also consider other issues, such as the impact that the revolutionary changes in Russia had on international politics.

We will examine an extensive range of primary sources, often produced by conflicting parties offering differing interpretations of certain key events, such as the Russian Revolution. We will also look at the evolution of the historiography of Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union and reflect on how the narratives have changed as more sources became available.