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PAPER 3

**Imperial Russia, Revolution
and the Establishment of the
Soviet Union (1855-1924)**

SECOND EDITION

Sally Waller

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Introduction

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Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union (1855–1924)

This book is designed to prepare students for *Imperial Russia, Revolution and the Establishment of the Soviet Union (1855–1924)*. This is Topic 12 in HL Option 4, History of Europe for Paper 3 of the IB History Diploma examination. This option examines the conflicting parts played by modernisation and conservatism in Tsarist Russia and explores reasons for the eventual collapse of the Tsarist autocracy in 1917. It explores continuity and change through the revolutions of 1917, the Civil War and the rule of Lenin. There is a particular focus throughout on the interaction of the social, economic and political factors responsible for change.



Figure 1.1: This 1853 illustration shows Nicholas I, father of Alexander II, being driven through St Petersburg; at this time, the Tsar was all-powerful.