

# CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

## Why was the revolution of March 1917 successful?

**This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.**

The bedrock of any answer to the question *HOW* something happened is understanding cause and consequence. This process can be represented like this:



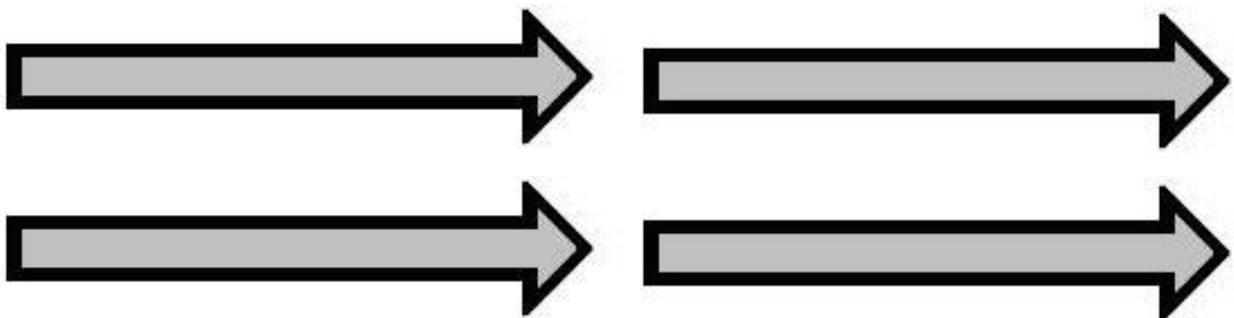
where the causal link is shown by an arrow; the box on the left is the cause (an event that happened/ what one side did), and the one on the right is the consequence (the event(s) it provoked/ what the other side did to try to counter it).

Sometimes, of course, an event can have more than one consequence:



Below are boxes giving facts about why the March 1917 Revolution was successful. Cut the boxes up into cards and also cut out the two arrows. Use your ingenuity and the arrows to make up as many 'action–reaction' flow diagrams as you can – you should be able to create hundreds of them.

Each time you make up a flow diagram, describe your reasoning, taking special care to explain *HOW* the links worked to create the result they did.



Russia was huge	Agriculture was backward	Industrialisation had created low wages and poor conditions in the towns
The Russian Empire comprised many different nationalities	The Tsar's government was repressive (e.g. the Okhrana)	A huge army – e.g. the Cossacks – put down rebellions
The 'Kadets' wanted to reform the Tsar's government	In 1904–1905, Russia lost a war with Japan in Korea	On Bloody Sunday (9 January 1905), the Cossacks massacred demonstrators
In 1905, a revolution broke out	In 1905, soldiers and workers set up councils called Soviets	The Tsar survived the 1905 Revolution
During 1906–1911, Peter Stolypin ordered thousands of executions	During 1905–1911, Peter Stolypin helped the peasants	After 1905, the Tsar dissolved the first two Dumas
Before 1914, opposition towards the government was weak	The nobility supported the Tsar	The Octobrists were happy with the Tsar's 1905 reforms
Many peasants loved and worshipped the Tsar	The Communists were split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks	The First World War threw Russia into chaos
During the First World War, the railways were jammed with soldiers	The Russian army was often defeated in the First World War (e.g. Tannenberg)	Nine million Russian soldiers had been killed or captured by 1917

During the winter of 1916–1917, there was starvation in the towns	The First World War increased hatred of the Tsar	In 1915, the Tsar took personal control of the army
Rumours that Rasputin was the Tsarina's lover discredited the royal family	Rasputin's murder (1916) – by Prince Yusupov – discredited the royal family	Early March 1917: Strikes (notably at the Putilov steelworks)
11 March 1917: The troops refused to put down the riots	12 March 1917: The Petrograd Soviet issued Order No. 1	13 March 1917: The Tsar tried to return to Petrograd, but was stopped
The Tsar was an autocrat	Communists and Social Revolutionaries wanted to overthrow the Tsar	In 1905, the sailors on the battleship <i>Potemkin</i> mutinied
In 1905, the <i>October Manifesto</i> promised a Duma	The Fundamental Laws (1906) restored the Tsar's power	The Church told the peasants that the Tsar had been appointed by God
During the First World War, peasants were conscripted into the army	During the First World War, there was runaway inflation	While he was away with the army, Nicholas left the Tsarina and Rasputin in charge
8 March 1917: A women's bread march led to riots	14 March 1917: The Duma set up a Provisional Government	In March 1917 the weather was unusually cold