

June 11

Assess the view that the condition of the Peasantry in Russia was transformed in the period 1855 - 1964?

Intro : Transformed = fundamental change
1855 → 1964

Serfdom : collected and repressed existence → Smith 'Second' serfdom
Examples of exploitation → ditto Examples of exploitation

On first consideration this seems incorrect. However, in the 109 year course there were periods of transformation...

① Transformation for the better → Stolypin → NEP → Virgin Lands

Judgement tied to the question

② More significant was transformation for the worse
→ Famine '91/21132 + exploitation for modernisation
→ Mir + Az land captains → 'Cruel joke'? → Collectivisation

Judgement tied to the question

③ War as the 'catalyst of change' - Trotsky
→ IWW / GPW + civil war all transformed peasants lives

Judgement tied to the question

④ Unhelpful + generic nature of the term peasant
✓ 90% pop in 1855 + still 40% in 1964.
✓ Richer + Poorer peasants Kulans + dekulakisation
✓ location + local difference - GPW
✓ Young + old under communists
 ↳ homo sovieticus

CONCLUSION : TRANSFORM, CONTINUITY THE DOMINANT THEME.

however, moments of real change

having a working definition of transformed key.

Intro + distinction limited

To what extent is it correct to suggest that life for the working classes of Russia was transformed for the worse in the period 1855 to 1964?

~~change continuity~~ Intro Define w/c = peasants + proletariat
transformed - fundamental change

On one level

- ✓ fundamental changes - serfdom → urban prov.
- ✓ whether 'for the worse' needs to be considered, but would be surprising given the April Thesis - 'power should rest...' impressive
caveat: evidence
to interpretation

(1) Peasants

For the better (improvement in question)

- N → Stolypin
- L → NEP
- V → Virgin lands

(2) Dominant theme (Q question)

For the worse

- famine
- Ugrad
- war Communism
- S → Collectivisation
- AZ → 1861 - cruel joke - min

Judgement

For the worse?

Your sustained opinion

(3) Proletariat

For the better (Q question)

- L → Sazonovian decrees
- B → Bunge reforms
- L → NEP
- K → Consumer goods + Krushchev

(4) Dominant theme (Q question)

For the worse

- L + W cond. of A 3 + WZ
- NZ → Bloody Friday
- W → war communism
- S → 5 year plans - central system

Judgement

For the worse?

Your sustained opinion

(5) War - sense of 'for the worse'

+ or

Inherently nature of a generic term

- civilians gained + lost more
- proletarians suffered less & in party manner under communism
 - Stakhanovite movement
 - Russification
 - Housing

Conclusion - Sustained + tight to the 3 key terms