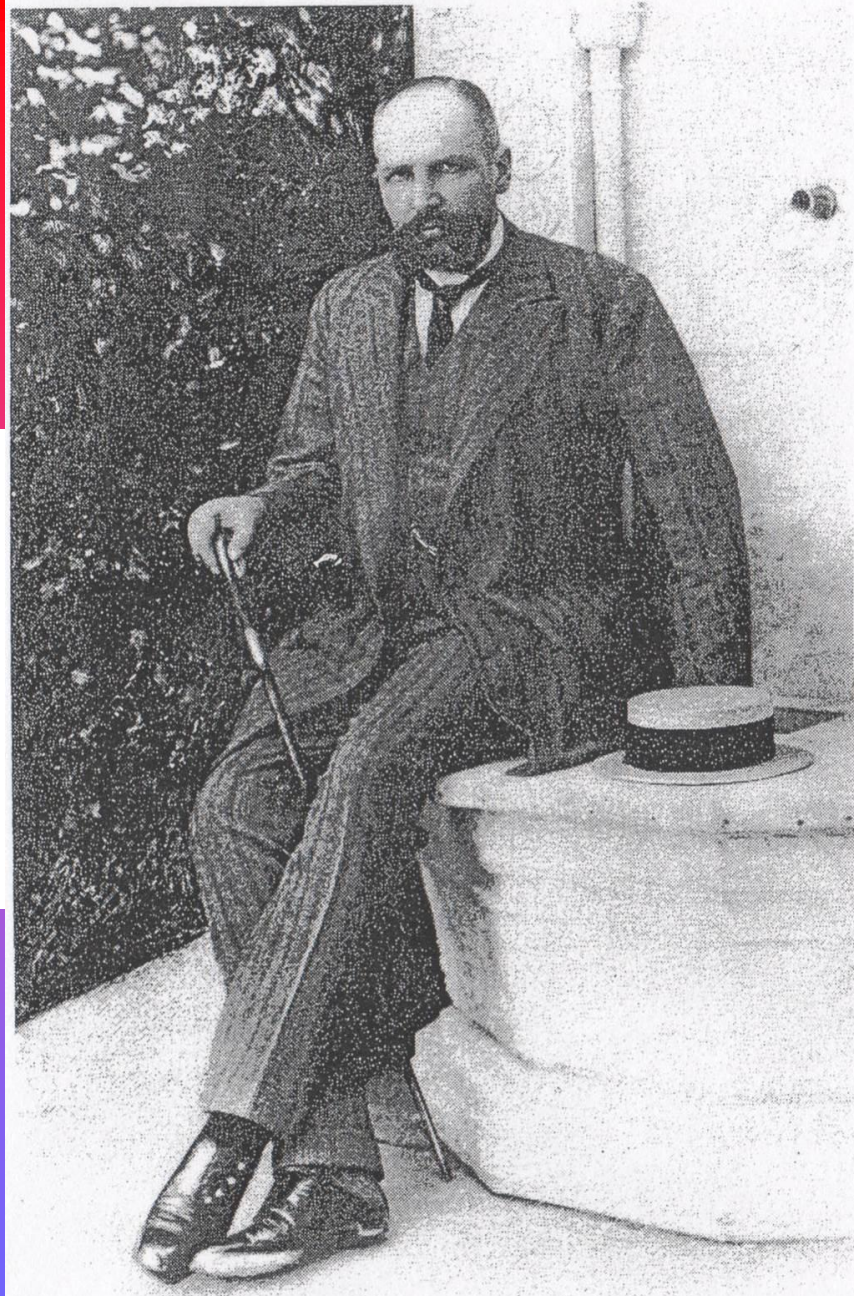


Peter Stolypin

5th Year Higher Russia

**“Arguably the most
outstanding statesman
of Imperial Russia”**

Richard Pipes



P. A. Stolypin: 1909.

Peter Stolypin

How important was the work of Stolypin in delaying the downfall of the Tsarist Autocracy?

Peter Stolypin

How effectively did Stolypin maintain the authority of the Tsarist state in the years after 1905?

Peter Stolypin

How important was the work of Stolypin in the recovery of the Tsarist state after 1905?

Stolypin becomes Prime Minister

- In July 1906 Nicholas II appointed his Minister of the Interior, Peter Stolypin, as Prime Minister
- Stolypin was known as a firm, even ruthless administrator
- But he also believed that the best way to strengthen support for the regime was by careful reform

Stolypin crushes the Revolutionaries

- On his appointment Stolypin faced new waves of terrorism – his own house was destroyed and his children injured in one attack
- Stolypin conducted a vigorous campaign against terrorists and revolutionaries
- So many were arrested and executed that the hangman's noose came to be nicknamed "Stolypin's necktie"

Stolypin crushes the Revolutionaries

- Stolypin's first duty was to end revolutionary violence
- He resorted to summary justice to deal with terrorism
- Military courts tried and sentenced to death persons accused of violent crimes

Stolypin crushes the Revolutionaries

- Stolypin's "field courts martial" carried out 1,144 death sentences in the nine months preceding May 1907
- Six hundred trade unions were closed down between 1906 - 1912
- Over 1,000 newspapers ceased to publish during the same period
- Public order was restored by these measures

Stolypin and Industry

- Stolypin's main concern was the peasants , but he did not neglect industry.



Aims :-

- 1.To develop Russian industry.
- 2.To bring peace to Russia's cities.

Stolypin and Industry

Growth in Industry

- From 1908 substantial growth took place in the coal, iron and steel industries.
- Railway building also proceeded
- A rearmament programme fuelled a new surge of industrial activity

Stolypin and Industry



Results

- Industrial growth created employment
- The industrial workforce was relatively subdued and there were few signs of unrest between 1908 and 1914

The Purpose of Stolypin's Land Reforms

..... A crucial point

- The main point of Stolypin's reforms was to allow the peasants to buy and sell land by destroying the power of the village commune
- This would allow a class of able peasants to develop as small landowners

- These rich peasants, or Kulaks, would thus have a strong stake in the existing order
- They would therefore tend to keep the more unruly elements in line and so stem the tide of revolution in the countryside

The Purpose of Stolypin's Land Reforms

- Stolypin argued the peasants could be used to defeat the revolution
- To do this the Government must free them from the commune and permit them to acquire private property

- The more able peasants would then emerge as small landed proprietors with a strong stake in the existing order
- In Stolypin's words "the Government relied not on the feeble and the drunk, but on the solid and strong"

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Stolypin's Land Reforms

Stolypin's reforms consisted of three crucial measures

- **The annulment of redemption dues (1906)**
- **A law allowing peasant families to leave the commune (1907), and**
- **A law encouraging peasants to consolidate their holdings of land (1907)**

Stolypin's Land Reforms

- Stolypin ended the tight control of the mirs
- He also destroyed the power of the Land Captains over village life

Stolypin's Land Reforms

- In 1906, all restrictions on peasant movement, including the power of mirs to refuse members permission to leave, were removed
- In 1907, all outstanding redemption payments were abolished

Stolypin's Land Reforms

- Peasants were permitted to sell their plots or to request consolidation of the strips into individual holdings
- These consolidated strips then became the private property of the peasant household

Stolypin's Land Reforms

- The Peasant Land Bank issued loans to enable individual peasants to purchase more land
- Crown and State lands were made available for this purpose and, as a result, peasant holdings increased

Stolypin's Land Reforms

- A resettlement programme was organised to move peasants out of the overcrowded areas of central Russia
- Between 1906 and 1913, three million peasants moved to Siberia and Central Asia, settling on land which the government had made available

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- The matter is the subject of considerable controversy
- One school of historians claims that they led to rapid changes in the village
- They claim that these reforms would have prevented revolution were it not for Stolypin's death and the disruption of World War One
- Another school dismisses them as a reform foisted upon unwilling peasants and undone by them immediately after the collapse of the Tsarist regime

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- Stolypin was well aware that his land reforms would take time to work
- He spoke of needing 20 years for his “wager on the strong” to show dividends
- His assassination in 1911 allowed him personally only five, and the war in 1914 allowed Russia only eight years

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- In the short term, Stolypin's reforms did pacify the rural areas between 1906 and 1916

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

Redemption Payments ended in 1907

These payments had been a source of peasant discontent for many years

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- Between 1906 and 1913, three million peasants moved to Siberia and Central Asia
- By 1916 some two million householders had received legal title to their new lands and had started up as independent farmers

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- In 1914 only 10% of the land had been consolidated into farms
- In 1914 the strip system still prevailed
- In 1917 60% of peasant families were still in the commune
- One third of all peasants remained landless

How successful were Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- Stolypin's reforms took no account of the growth in rural population which greatly outstripped the amount of land made available, thus the basic problem of land hunger remained

Opposition to Stolypin's Land Reforms?

"The deep conservatism of the Russian people made them slow to respond"

Michael Lynch

Opposition to Stolypin's Land Reforms?

"The peasants were reluctant to leave the security of the commune for the uncertainty of individual farming"

Michael Lynch

Richard Pipes assesses Stolypin's Land Reforms?

- “the results of Stolypin's agrairian reforms must be judged as exceedingly modest”
- “the pernicious practice of strip farming was little affected by the Stolypin legislation”

- Peasants often resented those of their neighbours who pulled out of the commune to set up private farms
- These peasants who withdrew from the commune and set up private farms were regarded by their neighbours as “landlords”

- In 1917, only 10% of Russian peasant households operated as independent farms The remaining 90% continued to pursue strip farming
- Overwhelmingly, Russian peasants rejected Stolypin's agrarian reforms