History in ACTION

London

NOV
24
2026

History in Action: Russia and Revolution

For A-level and IB students

Our popular and exciting study day will appeal to all students studying 20th-century Russian history, with a focus on the period 1894 – 1964. This unmissable event is suitable for A-level and IB students as well as enthusiastic year 11 students preparing for the Edexcel, AQA and OCR specifications. World-class historians will present stimulating and relevant talks which are sure to inspire, inform and entertain. Topics will cover the end of Romanov rule and the Revolutions to communist government under Lenin through to the Stalin and Khrushchev eras.

The day will include a lunchtime examination session providing first-hand guidance and insights to help boost students' confidence and grades. Useful handouts containing key information on the topics covered, suggested further reading and examination advice will be provided and there will be plenty of opportunity for questions throughout the day.

Book now to secure your places!

- The downfall of the Romanovs
- Was the Soviet Union a Russian empire?
- Khrushchev in Power, 1955-64
- Women in pre- and post-revolutionary Russia
- Stalin and Stalinism

Emmanuel Centre, London,
London,
SW1P 3DW

Venue: £27.00 **+VAT ***

Plus one COMPLIMENTARY staff ticket per 10 students.

*VAT may be reclaimable. Please check with your finance department

Education in Action is the leading provider of inspirational, informative, Education in Action study days for A-level, IB, BTEC and GCSE students.

Award-winning, world-class speakers
Cutting-edge content
Thought-provoking demos and presentations
Examination hints, tips and guidance
Modestly priced to offer access to all
Complimentary staff ticket for every 10 students booked
Bookings can be amended up to 28 days before the event day

NOV
24
2026

History in ACTION

The downfall of the Romanovs /
Antony Beevor – Historian

Grigori Rasputin, a barely literate peasant from Siberia, is one of the most enigmatic and influential figures in modern history. In a bizarre reversal of the Great Man Theory of History he had no official position and no mass following, yet he became the major contributor to the collapse of the greatest autocracy in the world. The Empress Alexandra's infatuation with Rasputin, the only person who could heal her son, made Tsar Nicholas II appear a weak or complacent cuckold. In Russia's deeply patriarchal society such impressions shattered the myth of Romanov power. By the time of the popular uprising of February 1917, the Tsar had lost so much respect that hardly a single officer from the Imperial Life Guard regiments was prepared to raise a sword in his defence.

Sir Antony Beevor is a military historian and bestselling author who has published widely. His books include Stalingrad which won the Wolfson Prize for History and the first Samuel Johnson Prize and more recently, Russia: Revolution and Civil War, 1917—1921. He has been a visiting professor at the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck, University of London and at the University of Kent and his works have been translated into over 30 languages. His latest book released to great acclaim is Rasputin and the Downfall of the Romanovs.

Women in pre- and post-revolutionary Russia /
Siobhán Hearne – University of Manchester

In this talk, Siobhán Hearne places women at the centre of the history of pre- and post-revolutionary Russia. Between the 1880s and 1940s, women's lives were transformed by war, revolution, urbanisation, and industrialisation. Within this period, the Russian feminist movement rose and fell, the struggle for women's rights raged across the political spectrum, and women's legal, social, and political positions were subject to radical and rapid transformation. Drawing upon methods and ideas from gender history, the talk focuses on state policies, cultural representations, political movements, and everyday experiences across the revolutionary divide of 1917.

Dr Siobhán Hearne is a historian of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, with a focus on histories of humanitarianism, health, gender, and sexuality. She is currently Lecturer in Modern European History at the University of Manchester. She is Editor of Cambridge University's Contemporary European History and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Was the Soviet Union a Russian empire? /
Geoffrey Hosking – Historian and author

This talk looks at the decolonisation of the Soviet Union during the 1920s, when Soviet leaders attempted to take charge of decolonisation by deliberately favouring the advancement of the non-Russian populations, encouraging them to train up their own economic and political leaders and develop their own languages and cultures. The policy was called 'indigenisation'. One historian for that reason calls the USSR an 'affirmative action empire'. In the 1930s Stalin more or less reversed this policy and returned to emphasising the Russian nature of the Soviet Union. Yet something survived of 'indigenisation': the ultimate outcome of the Soviet Union was fifteen nation-states! How did this happen?

Professor Geoffrey Hosking OBE FBA is a British historian of Russia and the Soviet Union and Emeritus Professor of Russian History at University College, London. He is considered one of the foremost historians of Russia and her Empire and has published widely. He has presented the BBC Reith Lectures, is a co-founder of Nightline, and was appointed the OBE in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to higher education and to students.

Stalin and Stalinism /
Andy Willimott – QMUL

In this talk we will examine and contextualise the violence that has come to define Stalin's rule. Coercion and violence have long been recognised as crucial to the functioning of Stalinism and the Soviet state. Ordinary Soviets have traditionally been portrayed as helpless victims. Popular experience and public reception mattered little in the early histories on the topic; instead, Stalin's 'evil' personality was thought to explain all. But recent historiographical interventions have complicated these readings. We will ask 1) what are the limits of early 'totalitarian' interpretations; 2) what role did popular participation play in the development of Stalinism?; and 3) what was total about Stalinist totalitarianism?

Dr Andy Willimott is a historian of the Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union and Senior Lecturer in Modern Russian History at Queen Mary University of London. His research interests focus particularly on revolution, radicalism and historical memory. He is an award-winning author and has acted as a historical consultant on multiple BBC radio and TV programmes.

Khrushchev in Power, 1955-64 /
Daniel Beer – Royal Holloway, University of London

Emerging victorious from the leadership struggles that followed Stalin's death in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev faced a daunting task: how to salvage the Soviet project from Stalin's tyranny. What became known as "the thaw" was an attempt to revitalise the economy, curb the power of the bureaucracy, dismantle the Gulag, and loosen the strict censorship that had suffocated the arts and culture. This talk will explore what happened next, at home and abroad.

Daniel is Professor of Modern European History at Royal Holloway and a specialist on Russia. His most recent book, The House of the Dead: Siberian Exile Under the Tsars, won the 2017 Cundill History Prize and was shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize. He has written for The Guardian, History Today, BBC History, The Times Literary Supplement, Literary Review, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

Education in Action

Gilmoora House | 57-61 Mortimer Street | London W1W 8HS

020 3008 6441 | office@educationinaction.org.uk

www.educationinaction.org.uk