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**МАТЕРИАЛЫ ДЛЯ ДОМАШНЕГО ЧТЕНИЯ  
И ПЕРЕВОДЧЕСКОГО ПРАКТИКУМА  
(АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК)  
ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ ИИИМО**

**Часть 1**

САРАТОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНИ Г.С. СКОРНИЦЫНА

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Материалы для домашнего чтения и переводческого  
практикума (английский язык)

для студентов ИИиМО

*учебно-методическое пособие*

Саратов 2016

**Захарова Е.Н.** Материалы для домашнего чтения и переводческого практикума (английский язык) для студентов ИИиМО. Ч. 1 - Саратов, 2016.

Учебно-методическое пособие содержит англоязычные материалы для домашнего чтения и переводческого практикума для студентов ИИиМО. Представлено три группы текстов на английском языке – уровня pre-intermediate, intermediate и upper-intermediate. Целью пособия является подготовка студентов к самостоятельной работе с академической литературой и периодикой по специальности.

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Работа издана в авторской редакции

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## ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Настоящее пособие предназначено для студентов Института истории и международных отношений в качестве материала для домашнего чтения и переводческого практикума. Учебным материалом пособия являются оригинальные тексты со специализированных сайтов, ориентированных на преподавателей английского языка и тех, кто изучает иностранный язык самостоятельно: <http://easyenglisharticles.com>, <http://www.thetimesinplainenglish.com>, <http://linguapress.com>, <http://www.britannica.com>, <http://www.theguardian.com/education/series/learning-english>, <http://www.onestopenglish.com> и проч. Все тексты условно делятся на три группы (в соответствии с уровнем сложности предлагаемого материала): Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, Upper-Intermediate.

Целью пособия является подготовка студентов к самостоятельной работе с академической литературой и периодикой по специальности.

Учебные тексты снабжены системой после-текстовых упражнений и заданий для домашней работы. Это позволяет последовательно подвести студентов к пониманию и осмыслению содержания текстов, развивать навыки контекстуального подхода к переводу, ориентируют на пополнение индивидуального словарного запаса в процессе чтения. Перевод рассматривается автором как этап речевой деятельности, завершающий предварительный анализ и толкование содержания и ведущий к передаче смысла оригинала средствами родного языка.

При работе с представленными в пособии статьями рекомендуется пользоваться различными словарями, среди которых отметим онлайн словари <http://www.multitran.ru>, <http://www.lingvo.ru>, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/ru/>, <http://dic.academic.ru/> и др.

# THE 5 BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN THE UK

Source: <http://easyenglisharticles.com/the-5-biggest-problems-in-the-uk/>

Level: Pre-Intermediate

## 1) Health



The UK runs a public health service called the NHS (National Health Service). This means that anybody who needs medical attention receives it for free. It is funded by taxes. The NHS is a big concern for many voters because;

- The UK population is increasing and people are also living longer. This means that there is a strain on services; there are more people needing medical care and not enough doctors and nurses to help them. People sometimes wait a long time to see a doctor.
- The NHS says that it needs £8 billion more to provide a good service (to ensure everyone can see a doctor when they need to), but where will this money come from?
- There has recently been some privatisation of the NHS; this means that private companies, not the government, have control over some hospitals and medicine. Many people are worried that private companies will not run the NHS as well because they may be more concerned with making money than caring for people.

## 2) HS2



This is a new high-speed train that will run between London and Birmingham. It will cost £43 billion to complete. Construction is planned to begin in 2017 it will be completed by 2026.

- Many voters are worried that this is not the best way to spend money. The train will not benefit many people, especially those living in the north of England, Scotland and Wales.
- Many people in these regions think the government should cancel the train and use the money in a way that would benefit more people. There are already trains that go between Birmingham and London
- There are also concerns that it will be very bad for the environment because many fields and trees will be destroyed.

## 3) Immigration



This is possibly the most controversial topic of this election. The UK has huge numbers of immigrants entering the country every year (around 300,000). Many people are worried that because the UK is a small country, we cannot support such a large increase in population.

- Because the UK is a member of the European Union, there is nothing that can be done to reduce immigration from European countries.

- Although immigration in the UK is overall profitable; adding £20billion to the UK economy (immigrants paying tax etc), many people worry that the extra people are putting strain on schools and hospitals.
- There is also a concern that immigrants come to the UK to get free medical treatment and benefits. Some people are concerned that some immigrants can claim these services without working or paying taxes in the UK. They think this is unfair.

#### 4) Zero Hour Contracts



In recent years companies have started to employ people on zero hour contracts. This means that the companies do not have to give work to employees and that they can contact employees as and when they are needed.

- The problem with this type of contract is that people are not guaranteed work and therefore do not know if they will have the money they need to feed their family.
- This contract also means that employees do not have the same rights as usual workers; for example they are not entitled to holiday pay or sick pay.
- Employees on a zero hour contracts also have no job security.
- There are an estimated 700,000 people in the UK working on a zero hour contract.



## 5) The European Union



Many people are concerned that being a member of the European Union is not beneficial to the UK.

- Many laws are made at the European level instead of in the United Kingdom. Some people would prefer more control over this and do not like the idea of other countries having influence over laws in the United Kingdom
- The European Freedom of Movement Act means that anyone from any EU country can immigrate to the UK. This is a big concern for some people who think that the UK cannot support such a big population.
- The EU is the UK's biggest economic trading partner and political ally. Some people are worried that if the UK left the EU, then the British economy would suffer and that the UK would have less international power.

### Exercises:

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	The UK population is increasing and people are also living longer.	T / F
b.	A new high-speed train that will run between London and Paris.	T / F
c.	Many people are worried that because the UK is a huge country, we can support such a large	T / F

	increase in population.	
d.	Employees on a zero hour contracts have no job security.	T / F
e.	The EU is the UK's biggest economic trading partner and political ally.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

a concern	abolish
to cancel	debatable
the environment	worry
controversial	climate
to employ	keep busy

3. Academic writing: Which do you think is the biggest problem? What do you think the UK should do to solve these problems?

4. Translate the article.

## AMERICA: AN OPEN OR CLOSED NATION?

Source: <http://www.thetimesinplainenglish.com/wp/america-an-open-or-closed-nation/>

Level: Pre-Intermediate



Most countries say that citizenship comes from your parents. The United States says that if you are born here, you are a citizen. America is known as a land of immigrants. Almost everyone in the U.S. can trace their background to an immigrant.

Donald Trump says he want to bar all non-U.S. citizen Muslims from entering the U.S. He wants to block them at least for a while. Can a president do that? The answer is not clear. Some experts say yes.

The Constitution and laws of the land protect people who have legal status. Non-citizens who have a green card or a visa have legal status. People without legal status are not protected by most of our laws.

Undocumented children can go to public school. Emergency rooms have to take everyone who comes. Beyond that, there are few rights to which the undocumented are entitled.

Presidents have broad powers to safeguard the homeland. He or she may say there are people who should not be allowed in. They have to have a good reason. The federal courts do not usually question their authority.

Most Americans believe America should be open to new arrivals. Recent shootings in the U.S. and France are linked to Muslim terrorists. People are beginning to fear Muslims.

Politicians are using that fear to get votes. The Republican Party has a contest for who will be its candidate for president. Mr. Trump is an extreme “anti-terrorist.” He thinks his view will help him get nominated.

Muslims are not a threat to the nation. Muslim terrorists are. There is a battle ahead. Will those who want America to stay open to newcomers win over those who want America to shut down its borders?

It is a question for all Americans. It is a challenge for Muslims. In some way they will have to make the case that they are loyal to this country.

**Exercises:**

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	The United States says that if you are born here, you are a citizen.	T / F
b.	Non-citizens who have a green card or a visa still do not have legal status.	T / F
c.	Presidents have broad powers to safeguard the homeland.	T / F
d.	Mr. Trump thinks his view will help him get nominated.	T / F
e.	Most Americans believe America should be closed to new arrivals.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

an immigrant	seek
to trace	devoted
an expert	legitimate
legal	foreigner
loyal	specialist

3. Academic writing: Will those who want America to stay open to newcomers win over those who want America to shut down its borders? What do you think?
4. Translate the article.

## CANADA – THE BIGGEST COUNTRY IN THE NEW WORLD

**Source:** <http://linguapress.com/intermediate/focus-on-canada.htm>

**Level: Intermediate**

CANADA - IT'S NOT the USA

Imagine yourself sitting in a café one day in your home town, when on the next table you hear some people speaking English with a strong North American accent.

Being a friendly person, you lean over and say, "Hi! Are you American?"

"No," comes the immediate answer. "Canadian!"

Calling a English-speaking Canadian an American can be as bad as telling a Scotsman that he's English or a Swiss person he's German. In spite of a common language, there are differences in culture and national feeling. "No," many Canadians will tell you with insistence, "We're not Americans! We're Canadians"

In the same way as Quebecers are determined to keep their identity, Canadians from the other provinces are determined to keep Canada's identity. Although the Canadian way of life is more and more like the American way of life, lots of details are different, and many Canadians, particularly Quebecers, are worried about the survival of their own differences.

Canadians use metres and kilometres and measure temperatures in Celsius; Americans use feet and miles, and measure temperature in Fahrenheit. The USA has states, Canada has provinces.

Yet about 80% of Canadians live within 150 km. of the U.S. border, and this has had a bad effect on the Canadian economy. Like most European countries, Canada has a national health service, and a good social security system; but

good welfare services have to be paid for by high taxes, so the cost of living in Canada is high. Because of this, hundreds of thousands of Canadians often get in their cars and drive over to the USA to go shopping. This is one cause of economic problems in Canada. Over half of Canada's imports come from the United States, and Canada has a trade deficit with the USA.

But the American influence is not just a question of shopping. Lots of Canadians drive American cars, and cars are almost as important in Canada as they are in the USA. There is television too. While Quebecers tend to watch their own French-language TV stations, English-speaking Canadians have a choice between local English-speaking channels, national programmes from CBC, and dozens of American channels brought to them by cable or satellite. Unless they specifically want to watch local stations, they're just as likely to tune in to one of the big American channels as they are to a Canadian channel.

Perhaps it is not surprising if some Canadians are afraid that their country will soon be just like another part of the USA. If, one day, Quebec becomes independent, many Canadians fear that the rest of Canada could break up. Perhaps that's an exaggeration; many Canadians feel it is a real risk.

#### SOME SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT CANADA

- Canada is the second biggest country in the world, but the population is only 36 million.
- Over half of all Canadians live south of a line that runs, in Europe, through Dijon, Zurich and Budapest.
- Winter temperatures regularly go down to  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  all over Canada, except on the West Coast.
- Driving for 12 hours a day, it takes 5 days to go by road from Montreal to Vancouver.

- Ottawa, the Canadian capital, is situated in Ontario, on the border with Quebec. Its biggest suburb, Gatineau, is in Quebec. A third of the population of Ottawa are French-speakers.
- There is a Canadian version of the Loch Ness Monster, the "Turtle Lake Monster". It is said to be between 3 and 9 metres long, and to live in the very deep waters of Turtle Lake, Saskatchewan.

A CANADIAN WINTER ..... Brrrr ! It's cold



Winter life in Canada

If there is one thing that unites almost the whole population of Canada, it is the experience of winter.

While in most parts of Europe, people never know what the winter weather will be like from one week to the next, Canadians know what winter means. When the last leaves fall off the trees in Autumn, Canadians know that the winter is coming, and that it will be cold; or if it is not cold, it will be very cold! When the Arctic air blows south in the winter months, Canadians know that the temperature will fall to  $-20^{\circ}$  or lower, perhaps down to  $-40^{\circ}$ ; but because they know that it is going to happen, Canadians are ready for it! That, as they say, is half the battle of survival!

In Edmonton, the biggest city in the province of Alberta, the first winter snows can come in October. When this happens, Edmontonians complain that it is a bit early, but then just got on with normal life.



For most of the winter, which usually lasts from November to April, daytime temperatures in the city rarely rise above freezing; from time to time, Arctic winds howl down from the north, and for several days temperatures in the city may not rise above  $-20^{\circ}$  (and may drop below  $-40^{\circ}$ ).

But in a city where people are used to cold winters, life carries on as usual. Canadians have to know how to cope with the cold; those who can't have just two options, to emigrate or to go and live beyond the Rocky Mountains, beside the Pacific Ocean, in "B.C." – British Columbia!

The easiest way to keep away from the cold of a Canadian winter is to stay indoors as much as possible! This does not mean that you have to stay at home, however! Many people keep their cars in heated basement garages which they can reach without going outside. Cars are often kept warm in winter, with electric heaters which are plugged into power points.

Some shopping centres have underground or indoor parking lots: and in the city centre, it is often possible to walk from one building to another, underground or above ground, without ever having to go out in the cold. The biggest shopping centre in town has hundreds of shops, cinemas, an ice rink, a sports centre and an amusement park all under one roof! The "West Edmonton Mall" is like an indoor city — and in the heart of winter, it is a good place to go shopping.

Outside, people make the most of the snow, for leisure and recreation. Skiing, skating and snow-shoeing are popular activities that can be practised in the city's parks; many parks also have areas which are flooded in winter, to provide natural ice-rinks, which are lit up in the evenings. Everyone tries to enjoy the snow as much as possible!

Perhaps this is easier than it is in most parts of Europe; Canadian snow tends to be dry and powdery. For most of the winter, for example, you can't make it into snowballs, it's too cold. There is no point in putting salt on the roads, either, as at  $-10^{\circ}$  and below, the snow just will not melt, even with salt! The only way to clear the roads is to use snow-ploughs or snow-blowers.

## Constitutional issues

Canada's official Head of State is Queen Elizabeth, who is also the nominal head of state of 15 other Commonwealth countries. Her function is purely symbolic. Many Canadians would like Canada to have a Canadian head of State; but many others want to keep the monarchy. Opinion is divided, but there is no great opposition to the Queen as head of state, except in Quebec.

It was not until 1982 that Canada became constitutionally an independent nation! When this happened, many Canadians were quite surprised, as they thought that their country had been independent since 1867. In practice they were right; the Canadian government in Ottawa has governed Canada since that date.

The links between Britain and Canada remain very strong, all the same. About 40% of Canadians have ancestors from the British Isles, and about 30% have ancestors from France. In particular, lots of Scottish people emigrated from Britain to Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the British Isles remained the main source of immigration to Canada until the 1980's.

Today, the majority of new Canadian immigrants come from Asia, particularly from southern and south east Asia.

## The first Canadians



Celebrating Canada's

Indian heritage in the centre of Calgary, Alberta.

Before Europeans came to North America, Canada was inhabited by native Americans, known today as Indians and the Inuit (or Eskimos).

Contrary to popular imagination, Canada's Indians were not all nomadic people, and in eastern Canada, many Indians lived in villages made of wooden huts. Like Europeans, they grew crops and cultivated small fields.

Different groups of Indians often fought for territory, for good agricultural land, for the rivers with most fish in them. However, there was plenty of room for everyone in such a vast country, and food was not a real problem; the forests were full of wild animals.

Indians in the western half of Canada were more nomadic. The great prairies of Western Canada were home to tribes of Indians who lived in teepees; these nomads lived mainly from hunting.

Today, there are about 300,000 officially registered Indians in Canada, and about a million other Canadians who are partly of Indian origin. Indian ceremonies and festivities are an important part of Canadian culture.

Across Canada, there are over 2000 Indian reservations, many of them relatively poor. However some Indian reservations have rich natural resources. In Alberta, Indian groups receive hundreds of millions of dollars each year in royalties for gas and oil extracted from the ground in or under their reservations.

### Exercises:

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	Although the Canadian way of life is more and more like the American way of life, lots of details are different.	T / F
b.	Lots of Canadians drive American cars, and cars are almost as important in Canada as they are in the USA.	T / F

c.	Driving for 10 hours a day, it takes 6 days to go by road from Montreal to Vancouver.	T / F
d.	In Edmonton, the biggest city in the province of Alberta, the first winter snows can come in September.	T / F
e.	About 40% of Canadians have ancestors from the British Isles, and about 30% have ancestors from France.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

population	to have in mind
to be determined to	indigenous
officially	inhabitants
native	to accept
to receive	formally

3. Academic writing: Are there any similarities and differences between Canada and Russia? What do you think?

4. Translate the article.

## ROMANOV DYNASTY

**Source:** <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Romanov-dynasty>

**Level:** Intermediate

**Romanov dynasty**, rulers of Russia from 1613 until the Russian Revolution of February 1917. Descendants of Andrey Ivanovich Kobyla (Kambila), a Muscovite boyar who lived during the reign of the grand prince of Moscow Ivan I Kalita (reigned 1328–41), the Romanovs acquired their name from Roman Yurev (died 1543), whose daughter Anastasiya Romanovna Zakharina-Yureva was the first wife of Ivan IV the Terrible (reigned as tsar 1547–84). Her brother Nikita's children took the surname Romanov in honour of their grandfather, father of a tsarina. After Fyodor I (the last ruler of the Rurik dynasty) died in 1598, Russia endured 15 chaotic years known as the Time of Troubles (1598–1613), which ended when a *zemsky sobor* ("assembly of the land") elected Nikita's grandson, Michael Romanov, as the new tsar.



The Romanovs established no regular pattern of succession until 1797. During the first century of their rule they

generally followed the custom (held over from the late Rurik rulers) of passing the throne to the tsar's eldest son or, if he had no son, to his closest senior male relative. Thus Alexis (reigned 1645–76) succeeded his father, Michael (reigned 1613–45), and Fyodor III (reigned 1676–82) succeeded his father, Alexis. But after Fyodor's death, both his brother Ivan and his half-brother Peter vied for the throne. Although a *zemsky sobor* chose Peter as the new tsar, Ivan's family, supported by the *streltsy*, staged a palace revolution; and Ivan V and Peter I jointly assumed the throne (1682).

After Peter became sole ruler (1696), he formulated a law of succession (February 5 [February 16, New Style], 1722), which gave the monarch the right to choose his successor. Peter himself (who was the first tsar to be named emperor) was unable to take advantage of this decree, however, and throughout the 18th century the succession remained vexed. Peter left the throne to his wife, Catherine I, who was a Romanov only by right of marriage. On Catherine I's death, however, in 1727, the throne reverted to Peter I's grandson Peter II. When the latter died (1730), Ivan V's second surviving daughter, Anna, became empress. On Anna's death (1740), her elder sister's daughter Anna Leopoldovna, whose father belonged to the house of Mecklenburg, assumed the regency for her son Ivan VI, of the house of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, but in 1741 this Ivan VI was deposed in favour of Elizabeth, daughter of Peter I and Catherine I. With Elizabeth, the Romanovs of the male line died out in 1762, but the name was conserved by the branch of the house of Holstein-Gottorp that then mounted the Russian throne in the person of Elizabeth's nephew Peter III. From 1762 to 1796 Peter III's widow, a German princess of the house of Anhalt-Zerbst, ruled as Catherine II. With Paul I, Peter III's son, a Romanov of Holstein-Gottorp became emperor again.



On April 5, 1797

(Old Style), Paul I changed the succession law, establishing a definite order of succession for members of the Romanov family. He was murdered by conspirators supporting his son Alexander I (reigned 1801–25), and the succession following Alexander's death was confused because the rightful heir, Alexander's brother Constantine, secretly declined the throne in favour of another brother, Nicholas I, who ruled from 1825 to 1855. Thereafter the succession followed Paul's rules: Alexander II, 1855–81; Alexander III, 1881–94; and Nicholas II, 1894–1917.

On March 2 (March 15, New Style), 1917, Nicholas II abdicated the throne in favour of his brother Michael, who refused it the following day. Nicholas and all his immediate family were executed in July 1918 at Yekaterinburg.

**Exercises:**

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	After Fyodor I (the first ruler of the Rurik dynasty) died in 1598, Russia endured 20 chaotic years known as the Time of Troubles (1598–1613).	T / F
b.	Although a <i>zemsky sobor</i> chose Peter as the new tsar, Ivan's family, supported by the <i>streltsy</i> , staged a palace revolution.	T / F
c.	On Anna's death (1740), her younger sister's daughter Anna Leopoldovna assumed the regency for her son Ivan VI.	T / F
d.	With Elizabeth, the Romanovs of the male line died out in 1762.	T / F
e.	On March 2 (March 15, New Style), 1917, Nicholas II abdicated the throne in favour of his brother Alexander.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

a law	to set up
a heir	mainly
to establish	statute
generally	legitimate
rightful	an inheritor

3. Academic writing: What is "a dynasty"? Do you know other dynasties?

4. Translate the article.



## WRONG SENTENCE. EXILED NAPOLEON COULD DO BETTER.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2012/jul/10/napoleon-writing-mistakes>

Level: Upper-Intermediate



Time on his hands ... Napoleon wanted to learn the language of his captors during his final years on the island of St Helena.

Anna Schiffer is a senior teacher at “OISE English language school in Bristol”. She has taken her marker's pen to the letter Napoleon wrote to his teacher in 1816, when he was learning English while exiled on the island of St Helena. She also offers advice on how a student displaying similar language weaknesses could be supported.

First, a transcript of the letter which Napoleon wrote at Longwood House, his residence on the island.

Napoleon appears to be informing his teacher that a letter from his wife will arrive with the next ship from France.

According to Peter Hicks a historian based at the Fondation Napoléon in Paris, who has studied Napoleon's attempts to learn English, he always wrote "j" – as in the French "je" - instead of I.

*Count Lascazes: it is two o'clock after midnight, j have enow sleep j go then finish the night into to cause with you... he shall land above seven day a ship from Europa that we shall give account from anything who this shall have been even to day of first january thousand eight hundred sixteen. you shall have for this ocurens a letter from lady Lascazes that shall you learn what himself could carry well if she had coceive the your but j tire myself and you shall have of the ade at conceive any ... upon this j intercede god etc etc*  
*Longwood this nine march thousand eight hundred and sixteen after the nativity of our saviour jesuf (sic) at four hours of the morning and half*

There is no greeting, nor much natural language. For example instead of "two o'clock after midnight" we could suggest "2 am" or "two in the morning", Schiffer writes.

The spelling is good, except for "enow", but the use of tenses is restricted to the present simple and shall. There is no present perfect, as in "I have had enough sleep". Typical of someone whose first language is French there is the non-use of "will" for a spontaneous decision, as in "I will spend the night chatting".

Punctuation errors include inconsistent capitalisation, and wrong formatting of the date.

The use of the reflexive "I tire myself" is inappropriate, and there is completely incorrect use of the normal subject-verb word-order and a duplication of noun with pronoun: "He shall land above seven day a ship".

The sentences are not cohesive, as there is only one instance each of the simplest conjunctions "and" and "but".

The word "occurens" does not exist, but is repeated. There is the classic use by a beginner of words which have been lifted from translation with no real understanding of their meaning, for example "have the ado". There is no concept of basic collocation, for example "spend the night".

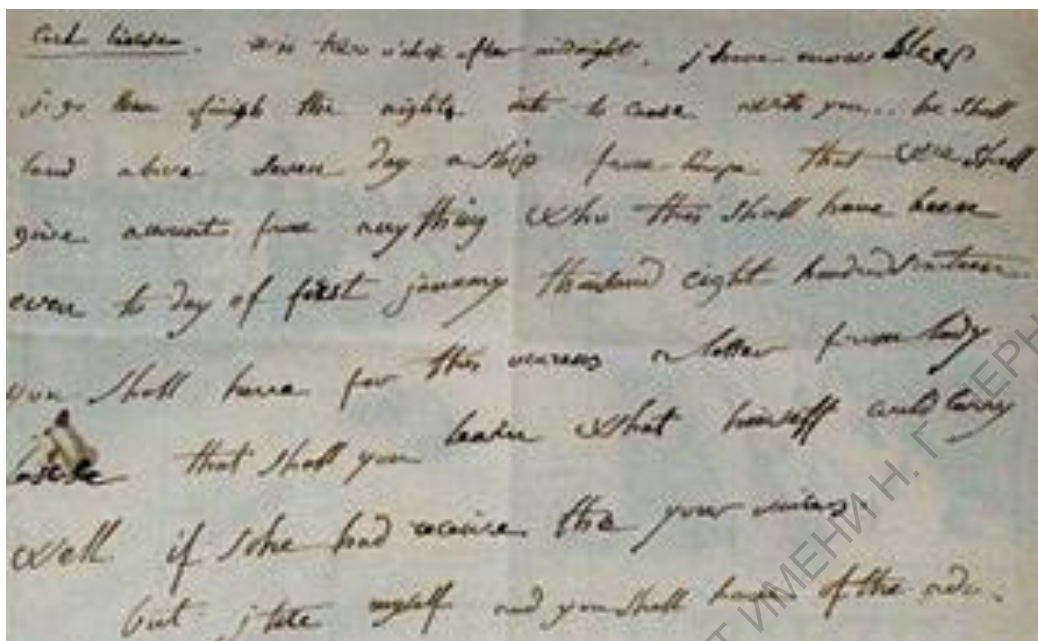
In all, this extract is incomprehensible, due to the lack of mastery of even the most basic grammatical structures. Sadly, even having made a great effort, the reader finishes with no real idea of the writer's message.

How can we help Napoleon? I would suggest prizing him away from the grammar translation approach, which dominated language learning up until the 20th century and relied on translating long texts and memorising grammar rules. This is not his fault, as he is living in that era of language teaching, and he has limited opportunity to produce the language or be checked.

I would first use a guided conversation approach about the event he is describing. This would include using scaffolding of basic word-order and sentence-structure. I would also introduce basic listening and dictation tasks from the outset to reinforce the word-order and sentence structure modelling.

I would work with him on this writing; talking with him to discover what he really wanted to say. This would be done by identifying with him where he could break concepts down into clear, simple sentences using his new sentence construction skills.

We could quite quickly master the simple "Dear" opening and a friendly closing expression, as well as how to write dates and times.



Having done this, he could send his letter off in the knowledge that it was an effective and accurate communication.

### Exercises:

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	Anna Schiffer is a senior teacher at English Language School in London.	T / F
b.	Napoleon appears to be informing his teacher that a letter from his children will arrive with the next ship from France.	T / F
c.	Sadly, even having made a great effort, the reader finishes with no real idea of the writer's message.	T / F

d.	There is the classic use by a beginner of words which have been lifted from translation with no real understanding of their meaning.	T / F
e.	Punctuation errors include inconsistent capitalisation, and wrong formatting of the names.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

to support	a mistake
a concept	typical
an error	to assist
classic	an approach
completely	entirely

3. Academic writing: An experienced teacher offers advice on how to correct the mistakes made by the defeated French emperor in his attempts to write in English. Could *you* offer practical advice for the beginners who start learning a language?

4. Translate the article.

# THE GREEEK ISLAND WHERE TIME IS RUNNING OUT

**Source:** <http://www.onestopenglish.com/skills/news-lessons/monthly-topical-news-lessons/pdf-content/the-greek-island-where-time-is-running-out-advanced/554625.article>

**Level:** Upper-Intermediate

On the Aegean island that runs on cash, time is running out. Agios Efstratios has only three shops and two restaurants but tourists loved its spectacular beaches. Now, locals face a nine-hour ferry trip to get money and the visitors aren't coming

Agios Efstratios is so remote, so forgotten by the banks, the government and most of the modern world that the mobile phone network can't process data and there isn't a single ATM or credit-card machine on the island. Before Greece was plunged into financial chaos, residents of this tranquil outpost in the northern Aegean managed quite well. They did their banking at the post office and the few dozen rooms to rent were booked out every summer with people who had heard – by word of mouth – of its spectacular empty beaches, clear seas and fresh seafood.

But, because the island still runs on cash, the closure of banks nationwide has been devastating. Residents have been forced to make nine-hour round trips to the nearest big island to get cash and Greek visitors say they can't get together enough money to come. "Tourist numbers are down 80% this year," said Mayor Maria Kakali, in an office in the village where she grew up, home to around 200 people. "Even people born here and living in Athens, who have their own places on the island, aren't coming." Kakali has badgered the government and a major Greek bank into promising an ATM within weeks but she still feels it may come too late for this season on an island where tourism dwarfs the two other sources of income: fishing and agriculture: "We have almost no reservations in August, when usually

we have people calling us up asking to find a room and we can't help them." A hard winter ahead may be slightly improved by 50 workers billeted in the village to expand the harbour but there is an even bigger crisis looming because the government has said it will end a decades-old tax break for islands.

Created to help island communities survive when they were suffering mass emigration, a lower sales tax contained the costs of living in places where everything had to be imported and made tourism more affordable. Tourist favourites such as Mykonos fear that losing the tax breaks will make it hard for them to compete with Turkey but, for Agios Efstratios, it poses a far greater threat. "If we have to pay a tax of 23%, I'm sorry to say it but we will all die on the island," says Kakali. Food and fuel are already more expensive than on the mainland, there are no economies of scale and little economic flexibility on an island which, even in summer, has only three shops, two restaurants and not a single official hotel. "This is an expensive island. Everything, even milk or bread, has changed hands three or four times before it gets to us and each middleman has to take a profit," said Provatas Costas, a 58-year-old fisherman.

For Agios Efstratios and its closest large neighbour, Lemnos, the timing of the crisis is particularly cruel. They were condemned to relative obscurity for years in part because they are served by slow and unreliable ferries. In 2015, the government had finally given the contract to a new, efficient company, drawing floods of new visitors to explore the islands' largely overlooked charms, before the bank controls hit.

"It started out as the best season in 30 years and, in one week, became the worst," said Atzamis Konstantinos, a travel agent in Lemnos who used to earn €15,000 a month as a captain of petroleum tankers and other large ships but came home because he missed it so much. "I always loved this island, even when I was young. I would dock in Piraeus, the port in Athens, take my pay, then get the first boat over. People would say 'You're crazy. You can go anywhere' but I only ever wanted to come here."

Lemnos has dozens of wild beaches, where even at the height of summer you can swim and sunbathe virtually alone, a small nightlife scene and numerous cultural sites. It is the eighth largest island in Greece so is in line for the first round of tax increases in autumn 2015 but far less wealthy than many smaller ones. It has just over 3,000 beds for visitors, compared with tens of thousands on an island such as Rhodes. Its councillors say that they will fight the tax rise, although none can say how. “We have been suffering economically in recent years and, now, we will suffer more,” said Lemnos Mayor, Dimitris Marinakis. “When there is not enough money, you reduce your consumption and therefore the whole economy declines.”

The crisis has been particularly hard on people under 40, who often do two or three jobs to make ends meet and still feel they can't afford a family. Young people fear they are losing their contemporaries in an exodus to match the one that scattered their grandparents' friends to America, Australia and Canada. “What is the future for our generation?” said Katerina Fikari, who feels she is extremely lucky to work for the local government in Lemnos. “If you work only to pay your bills, how can you have dreams for your future?”

If taxes go up, even more young people will leave, warns Mayor Kakali, who has devoted her year in office to improving education on the island to help keep it an attractive place for families. Because it is one of the smallest islands, Agios Efstratios has until 2017 before the rise is due to come in, so Kakali hopes that the roller coaster of Greek politics means it yet may be spared. If not, though, she plans to travel to Athens to remind the distant government what the tax rise would cost.

“The truth is the government doesn't pay much attention to the islands of the north Aegean,” she said, “so I would take all the kids from our school to the gates of parliament, to tell them: ‘There is still life in these islands’.”



**Exercises:**

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	Agios Efstratios has many shops and restaurants but tourists loved its spectacular beaches.	T / F
b.	Before Greece was plunged into financial chaos, residents of this tranquil outpost in the northern Aegean managed quite well.	T / F
c.	If taxes go up, more elderly people will leave.	T / F
d.	For Agios Efstratios and its closest large neighbour, Lemnos, the timing of the crisis is particularly cruel.	T / F
e.	Kakali hopes that the roller coaster of British politics means it yet may be spared.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

a visitor	leaving
to pay attention to	to struggle
an exodus	a guest
unreliable	to take notice of
to fight	untrustworthy

3. Academic writing: What are the advantages and disadvantages of living on a small island?

4. Translate the article.

# **THE GLIMMER OF LIGHT ON THE ROAD AHEAD: ON TSAR NICHOLAS II AND THE RESTORATION OF THE CHRISTIAN IMPERIUM**

**Source:** <http://www.events.orthodoxengland.org.uk/the-glimmer-of-light-on-the-road-ahead-on-tsar-nicholas-ii-and-the-restoration-of-the-christian-imperium/>

**Level:** Upper-Intermediate/Advanced

*The following contains replies to various comments and questions in recent e-mails from Russia, Holland, Great Britain, France and the USA*

**Q:** Why are there so many misunderstandings about Nicholas II and so many strident criticisms of him?

**A:** In order to understand Tsar Nicholas II, you have to be Orthodox. It is no good being secular or nominally Orthodox, semi-Orthodox, ‘hobby Orthodox’ and retaining your unconverted cultural baggage, whether Soviet or Western – which is essentially the same thing. You have to be consistently Orthodox, consciously Orthodox, Orthodox in your essence, culture and world view.

In other words, you have to have spiritual integrity – exactly as the Tsar had, in order to understand him. Tsar Nicholas was profoundly and systematically Orthodox in his spiritual, moral, political, economic and social outlook. His Orthodox soul looked out on the world through Orthodox eyes and acted in an Orthodox way, with Orthodox reflexes. So we too have to be Orthodox from inside in order to understand him.

**Q:** Is that why academics are so negative about him?

A: Western academics, like Soviet academics, are negative about him because they are secularists. For example, I recently read the book 'Crimea' by the British historian of Russia, Orlando Figes. This is an interesting book on the Crimean War, with many well-researched details and facts, written as senior academics should write. However, the author starts out from unspoken, purely Western secularist criteria, that since the Tsar of the age, Nicholas I, was not a Western secularist, he must have been a religious fanatic, and that his intention was to conquer the Ottoman Empire. Through his love of detail, Figes overlooks the main point – what the Crimean War was actually about from the Russian side. All he can see is Western-style imperialist aims, which he then attributes to Russia. This attribution is a projection of his Western self.

What Figes misunderstands is that the parts of the Ottoman Empire which Nicholas I was interested in were those where an Orthodox Christian population had for centuries suffered under the Muslim Yoke. The Crimean War was not a colonial, imperialist Russian war to expand into the Ottoman Empire and exploit it, like those conducted by Western Powers to expand into Africa and Asia and exploit them. It was a struggle to liberate from oppression – in fact an anti-colonial, anti-imperialist war. The aim was to free Orthodox lands and peoples from oppression, not to conquer someone else's empire. As for Nicholas I being a religious fanatic, in the eyes of secularists all sincere Christians must be 'religious fanatics'. This is because secularists do not have a spiritual dimension. They are always one-dimensional, unable to see beyond their own secular cultural conditioning, 'to think outside the box'.

Q: Is this secular outlook why Western historians charge Tsar Nicholas II with being weak and unfitted?

A: Yes. This is Western political propaganda, invented at the time and still parroted today. Western historians are educated and paid by Western Establishments and cannot see outside that box. Serious post-Soviet historians have disproved these charges, invented by the Western and the Westernised, gladly repeated by Soviet Communists, as their justification for the dismantlement of the

Tsar's Empire. The only justification for the charge that the Tsarevich was 'unfitted' is the fact that he was at first unprepared to be Tsar because his father, Alexander III, died suddenly and at a young age. But he soon learned and became 'fitted'.

Another favourite false accusation is that the Tsar started wars, namely the Japano-Russian War, called the Russo-Japanese War, and the Kaiser's War, called the First World War. This is untrue. He was the only world leader who wanted to disarm, he was anti-militaristic. As regards the war against Japanese aggression, the Japanese, financed, armed and encouraged by the USA and Britain, started the Japano-Russian War. It attacked the Russian Fleet without warning in Port Arthur – a name that almost rhymes with Pearl Harbour. And, as we know, it was the Austro-Hungarians, urged on by the Kaiser who was desperate for any excuse to start a War, who triggered the First World War.

Let us recall that it was Tsar Nicholas who for the first time in world history had urged disarmament at The Hague in 1899, because he could see that Western Europe was a powder keg, waiting to explode. He was a moral and spiritual leader, the only world leader then who did not have narrow, national interests at heart and was not rearming at huge cost. Instead, as the Anointed of God, he had at heart the universal interests of all Orthodox Christendom, to bring to Christ all God-created mankind. Why else make sacrifices for Serbia? To have survived, he must have been incredibly strong-willed, as, among others, the French President Émile Loubet remarked. All the powers of hell unleashed against the Tsar would never have been unleashed to remove him if he had been weak. Only the strong have to be destroyed, as is confirmed by those who knew him at the time.

Q: You say that he was profoundly Orthodox, but it is true that he had very little Russian blood, isn't it?

A: Forgive me, but that statement contains a racist presumption, that you have to have 'Russian blood' to be Orthodox, a universal Christian. The Tsar was, I believe, one 128th Russian by blood. And so what? The Tsar's sister answered this very challenge very adequately over fifty years ago. Interviewed by the Greek

journalist, Ian Vorres, in 1960, his sister, the Grand Duchess Olga explained: ‘Did the British call George VI a German? He had not a drop of English blood in him...Blood is not everything. It is the soil you spring from, the faith you are brought up in, the language you speak and think in’.

Q: There are some Russians today who describe Tsar Nicholas as a ‘Redeemer’. Do you believe that?

A: Certainly not! There is only one Redeemer, the Saviour Jesus Christ. What can however be argued is that his sacrifice, and therefore that of his Family, of his servants and of the tens of millions of others who were murdered by the Soviet and Fascist regimes that followed, was redemptive. Rus was crucified for the sins of the world. Indeed, the sufferings of Russian Orthodox have been redemptive in their blood and in their tears. However, it is true that all Christians are called on to redeem themselves through living in Christ THE Redeemer. Interestingly, the pious but not well-educated Russians who call the Tsar a ‘Redeemer’ also call Rasputin a saint.

Q: Speaking of this, what should we think of Rasputin?

A: Hundreds of books have been written about Rasputin – nearly all of them by people who never knew him. I would only repeat the words of the Tsar himself, ‘He is a simple, good, religious Russian’, and the words of the Tsar’s sister, Grand Duchess Olga, ‘He was neither saint nor devil...he was a peasant with a profound faith in God and a gift of healing’. The fact that Rasputin was later atrociously slandered, and finally in December 1916 tortured by Russian aristocrats – a sign of just how sick the upper class was – and assassinated by British spies, only helps him in eternity. However, God has not revealed his destiny after this world. We do not pre-empt the Judgement of God. When that Judgement has been revealed to us all, then we will be able to say more. At present it is, I think, best to keep silence. Rasputin is still a mysterious figure – we leave him to the Judgement of God

Q: But what about all the charges that he was a drunkard, a thief and a debauchee?

A: Soviet and Hollywood fiction writers, like the Soviet novelist Radzinsky, love this image of Rasputin. Contemporary historians inside deSovietising Russia have

proved that virtually all, perhaps all, of these charges were slanders, fiction. Moreover, they were made up not to discredit Rasputin – he was only a pawn in the hands of the slanderers – but to discredit the Imperial Family.

Their logic was that if the Friend of the ruling family could be presented as a thief, drunkard and debauchee, therefore the Family must also be like that, and that therefore they were unworthy, and that they the slanderers should have power. Such slander was very simple and very primitive. People, decadent and without any spiritual depth, believed in it because they wanted to believe in it, because such always prefer slander, scandal and gossip to the Truth of Christ.

Q: You say that we should leave Rasputin to God's Judgement. Would you compare those who call Rasputin a saint to those who call Ivan IV and Stalin saints?

A: No. To call those figures saints, especially Stalin, is ignorance and blasphemy. This is caused by a politically-motivated desire among a few to merge the old atheist Soviet mentality with the new Orthodox one. That is impossible, total spiritual confusion, theological illiteracy. On the other hand, the Rasputin question is rather a case of a few individuals with zeal but little knowledge.

Q: If we can come back to our main point, what is the relevance of Tsar Nicholas II today? Orthodox Christians are a small minority among all Christians. Even if he were important to all Orthodox, he would still be a minority interest among Christians.

A: Of course, we Christians are a minority. According to the statistics, of seven billion human beings on the planet, Christians number 2.2 billion – 32%. And Orthodox Christians are only 10% of all Christians, so only 3.2% of the world population, about one in thirty-three.

However, if we look at these statistics theologically, what do we see? For Orthodox Christians, all Non-Orthodox are lapsed Orthodox, who were brought involuntarily by their leaders, for all sorts of political reasons, worldly reasons of convenience, to become Non-Orthodox. For us, Catholics can be defined as

Catholicised Orthodox and Protestants as Protestantised Catholics. We unworthy Orthodox are the leaven that leavens the lump.

Without the Church, there is no light and warmth of the Holy Spirit to radiate out into the rest of the world. Just as, even though you are outside the Sun, you can still feel the Sun's light and warmth, so too the 90% of Christians who are outside the Church are still aware of the effects of the Church. For example, most of them confess the Holy Trinity and Christ as the Son of God. Why? Because of the Church which established such teachings long ago. Such is the grace of the Church that shines out of Her. Now, if we understand this, we will begin to understand the importance of the leader of Orthodox Christianity, the last successor of the Emperor Constantine, Tsar Nicholas II. His deposition changed the whole history of the Church, as also his Golgotha and his glorification today.

Q: If this is the case, why then was the Tsar deposed and then murdered?

A: Christians are always persecuted in the world, as our Lord told His disciples.

Pre-Revolutionary Russia ran on the Orthodox Faith. This was the oil that made the whole engine run. However, that Faith was rejected by the mass of the Westernised ruling elite, the aristocracy, and many others in the growing middle class. The Revolution was caused by a simple loss of faith, the engine ground to a halt and exploded for lack of oil.

Most of the Russian upper classes wanted power for themselves, in the same way that wealthy merchants and middle classes wanted power for themselves and so caused the French Revolution. Having obtained wealth, they wanted to mount the next rung in the hierarchy of values – the rung of power. In the Russian context this lust for power, which had come from the West, was therefore based by definition on a blind admiration of the West and a hatred of Russia. This we can see from the very beginning with figures like Kurbsky, Peter I, Catherine II and Westernisers like Chaadayev.

This lack of faith was also what poisoned the White Movement, which was disunited by its lack of a common and binding faith in Orthodox Tsardom. In general, Orthodox self-consciousness was absent in the Russian governing élite,

which substituted various surrogates for it, whimsical mixtures of mysticism, occultism, freemasonry, socialism and a search for 'truth' in esoteric religions. Incidentally, these surrogates lived on in the Paris emigration, where various figures distinguished themselves in theosophy, anthroposophy, sophianism, name-worship and other very eccentric, but also spiritually dangerous fantasies.

These had so little love for Russia that they actually went into schism, breaking away from the Russian Church and justifying themselves for so doing! The poet Bekhteev wrote very sharply of this in his 1922 poem, 'Come to your senses, upper classes!', comparing the privileged situation in Paris to that of the people of crucified Rus in the homeland:

And once more their hearts are full of intrigue,  
 And once more treachery and lies are on their lips,  
 And life writes into the chapter of the last book  
 The vile treason of the grandees who knew it all.

These members of the upper classes (and not all were traitors) were sponsored from the beginning by the West. The West considered that once its values of parliamentary democracy, republicanism or constitutional monarchy were introduced into Russia, it would become just another bourgeois Western country. For the same reason, the Russian Church had to be Protestantised, that is spiritually neutralised, or rather neutered, as the West has tried to do with the Patriarchate of Constantinople and other Local Churches fallen under its power since 1917, as soon as Russian patronage was removed. These attitudes were caused by the arrogant presumption that somehow the Western model could be universal. Incidentally, this is the arrogant presumption of the Western elites to this day, as they try to impose their model worldwide, presenting it as the 'New World Order'.

The Tsar, the Lord's Anointed representing the last bulwark of Church Christianity in the world, had to be removed, as he was blocking the power grab of the Western and Westernised world. However, in their incompetence, the aristocratic revolutionaries of February 1917 soon lost control of the situation and within a few months power had descended from them to the lowest of the low, to



the criminal Bolsheviks. These set out on a course of massacre and genocide, of ‘red terror’ – just as in France five generations before, only now with far more murderous, twentieth-century, technology.

It was in this way that the motto of the Orthodox Empire was deformed. I remind you that this is ‘Orthodoxy, Sovereignty and People’. This was deformed by Westernised Russians and Western secularists, both then and now, into: ‘Obscurantism, Tyranny and Nationalism’. Atheist Communists deformed it even further into ‘Centralised Communism, Totalitarian Dictatorship and National Bolshevism’. What did this motto in fact mean? It simply meant: ‘(Full-bodied, incarnate) Authentic Christianity, Spiritual Independence (from the powers of this world) and Love for God’s People. As I have said above, this motto is the spiritual, moral, political, economic and social programme of Orthodoxy.

Q: A social programme? But surely the Revolution came about because there were so many poor people and so much exploitation of the poor by the super-rich aristocrats, and the Tsar was at the head of that aristocracy?

A: No, it was precisely the aristocracy that was opposed to the Tsar and the people. The Tsar gave away much of his personal wealth and taxed the rich to the hilt under his brilliant Prime Minister Stolypin, who did so much for land reform. Sadly, the Tsar’s programme of social justice was one of the reasons why many aristocrats hated the Tsar. The Tsar and the people were one. They were both betrayed by the Westernised elite. This is clear from the assassination of Rasputin, which was the preparation for the Revolution. In it the peasants rightly saw the betrayal of the people by the upper classes.

Q: What was the role of the Jews in this?

A: There is an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory that only Jews were – and are – responsible for everything bad in Russia (and everywhere else). This contradicts the words of Christ. First of all, the Jews who were involved in the Russian Revolution – and it is true that most of the Bolsheviks were Jews – were apostates, atheists, like Marx, and not real, practising Jews. However, those Jews who were

involved worked hand in hand with Non-Jewish atheists, like the American banker Morgan, or with Russians and many others and depended on them.

Thus, we know full well that Britain organised the Revolution of February 1917, applauded by France and financed by the USA, that Lenin was transported to Russia by the Kaiser and financed by him, and that the masses who fought in the Red Army were Russian. None of these were Jews. Some people, captives of racist myths, simply refuse to see the truth – that the Revolution was Satanic and that Satan can use any nationality, any of us, for his poisonous works, Jews, Russians and Non-Russians. Satan favours no nationality, but makes use of any who surrender their free will to him for his ‘New World Order’, in which he will be the Universal Ruler of the fallen world.

Q: There are Russophobes who say that there continuity between the Tsar’s Russia and Communist Soviet Union. Is that so?

A: There is certainly continuity of Western Russophobia! Read copies of The Times newspaper from 1862 and 2012 for example. You will see 150 years of xenophobia. Yes, it is true that many in the West were Russophobic long before the Soviet Union came into being. There are the narrow-minded among all peoples who are simply racist. Any nationality other than their own must be demonised, whatever their particular political system and however that system may change. We saw that in the recent Iraq War. We can see it now in the tabloid reports on Syria, Iran or North Korea, which try to demonise the peoples of those countries. We do not take those narrow minds seriously.

Now, let us turn to the question of continuity. Following the generation of obscenities after 1917, continuity did re-emerge. This was after Germany had again invaded Russia on the Feast of All the Saints who have shone forth in the Russian Lands in June 1941. Stalin realised that he could only win the war with the blessing of the Church, by recalling the victories of Orthodox Russians in the past, like those of St Alexander Nevsky and Dmitry Donskoy, that any victory would have to be the victory of his ‘brothers and sisters’, the people, not of his

‘comrades’ and his idiotic Communist ideology. Geography does not change, so there is continuity in Russian history.

It is just that the Soviet period was an aberration from that history, a falling away from national destiny, especially in its violent first generation. What is important is the way that the Soviet Union acted that was so perverse, not necessarily what it did, but how it did it. I was struck by the words of the Tsar’s sister, the Grand Duchess Olga, who in her 1960 biography stated: ‘I have always followed Soviet foreign policy with great interest. Hardly anything in it is different from the course adopted by my father and by Nicky’ (by Alexander III and Nicholas II). The difference is that Soviet policy worked through violence and lies, the Tsar’s policies worked through peace and sincerity.

Q: Can you give an example of this?

A: What would have happened if the Revolution had not taken place? We know (and Churchill expressed it very well in his book, ‘The World Crisis 1916-1918’) that Russia was on the verge of victory in 1917. This is why the revolutionaries took action then. They had a very narrow window in which to operate before the great spring offensive of 1917 began.

Had there been no Revolution, Russia would have defeated the Austro-Hungarians, whose multinational and mainly Slav army was on the point of mutiny and collapse anyway. Then Russia would have pushed back the Germans, or rather their Prussian warlords, to Berlin. In other words, the situation would quite possibly have been similar to that in 1945 – with one vital exception. That is that the Armies of the Tsar would have liberated Central and Eastern Europe in 1917-18, not invading it, as in 1944-45. And so they would have liberated Berlin as they liberated Paris in 1814, peacefully and respectfully, without the errors and drunkenness committed by the Red Army.

Q: What could have happened then?

A: The liberation of Berlin, and so of Germany, from Prussian militarism would surely have led to the demilitarisation and regionalisation of Germany, restoring something of pre-1871 Germany, the Germany of culture, music, poetry and

tradition. This would have been the end of the Second Reich of Bismarck, which itself was a revival of the First Reich of the militaristic heretic Charlemagne and which led directly in its turn to the Third Reich of Hitler.

If Russia had been victorious, there would have been a humiliation of the German / Prussian government, the Kaiser being sent perhaps into exile to some remote island as was Napoleon. But there would have been no humiliation of the German peoples, the result of the terrible Treaty of Versailles, which led directly to the horrors of Fascism and the Second World War. And that, by the way, has led directly to the Fourth Reich of today's European Union.

Q: Would France, Britain and the USA not have objected to victorious Russia's dealings with Berlin?

A: France and Britain, bogged down in their blood-soaked trenches or perhaps by then reached the French and Belgian borders with Germany, could not have objected to this, because the victory over the Kaiser's Germany would above all have been a Russian victory. As for the USA, it would never have entered the War, if Russia had not first been knocked out of it – partly by the US financing of revolutionaries, it must be said. And that in itself is why the Allies did their best to eliminate Russia from the War, because they did not want a Russian victory. All they wanted from Russia was cannon fodder to exhaust Germany, in order to prepare it for defeat by the Allies, so that they could finish Germany off and take it over.

Q: Would the Russian Armies have retreated from Berlin and Eastern Europe soon after 1918?

A: Yes, of course. Here is another difference with Stalin, for whom 'Sovereignty', the second element in the motto of the Orthodox Empire, had been deformed into Totalitarianism and that meant occupation, oppression and exploitation by terror. After the fall of the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires, there would have been freedom for Eastern Europe with population transfers in border areas and the establishment of new countries without minorities, like a newly-reunited Poland and Czechia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Carpatho-Russia, Romania, Hungary and

so on. This would have created a demilitarised zone throughout Eastern and Central Europe.

This would have been an Eastern Europe with rational and protected frontiers, so avoiding the errors of conglomerate States like the future, and now past, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. As regards Yugoslavia, in 1912 Tsar Nicholas had already set up a Balkan Union in order to avoid further Balkan Wars. True, this failed because of the intrigues of the German princeling Ferdinand in Bulgaria and nationalist intrigues in Serbia and Montenegro. We can imagine that after a First World War in which Russia had been victorious, such a Customs Union, established with fair borders, could have become permanent. Involving Greece and Romania, it could at last have established peace in the Balkans, its freedom guaranteed as a Russian Protectorate.

Q: What would have been the fate of the Ottoman Empire?

A: The Allies had already agreed in 1916 that Russia would be allowed to free Constantinople and control the Black Sea. This was only what Russia could have attained sixty years before, preventing Turkish massacres in Bulgaria and Asia Minor, had it not been for the Crimean Invasion of Russia by France and Great Britain. (We recall how Tsar Nicholas I was buried then with a silver cross depicting Aghia Sophia, the Church of the Wisdom of God, 'so that in heaven he would not forget to pray for his brothers in the East'). Christian Europe would at last have been freed of Ottoman oppression.

The Armenians and the Greeks of Asia Minor would also have been protected and the Kurds would have had their own State. But more than that, Orthodox Palestine and much of the future Syria and the Jordan would have come under Russian protection. There would have been none of the permanent war that we see in the Middle East today. Perhaps the situations of today's Iraq and Iran could have been avoided. The implications of this are huge. Can we imagine a Russian-controlled Jerusalem? Even Napoleon recognised that, 'he who controls Palestine, controls the whole world'. This is known today to Israel and the USA.

Q: What would the implications have been in Asia?

A: Peter I opened a window on Europe. It was the destiny of Nicholas II to open a window on Asia. Despite his generous Church-building in Western Europe and the Americas, he had only a limited interest in the Catholic/Protestant West and its extensions in the Americas and Australia, because it had and has only a limited interest in the Church. In the West, there was and is relatively little potential growth for Orthodox Christianity. Indeed, today, only a small proportion of the world population lives in the Western world, even though it covers a huge territory.

Tsar Nicholas' aim to serve Christ was therefore more concerned with Asia, especially with Buddhist Asia. He had former Buddhist citizens in the Russian Empire who had converted to Christ, and he knew that Buddhism, like Confucianism, is not a religion, but a philosophy. The Buddhists called him 'The White Tara' (King'). So he worked with Tibet, where he was called 'Chakravartin' (The King of Peace'), Mongolia, China, Manchuria, Korea and Japan, countries of potential. He was also concerned with Afghanistan, India and Siam (Thailand). The King of Siam, Rama V, visited Russia in 1897 and the Tsar prevented Siam from becoming a French colony. This was an influence that would have spread to Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia. In population terms these countries have nearly half of today's world.

In Africa, with a seventh of today's world population, the Tsar had diplomatic relations with Ethiopia and successfully protected it from Italian colonialism, also intervening on behalf of Morocco and also the Boers in South Africa. His detestation of what the British did to the Boers, killing them in concentration camps, is well known. We can think that he must have thought the same about French and Belgian colonialism in Africa. He was also respected by the Muslims, who called him 'Al-Padishah', 'The Great King'. In general, sacral, Eastern civilisations had far more respect for 'the White Tsar' than the bourgeois West.

It is significant that later the Soviet Union also opposed the cruelties of Western colonialism in Africa. Here there is also continuity. Today there are Russian Orthodox missions in Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, India and Pakistan, as well as churches in Africa. I think that the contemporary BRICS group, Brazil,

Russia, India, China and South Africa, is also very representative of what Russia could have achieved 90 years ago, as a member of a group of independent countries. Indeed, the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, Duleep (Dalip) Singh (+ 1893), had asked Tsar Alexander III to free India from British exploitation and oppression.

Q: So Asia could have been colonised by Russia?

A: No, definitely not colonised. Imperial Russia was anti-colonial, anti-imperialist. We only have to compare Russian expansion into Siberia, which was basically peaceful, with European expansion into the Americas, which was basically genocidal. The same people –native Americans are basically Siberians – were treated in totally different ways. Of course, there were in Siberia and in Russian America (Alaska) exploitative Russian merchants and drunkard fur trappers who behaved like cowboys towards the local population. This we know from the life of St Herman of Alaska and missionaries in eastern Russia and Siberia, like St Stephen of Perm and St Macarius of the Altai, but this was not the rule and there was no genocide.

Q: All of this is very well, but it is not very relevant to talk about what might have been. It is all hypothetical.

A: Yes, it is hypothetical, but hypotheses can give us a vision for the future. We could view the whole of the last 95 years of world history as a hiatus, a catastrophic aberration of tragic magnitude that has killed hundreds of millions. This is because the world became unbalanced after the fall of the bulwark of Christian Russia, whose fall was implemented by transnational capital in order to create a ‘unipolar world’. And that is simply code for the New World Order of a One World Government, that is, a Universal, anti-Christian Tyranny.

Only if we understand this, can we have a vision for the future. This vision is to suppose that after July 2018, we may still be able to resume where we left off in July 1918, and gather the fragments and oases of Orthodox civilisation worldwide together, before the end. However terrible the present situation is, there is always the hope that is born of repentance. Repentance means going back, and that is what

we have been talking about, resuming from where the world left off on that terrible, world-changing night in Ekaterinburg in July 1918.

Q: What would the fruit of such repentance be?

A: A new Orthodox Empire, centred in Russia, with Ekaterinburg, the centre of repentance, as its spiritual capital, and so the chance to rebalance this whole tragic, unbalanced world.

Q: You could be accused of being far too optimistic?

A: Yes, this is very optimistic. But look at what has happened over the last generation, since the celebration of the millennium of the Baptism of Rus in 1988. The situation of the world has been transformed, or rather transfigured, by repentance among enough of the people of the old Soviet Union for the whole world to change. The last 25 years have seen a revolution, the only true revolution, a spiritual revolution, the return to the Church. Suppose the next generation continues in that revolutionary repentance? Given the historic miracle that we have already seen, which seemed like a ridiculous dream for us who were born during the nuclear fears of the Cold War and can remember the spiritually grim 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s, why should we not envisage at least some of the possibilities outlined above?

In 1914 the world entered a tunnel. During the Cold War we lived in that tunnel and we could see neither light behind us, nor in front of us. Today we are still in the tunnel, but we can now actually see a glimmer of light on the road ahead. Surely this is the light at the end of the tunnel? Let us recall the words of the Gospel: 'With God all things are possible'. Yes, humanly, all the above is highly optimistic and there is no guarantee of anything. However, the alternative to the above is not just pessimistic, it is apocalyptic. That time is short is our chief anxiety. We hurry in a battle against time. And that must be a warning and a call to us all.



**Exercises:**

1. True / False: Guess if a-e below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	Tsar Nicholas was profoundly and systematically Orthodox in his spiritual, moral, political, economic and social outlook.	T / F
b.	The Crimean War was not a colonial, imperialist Russian war to expand into the Ottoman Empire and exploit it, like those conducted by Western Powers to expand into China and Indonesia and exploit them.	T / F
c.	The Allies had already agreed in 1916 that Russia would be allowed to free Constantinople and control the Black Sea.	T / F
d.	If Russia had been victorious, there would have been a humiliation of the French government, the Kaiser being sent perhaps into exile to some remote island as was Napoleon.	T / F
e.	The last 25 years have seen a revolution, the only true revolution, a spiritual revolution, the return to the Church.	T / F

2. Synonym match: Match the following synonyms from the article.

to protect	a manipulation
an intrigue	to comprehend
spiritual	to guard from harm
a minority	religious
to understand	an outnumbered group

3. Academic writing: Do you agree with all the answers? What questions would *you* ask?
4. Translate the article.

САРАТОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНИ Н. Г. ЧЕРНЫШЕВСКОГО