DBQ: Origins of the Russian Revolution
Using the following documents, write an answer to the question:

**What were significant political, economic and ideological principles that contributed to the Russian Revolution?**

**Document #1**
Russian Social Democracy is living through a period of wavering, a period of doubts which approach self-denial. On the one hand, the labor movement separates itself from socialism. On the other, socialism separates itself from the labor movement...The labor movement, separated from Social Democracy...inevitably becomes bourgeois...Social Democrats must aspire not to assist labor, but to inculcate socialist ideas and political self-consciousness into the mass of the proletariat and to organize a revolutionary party, indissolubly bound with the spontaneous labor movement. No single class in history has ever attained mastery unless it has provided political leaders, its leading representatives, capable of organizing the movement and leading it...It is necessary to prepare men who devote to the revolution not only their free evenings, but their whole lives.
**"Urgent Questions of Our Movement," Vladimir Lenin November-December, 1900**

**Document #2**
The Russian proletariat learned its first steps in the political circumstances created by a despotic state. Strikes forbidden by law, underground circles, illegal proclamations, street demonstrations, encounters with the police and with troops – such was the school created by the combination of a swiftly developing capitalism with an absolutism slowly surrendering its positions. The concentration of the workers in colossal enterprises, the intense character of governmental persecution, and finally the impulsiveness of a young and fresh proletariat, brought it about that the political strike, so rare in western Europe, became in Russia the fundamental method of struggle. The figures of strikes from the beginning of the present century are a most impressive index of the political history of Russia.
**Vladimir Lenin, 1916 Library of Congress**

**Document #3**
Private property should be abolished. All land...should be handed over to the toiling people. Only those who cultivate the land can claim a right to it...I believe that land means freedom. It is wrong to pay the landowners for the land; Will we be any better off if we wait for the Constituent Assembly to resolve the land question? In the past, the government decided the land question was for us, but their efforts only led us into bondage...The land question should be resolved now, and we should not put our trust blindly in the political parties.
**A delegate at the Samara peasant provincial government March, 1917**
Number in thousands of participants in political strikes

### Year
- **1903**: 87*
- **1904**: 25*
- **1905**: 1,843
- **1906**: 651
- **1907**: 540
- **1908**: 93
- **1909**: 8
- **1910**: 4
- **1911**: 8
- **1912**: 550
- **1913**: 502
- **1914**: 1,059
- **1915**: 156
- **1916**: 310
- **1917 (January-February)**: 575

**Document #5**
Between us and them it is an impassable gulf. No matter how well they get on with individual officers, in their eyes we are all barons. When we talk about the narod, we mean the nation; when they talk about it, they understand it as meaning only the democratic lower classes. In their eyes, what has occurred is not a political but a social revolution, which in their opinion they have won and we have lost...We can find no common language: that is the accursed heritage of the old regime.

**An officer of the Imperial Russian Army Spring, 1917**

**Document #6**
The passage below shows attitudes and social unrest and discrimination experienced in Russia towards the Jews, which resulted in pogroms (massacres of the Jewish people). Do you know, brethren, workmen and peasants, who is the chief author of all our misfortunes? Do you know that the Jews of the whole world...have entered into an alliance and decided to destroy Russia completely? Whenever those betrayers of Christ come near you, tear them to pieces, kill them.

**A pamphlet printed out at a police station in St. Petersburg 1905-1906**

**Document #7**
**THE RIGHT TO ISSUE LAWS**
1. From now on until the convocation of the Constituent Assembly the preparation and drafting of laws shall be carried out by the Provisional Government of Workers and Peasants elected by the All-Russian Congress of Soviets of Workers’, Soldiers’, and Peasants’ Deputies in the order set forth in the present regulations.
2. Each law project is to be submitted to the government by the respective Commissariat concerned, over the signature of the corresponding People’s Commissar; or it may be submitted by the Bureau of Legislative Projects attached to the government over the signature of the chief of the department.
3. After it has passed the government, the decree in its final wording is to be signed in the name of the Russian Republic by the President of the Soviet of the People’s Commissars or, acting in his stead, by the People’s Commissar who submitted the said decree for the consideration of the government; it will then be published for general information.

4. The day of its publication in the official Gazette of the Provisional Workers’ and Peasants’ Government will be the day on which a decree is recognized as having come into force as a law.

5. Other conditions by which it may come into force may be especially mentioned, or it may become effective by telegraph, in which case it will be considered as having come into force whenever and wherever such telegrams are published.

6. The publication of government decrees by the State Senate is suspended. The Bureau of Legislative Projects attached to the Soviet of People’s Commissars is to publish periodically digests of those decrees and ordinances of the government, which have become laws.

7. The Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Workers’, Soldiers’, and Peasants’ Deputies has a right to defer, modify, or annul any decisions of the government.

**Decree of the Sovnarkom, V. Lenin November 12, 1917**

Document #8
On this day I was born a second time, but now not as an all-forgiving and all-forgetting child, but as an embittered man, prepared to struggle and to triumph.

A St. Petersburg worker after Bloody Sunday January, 1905

Document #9
Is this incompetence or is it treason? Does it matter practically speaking whether we are dealing with incompetence or with treason?...The government persists in claiming that organizing the country means organizing a revolution and deliberately prefers chaos and disorganization.

Pavel Miliukov, an Anti-Communist, accusing government November 1916

Document #10
The Russian people turned out to be psychologically inadequately prepared for war. The great majority of them, the peasants, scarcely had any definite idea of why they were being called up for the front. The aims of the war were unclear to them.

General Danilov, discussing effects of WWI.

Document #11
...A local ‘land committee’, regarding Begichevo (his estate) as already its own property, prevented me from selling anything, even from the harvest or newborn livestock, and yet demanded that agricultural activity should continue at its usual high level. Wages were rising but labor productivity was falling disastrously. The land committees insisted that expenses on the estate should be covered not from the revenues but from elsewhere: ‘Withdraw money from your bank!’ Of course, with the best will in the world, it was impossible to run an estate in these conditions.

Prince Sergei Trubetskoi, about his estate in Moscow1917