

17.57J/21H.467 Spring 2003 First Paper Assignment

For the first paper, write from 5-7 pages on one of the following topics:

1. In his memorandum for Tsar Nicholas II (Sept. 11 readings), Peter Durnovo offers a portrait of tsarist society and predicts social upheaval as the result of the difficulties of war with Germany. To what extent was Durnovo's prediction a "lucky guess," and to what extent was it based on a correct understanding of the forces at play? In your answer, draw on your knowledge of the revolutions of 1917.
2. To what extent were Lenin's Marxism, and the theories he advanced in *What is to be Done?*, relevant to his concrete actions EITHER in 1917 OR in the Civil War period? Answer for one period, drawing on both documents written by Lenin himself and other relevant materials.