

SECTION A

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Study Source 1 in the Sources Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1 (a) Why is Source 1 valuable to the historian for an enquiry into the reasons for Lenin's dismissal of the Constituent Assembly in January 1918?

Explain your answer using the source, the information given about it and your own knowledge of the historical context.

(10)

In January 1918 Lenin dissolved the Constituent Assembly after only one meeting. The source provided is an extract from the 'Draft Decree on the Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly' written by Lenin himself. As we are looking to assess the value of this source its origin and purpose should not be neglected as well as the message that it tries to pass.

The fact that Lenin himself wrote this Decree raises the value of this source in terms of the reasons that the Bolsheviks gave to the people as to why they dismissed a democratic function of the state. Lenin's Decree thus is the official views that the Bolshevik Party held as to why the Constituent Assembly was dissolved. The purpose of this source is to highlight how the Constituent Assembly was a representation of the 'old world' and how the tried to make the highly exploitative of the system move of dissolving it appear to be at the worker's best interests. In that sense this Decree however valuable, as it represents the official views of the Bolshevik Party, is more propaganda than a valuable insight to the real reasons behind



Lenin's actions.

The source itself provides us with well-thought out reasoning for why Lenin claimed he did what he did. The source, -and thus Lenin himself, implies that the 'old bourgeois parliamentary system was absolutely incompatible with the aim of achieving socialism'. This gives evidence of the supposed popular support behind the Revolution and bases its reasoning on the argument that the October Revolution was to the best interest of the 'working and exploited classes' and ~~as such~~ that anything that existed before it was a symbol of oppression of said classes. Through this he tried to vilify the Constituent Assembly as being nothing more than an instrument of the bourgeoisie. He further ~~claims~~ indicates that to 'surrender the supreme authority of the Soviets to the Constituent assembly' would be a 'step backwards'. This builds on the previous claim about the evils of the bourgeoisie that are supposedly entrenched in the Assembly itself and thus tries to convince the readers of this source / Decree that the dissolution of the Assembly was a ~~stri~~ sign of strength by the Bolshevik Party, - that they were both capable and willing to hamper any obstacle that got into the way of the Revolution and what it stood for. This is further supported by the fact that he portrays the Right-Socialist-Revolutionaries as something that bedevilled the country as they refused to recognize the October revolution. He builds this argument on to

