

CHAPTER
30

Section 1

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Analyzing Causes*

Historians analyze causes to understand why events in the past happened. Historical events such as strikes and revolutions often have multiple causes. As you read the excerpts below, try to identify the reasons for the local protest that exploded into the March Revolution of 1917. Then fill in the chart. (See *Skillbuilder Handbook*, p. 995.)

Passage A

The fact is that the . . . revolution was begun from below, overcoming the resistance of its own revolutionary organizations, the initiative being taken of their own accord by the most oppressed and down-trodden . . . women textile workers. . . The overgrown bread lines had provided the last stimulus. About 90,000 workers, men and women, were on strike that day. . . Throughout the entire [next] day, crowds of people poured from one part of the city to another. . . Along with shouts of "Down with the police!" was heard oftener and oftener a "Hurrah" addressed to the Cossacks. . . The soldiers show indifference, at times hostility to the police. It spreads excitedly through the crowd that when the police opened fire by the Alexander III monument, the Cossacks let go a volley at the horse [police].

Leon Trotsky, *History of the Russian Revolution*

Passage B

The rising cost of living and the food crisis could not but serve as revolutionary factors among the masses. . . Gradually the minor issues of food, the price of bread, and the lack of goods turned into political discussions concerning the entire system of the social order. In this atmosphere political movements grew feverishly and matured quickly. . .

Peter I. Lyashchenko, *History of the National Economy of Russia to the 1917 Revolution*

Passage C

Those nameless, austere statesmen of the factory and streets did not fall out of the sky: they had to be educated. . . To the question, Who led the . . . revolution? we can then answer definitely enough: Conscious and tempered workers educated for the most part by the party of Lenin. . .

Leon Trotsky, *History of the Russian Revolution*

What were three causes of the March Revolution?	
Economic	
Political/Social	
Other	