

## **WEA Billericay**

### **Autumn Course 2016**

#### **Russia in Revolution 1900 - 1930**

##### **Tutor - Ted Woodgate**



The room was packed each week for this fantastic course by Ted Woodgate. Despite being by far the youngest in the class, I was made to feel welcome by everyone. In fact, I was very impressed with the atmosphere as a whole. Unlike in formal education, even sometimes at university levels, having a class of entirely voluntary learners makes for a thoughtful and engaged audience. Ted was happy to field questions and allow people to expand on points they were familiar with.

Ted provided a selection of materials from films and documentaries which really helped us understand how people might have felt at the time. The series of maps we were handed out illustrated issues that arose from the sheer scale of the country, and he encouraged us to discuss between ourselves how we might have tackled Russia's problems.

All in all, a clear picture was painted of the events leading up to and following the Russian revolution. Ted helped us understand the flaws in the Tsarist system which preceded the revolution and led to its overthrow. I spoke to other attendees who expressed how interesting they found the course, whether they were new to the subject or familiar with it.

Thank you Ted, and as the Russians say, za zdarovye!

Daniel Fisher