

AIM: Societies at the Crossroads – The Russian Empire Under Pressure

Task: Use your textbook, pages 887-890, to answer the following questions. You may answer the questions directly on this sheet.

1. **What was the status of the peasants in Russia at this time? Why was it a necessary part of Russian life?**
2. **In the 19th century, Russia was an “expanding empire” – where was it expanding to? Why was this a threat to the balance of power?**
3. **What did the Crimean War reveal about Russia’s military status? What other weaknesses were revealed?**
4. **Why were many people in favor of emancipating the serfs by the 1800’s? Why was serfdom a problem for Russia?**
5. **Did emancipation improve the lives of the serfs? Why or Why not?**
6. **How was it hoped that the freed serfs would be tied to emerging industrialization?**

