This thesis explores how Japan’s military triumphs during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-’05 influenced British opinions regarding the ability of the Japanese military as well as the decision to strengthen the military dimensions of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in the spring and summer of 1905. Utilizing reports and assessment from British Army and Royal Navy observers to the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy it is shown how these men, and by extension their superiors in London and New Delhi, were given a new appreciation for the potential role played by Japanese soldiers and sailors should a subsequent conflict have erupted between the Russian Empire and the Anglo-Japanese coalition in the years leading up to the outbreak of the First World War.
The Russo-Japanese war was the second opportunity. In Russia, public opinion changed during the war from 'hat throwing' in the very beginning (not throwing hats up in the air in celebration but, along the lines of a Russian saying, throwing hats at a weak enemy force as a sufficient means of defeating it) to bitterness and staunch opposition after the first defeats of the Russian army and Navy. Prior to the opening of the hostilities, the British media were quietly entrusted to say things that the British government could not afford to say, being as it was caught in between its obligations to a treaty with Japan which made Britain Japan's ally, and the signing of the Entente Cordiale with France, with a perspective of Russia's participation in the near future. The Russo-Japanese War—fought between the Russian Empire and the Empire of Japan from 1904 until 1905—was undoubtedly among the most significant wars in world history. Not only did it define the future of imperialism adopted by the Russian Empire, but it also shaped the future of world politics. Some scholars even refer to the Russo-Japanese War as 'World W...