

The February Revolution

1917

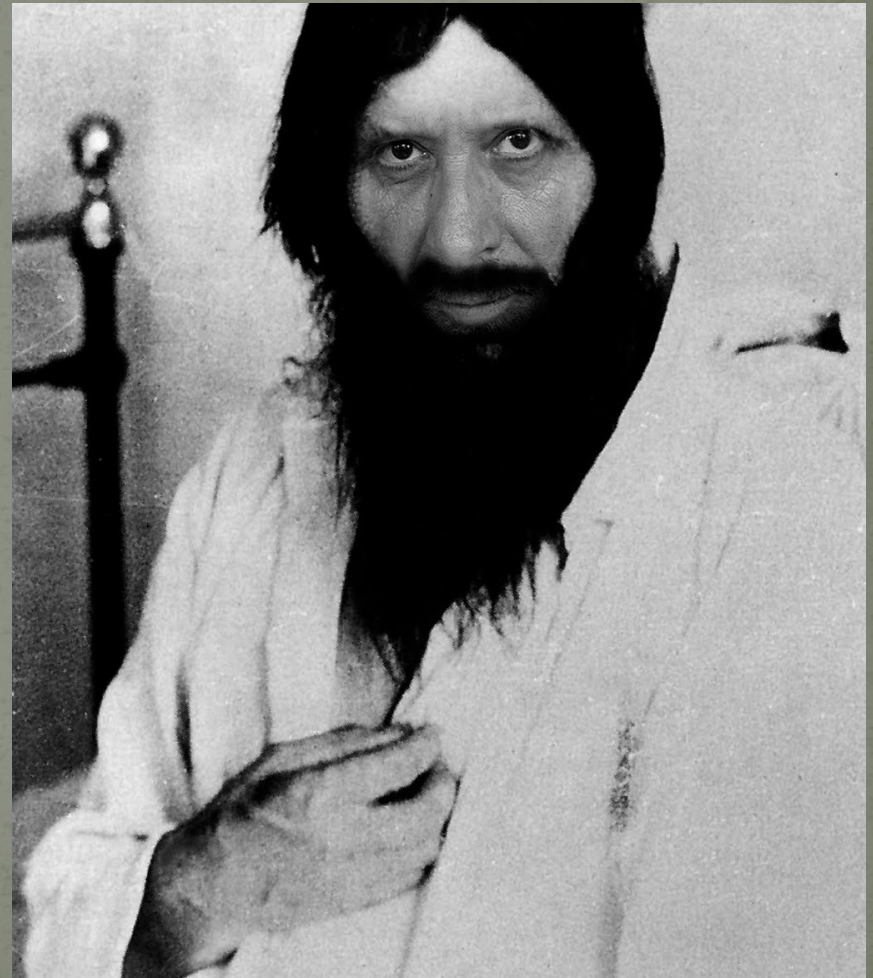
The fall of the Tsar

Why was there a revolution in Russia in February 1917?

What was the role of Rasputin in the Feb 1917 Revolution?

What was the impact of World War I on Tsarist Russia?

- Who was Rasputin?
 - What role did he play in the Feb 1917 Revolution?
 - Listen to the song by Boney M ' Rasputin'.
- What does the song
tells you about
Rasputin?



Source Analysis



- What is the message of the cartoon?
- Why did Rasputin have so much influence at the Russian court?

A Russian cartoon, published in 1916, showing Rasputin with the Tsar and Tsarina in each hand

Watch the video ` Secrets of
the Romanov' Parts 2 & 3

Your task

Imagine it is 1916, you are one of the Tsar's chief ministers. You are getting increasingly concerned about the situation in Russia. Write a **top secret memo** to Nicholas II outlining the threats and problems he faces at home and what immediate action he should take to remedy the situation.

OR

Mind- map the role of Rasputin & the impact of World War I on Tsarist Russia.

The Impact of War World I on Tsarist Russia



Impact of World War I

1. Why did Russia go to war in 1914?
2. What was the impact of WWI on Russia?
 - economic
 - political
 - social
3. In what ways was the Russian war effort in 1914 – 17 hindered by the autocratic nature of its government?
4. How convincing is the argument that the sufferings imposed by the First World War were entirely responsible for the discontent felt by the Russian people in the years leading up to 1917?

Russia and the First World War

- On 1 Aug 1914, Russia went to war with Austria-Hungary and Germany.
- France and Great Britain joined on the Russian side.
- Just ten years after the disaster against Japan this was a great risk, but Russia was traditionally the defender of the Serbs.
- Austria-Hungary had declared war on Serbia and if Russia stood by and did nothing she would lose all influence in South-east Europe
- At first the war was very popular. It was assumed that the Russian 'steamroller' would crush the enemy.
- The reality turned out to be very different

Step 1 – the effects of war

- Russian defeats at Tannenberg & Masurian Lakes
- 1 million+ casualties or POWs by end of 1914
- Terrible conditions



Step 2 – effects of war at home



- Food & fuel shortages
- Inflation
- Unemployment
- Soldiers returning from frontline
- Ban on sale of vodka!

Bread queue, Moscow,
1917

The Impact of World War 1

Military Defeats

- Russian army was big but poorly equipped
- Lost two major battles in 1914
- Caused loss of civilian and military morale
- Tsar now held responsible for the defeats as he had taken charge of the army

Impact of World War I

Economic Problems

Over 15 million men joined the army

- not enough workers in factories and farms
- caused shortages of food and materials

Railway system very poor

- could not supply the troops
- could not supply the towns
- food prices rose

Impact of World War I

Social Discontent

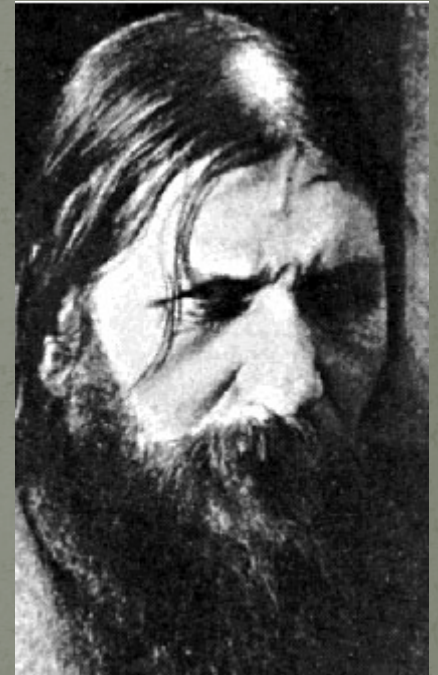
- Food shortages and price rises caused widespread discontent
- The war had seen the population move from the countryside to the cities
- The cities soon became overcrowded and people lived in terrible conditions

Step 3 – Tsar Nicholas goes to the front, September 1915

- Tsar was seen as personally responsible
- Tsarina (German) running country with Rasputin



Tsarina



Rasputin

Criticism of the Tsar

Poor military commander

Poor political leader

Left the Tsarina in charge of the government

Refused to accept advice from the Duma

Impact of World War I

Role of Rasputin

Claimed to be a healer. Disliked by many yet held influence over both the Tsar and Tsarina

Criticism of the Tsarina

Inexperienced and incompetent ruler

Under the influence of Rasputin

Unpopular because she was German

Step 4 – loss of support

- Middle classes wanted greater say in govt.
- Upper classes resented Tsarina & Rasputin
- Harsh winter of 1916



Middle-class
Muscovites

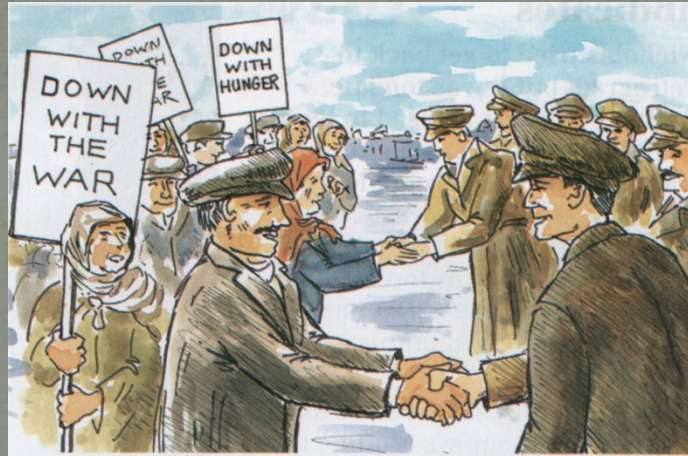
Step 5 – revolution begins



- 7 March, 40,000 workers from Putliov engineering works in Petrograd go on strike
- 8 March, International Women's Day
- Tsar orders use of force

*A demonstration on
International Women's
Day, 8 March 1917*

Step 6 – army takes sides



- 12 March, army refuses to obey orders
- Some regiments shot officers
- Joined demonstrators and marched on Duma

Step 7 – Tsar abdicates

- Railway workers refused entrance to Petrograd to Tsar
 - Tsar abdicates
 - Exiled to Siberia
-



Events of the Revolution

- Feb 22 20,000 steelworkers on strike
- Feb 23 Women take to the streets to demonstrate
- Feb 25 Now over half of Petrograd is on strike
- Feb 26 Tsar orders troops to fire on crowds - 40 killed

Events of the Revolution

- Feb 26 Tsar closes the Duma
- Feb 27 Soldiers mutiny and establish the Petrograd Soviet with workers and sailors
- Feb 28 Tsar returns to Petrograd
- March 1 Tsar loses support of army
- March 2 Tsar abdicates
- March 3 Grand Duke Michael refuses throne

Results of the February Revolution

The Provisional Government

1. A 12 member government led by Kerensky
2. Planned to rule until elections could be held

Dual Government

The Petrograd Soviet

A council of 2,500 deputies.

Determined to share power with the Provisional Government

Your task

- Rank them in order of importance
 - Group them in terms of long- and short-term causes and trigger events.
 - Group them in terms in terms of political, economic and social causes.
-

Question

- What was the impact of World War I on Russia?
- What was the effect upon the Tsarist regime?
- In what ways was the Russian war effort in 1914 – 17 hindered by the autocratic nature of its government?

Question

- What was the effect on the Russian people?
 - What hardships did the Russian people suffer as a result of the First World War?
- “Sufferings imposed by the First World War were entirely responsible for the discontent felt by the people in the years leading up to 1917”. How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.

Question

- What triggered the Feb/Mar revolution of 1917?
- Why did the Tsar's government collapse in Feb/Mar 1917?
- Was it a revolution?
- What arguments are there for and against the claim that by 1914 revolution in Russia was effectively inevitable?