

BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION

World War I



- Leader of the Russian Empire, Czar Nicholas II (Romanov) allied with France and Britain at the start of the war.
- Joining the war temporarily strengthened the monarchy in Russia. However, the strength slowly drifted away.

Russia during WWI

- ◎ Russia was ill-equipped to fight the war and suffered great losses.
 - Between 1914 and 1916- 6 million casualties.
- ◎ Russia's economy was **suffering**
 - High inflation and hunger ravaged the country.

Russia during WWI

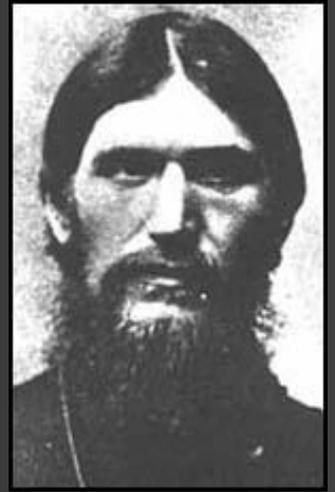
- Because Russia was doing so poorly in the war, Czar Nicholas II decided to take matters into his own hands.
- In 1915, Nicholas moved to the front line of war to take direct control of his army.

Czarina Alexandria

- The wife to Nicholas II was left in charge of Russia while he was away.
- Due to Russia's poor economy- Many Russian people became discontent with the Czar and his wife.



Grigori Rasputin



- Peasant who claimed powers of healing.
- While Czarina Alexandria was in charge of Russia Grigori Rasputin became a close confidante.
- Alexandria was very fond of Rasputin and she believed that he was the only one who could help to cure her son's hemophilia.

Grigori Rasputin



- His close relationship to the Czarina led Rasputin into a position of high political power.
- Rasputin eventually began dictating policy among the Russian empire.

Grigori Rasputin

- Those in close relation to the Czar wanted to replace power back to Nicholas II.
- December 1916, Rasputin was ordered to be assassinated.
 - 1st attempt: Poison
 - 2nd attempt: Shot (3)



Mystery of Assassination

- ◎ The autopsy of Rasputin's body revealed the following:
 - There was water in his lungs and that he died of drowning
 - Rasputin had alcohol in his system but strangely no poison
 - He had three bullet wounds (first bullet entered the chest on the left, hitting Rasputin's stomach and liver; the second bullet entered the back on the right, hitting the kidneys; the third bullet entered the head, hitting the brain)

Collapse of the Romanov Dynasty

- Although Rasputin was dead, Czar Nicholas II had lost support.
- Widespread demonstration against the Czar and his family erupted throughout Russia in 1916-1917.

Vladimir Lenin



- Felt that only complete state control of the economy could rescue the country from disaster.
- 1917: Promised “Peace, Land and Bread” in an effort to gain support to overthrow the government.
 - This idea was very appealing to the people of Russia
- Lenin also promised that he would pull Russian troops out of the war.

Rise of the Bolsheviks

- In October 1917, The Bolsheviks along with V.I. Lenin overthrew the government.
- Lenin contended that he was guiding the Russian working class and all humanity toward a higher social order.

- ◎ In 1918, Lenin changed the name of his party from Bolshevik to Communist.
- ◎ Shortly after his take over civil war broke out in Russia.
 - Communist Reds
 - Vs.
 - Anti-Bolshevik Whites
- ◎ Lenin and the Reds won establishing the Soviet Union in 1922.