

# The Russian Revolution

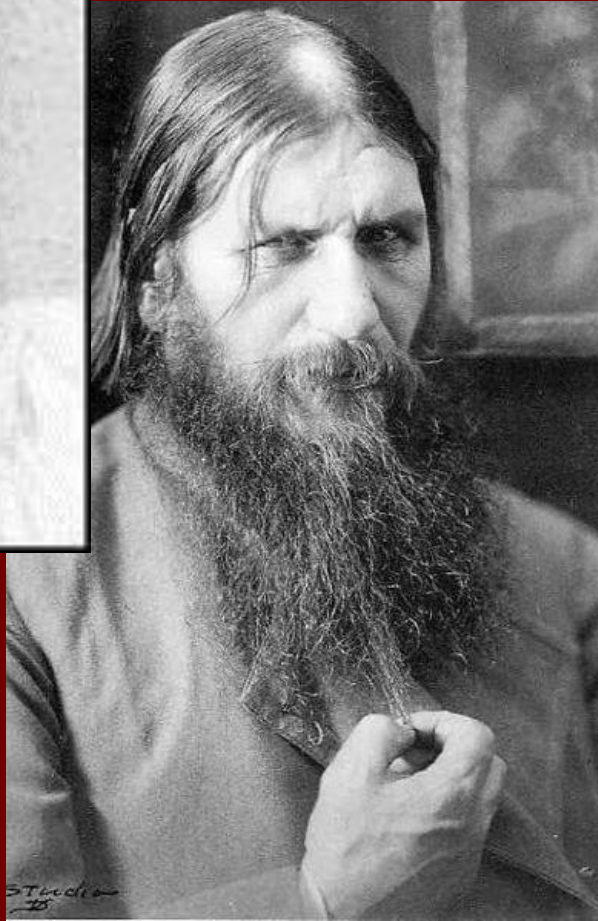


# Pre-Revolutionary Russia



- Only true autocracy left in Europe
- **Nicholas II** became tsar in 1884
- Believed he was the absolute ruler anointed by God
- Russo-Japanese War (1904) – defeat led to pol. instability

# Alexandra: The Power Behind the Throne



- Even more blindly committed to autocracy than her husband
- She was under the influence of Rasputin
- Origins of Rasputin's power - ?
- Scandals surrounding Rasputin served to discredit the monarchy

# Alexis: Alexandra's Son with Hemophilia



# World War I: "The Last Straw"

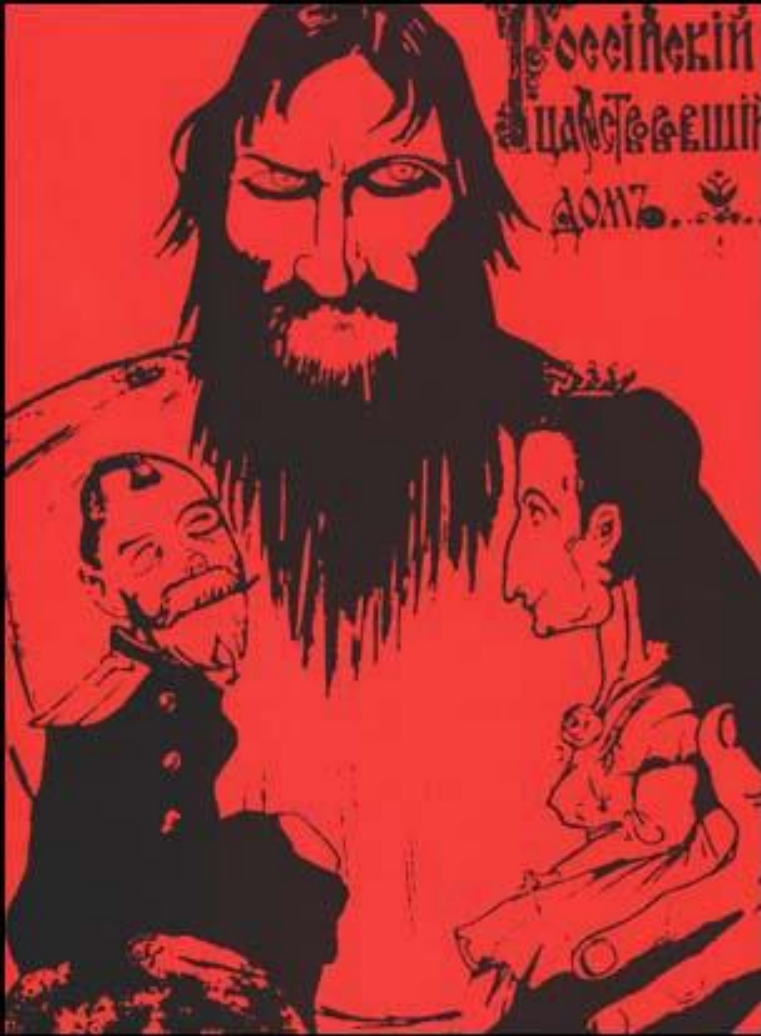


*Abführung russischer Kriegsgefangener. An der Spitze ein 15jähriger russischer Kriegsfreiwilliger*

# World War I – The Last Straw!



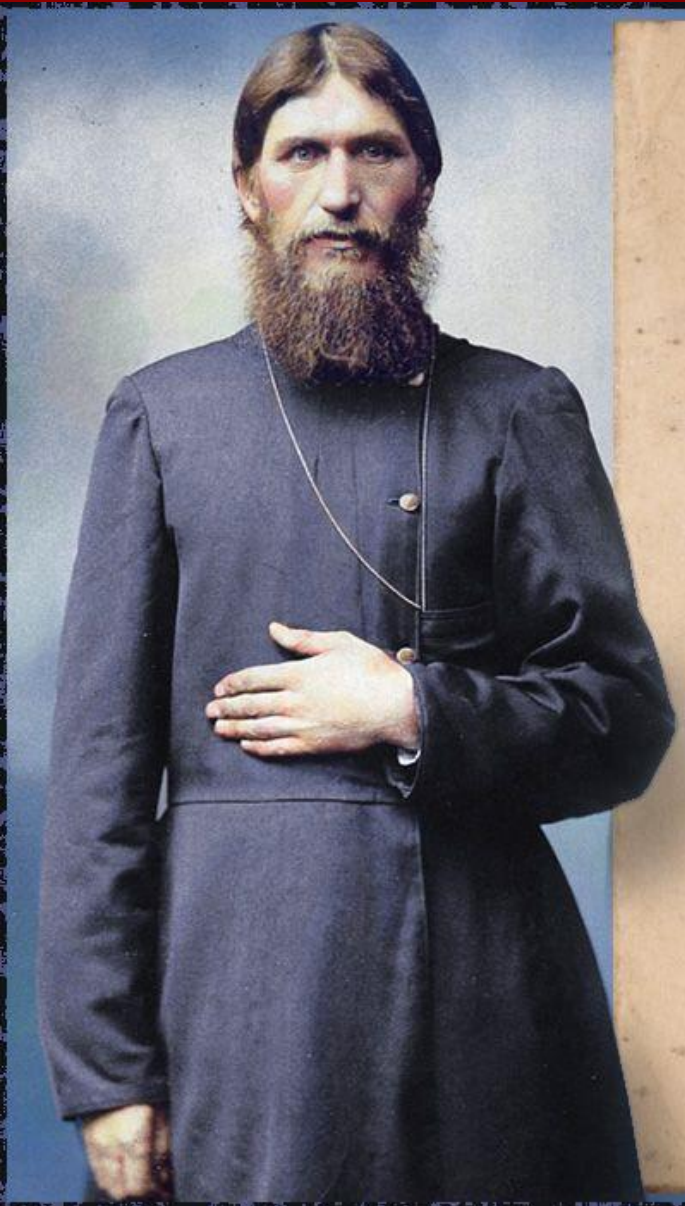
# The Collapse of the Tsarist Government – WW I



**Rasputin**



**Tsarina Alexandra**







# The Collapse of the Tsarist Government



**March 1917 –  
Tsar Nicholas II &  
the royal family  
abdicated. They  
were sent to  
Siberia, where  
they lived under  
house arrest.**

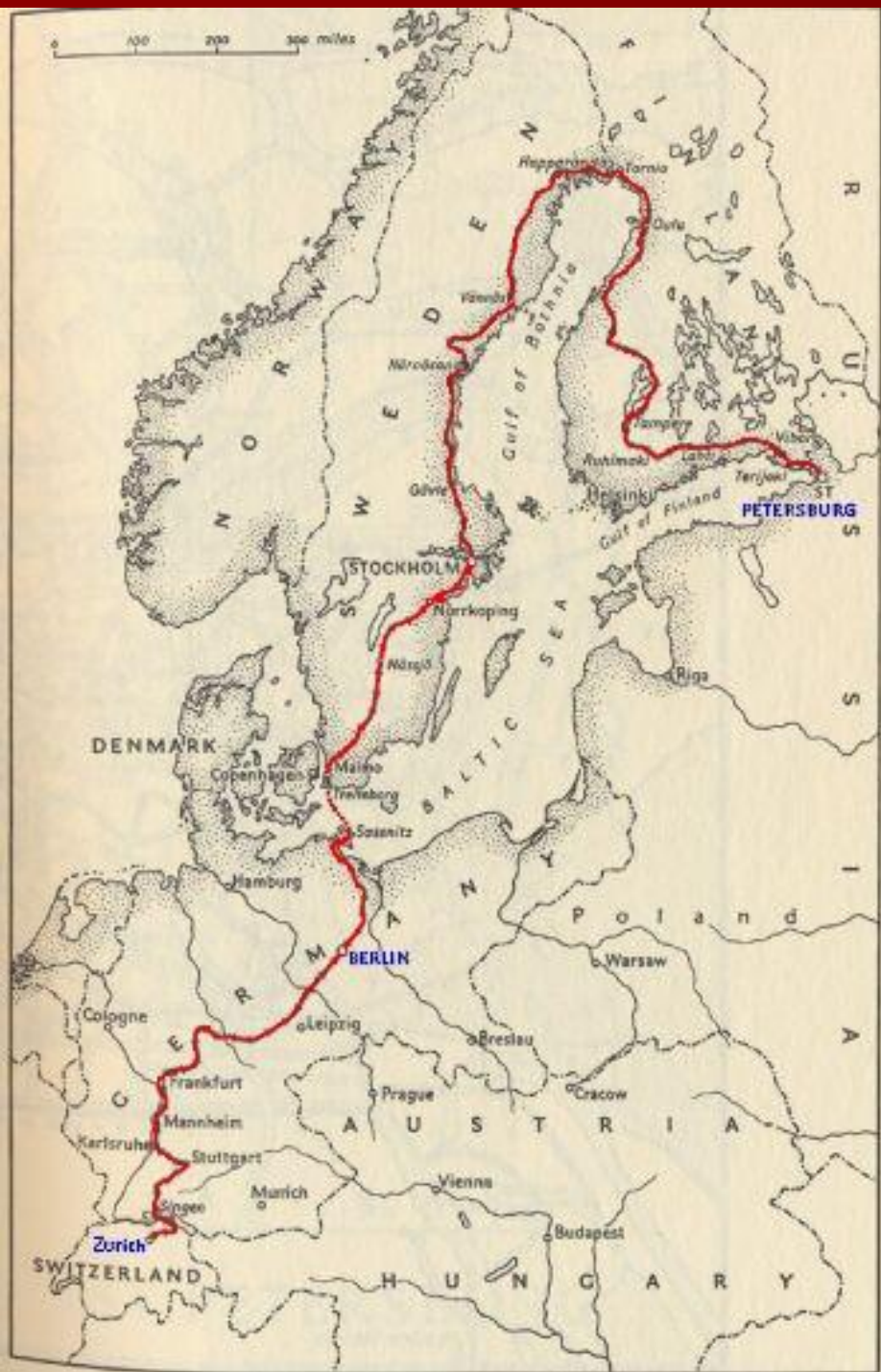
**Summer 1918 –  
the royal family  
was murdered!  
(shot to death)**



# The **Two** Revolutions of 1917



- **The March Revolution (March 12)**
- **Germans send Lenin home in a sealed train**
- **The November Revolution (November 6)**



**After the March Revolution (1917) in Russia, the Germans arranged to put V.I. Lenin on a sealed train and return him to Petrograd (St. Petersburg). They knew he would start the Communist Revolution and that would take Russia out of World War I.**

**{left} Lenin's train route back to Petrograd.**

# The Petrograd Soviet



# Founder of Bolshevism: Vladimir Lenin



- **His Early Years**
  - Exiled to Siberia in 1897
- **Committed to Class Struggle and Revolution**
- **Moved to London in 1902 and befriended Leon Trotsky**
- ***What is to be Done?***
  - vanguard is required to lead the rev. (thus rev. from above) → this split the SDWP in 2

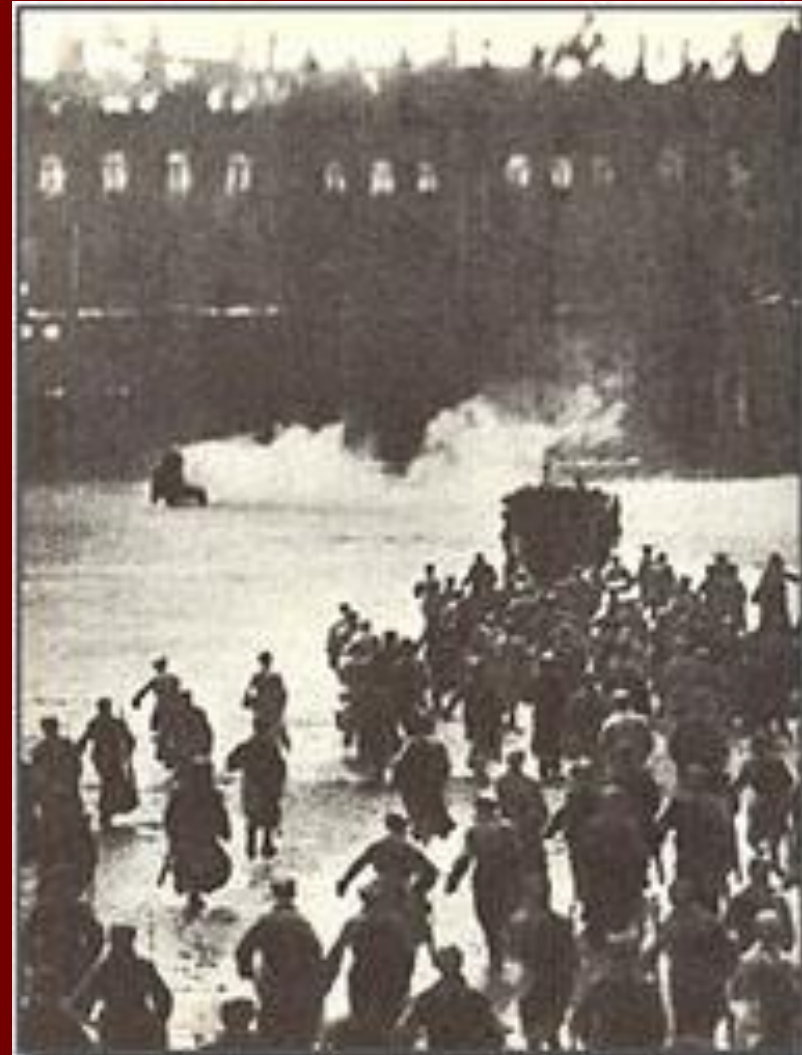
# Lenin Steps into This Vacuum





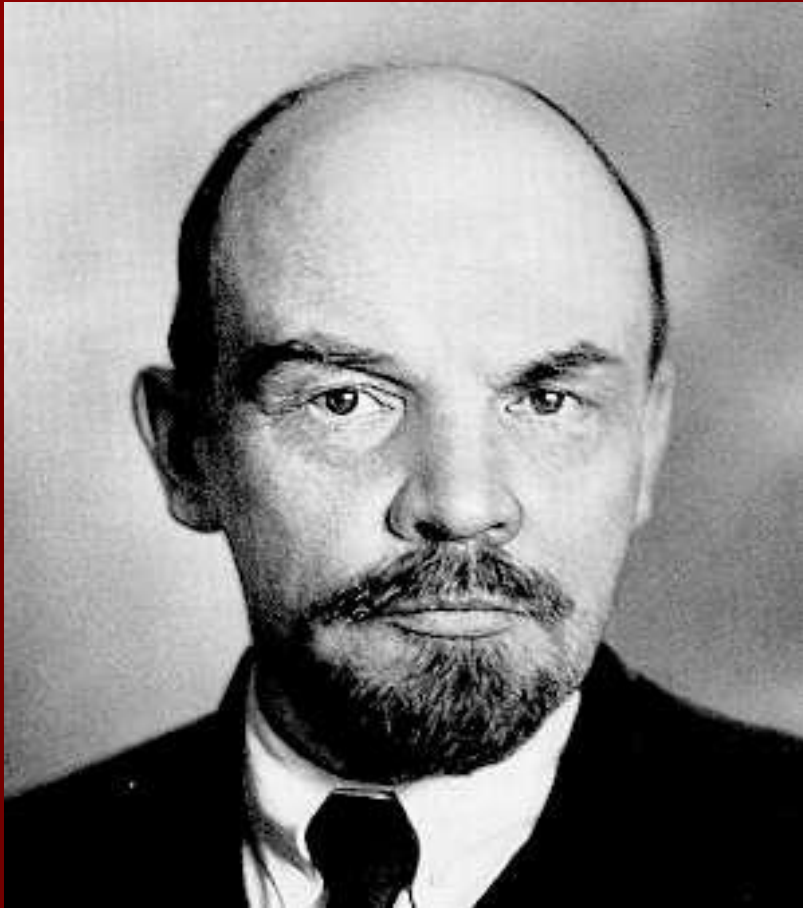
- Lenin formed the *Military-Revolutionary Council* and in May 1917 he urged the Pet. Soviet to pass **Army Order # 1**

– This gave control of the army to the common soldiers; discipline thus collapsed, and Kerensky was undermined



Petrograd, October 1917

# The November Revolution of 1917



**Lenin**



**Trotsky**



**The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, March 1918**

**All Russian land from the border with Germany and Austria-Hungary to the black lines on the map indicates the 25% of Russian land that was given to Germany in the 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.**





# Interpreting the Russian Revolution

