

Armenian Genocide & Russian Revolution

Mrs. Wiedenheft's Modern World History Class

Day 1

Please check Google Classroom and complete the Russian Revolution assignment. You should be able to get all of the information that you need to answer questions from the notes linked to this assignment without watching the video, however, feel free to watch the video. Just know that the video is all text that will need to be read. This will provide a good review of the notes that we took in class prior to Spring Break.

Day 2

Please check Google Classroom and complete the Russian Revolution - Romanov Family assignment. We discussed the Russian Revolution in class, but did not really discuss what happened to the Romanov family after Czar Nicholas abdicated the throne. This assignment will give you some insight into their lives after the Revolution takes place.

Day 3-4

If you are able to watch *Anastasia*, please do it. We would have watched this in class and had a class discussion afterwards comparing and contrasting the historical facts to Disney's embellishments of the story. No need to rent the movie, but if you own it or can watch it through Netflix or Disney Plus, I recommend it as an interesting follow up to the Russian Revolution assignment. Even though the film isn't 100% historically accurate, there were many rumors suggesting that Anastasia did survive the family execution and lots of imposters that claimed to be her, as depicted in Disney's cartoon *Anastasia*.

Day 5

Please check Google Classroom and take the Armenian Genocide & Russian Revolution Quiz. This is open note, however, that will not always be the case in the future. You may use any notes or classwork that you have to help answer the questions. **YOU MAY NOT GOOGLE ANSWERS OR COPY AND PASTE ANSWERS - THAT WILL RESULT IN A ZERO.**

Russian Revolution

Directions:

1. Read, watch and take notes on the Russian Revolution.

Read the notes and watch the video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymDUDGPw-p8>) on the 1917 Russian Revolution to answer the following questions.

Part I. Comprehension Questions:

1. Who ruled Russia at the beginning of 1917?
2. List 3 reasons why the Russian Revolution happened.
3. Explain what happened during the Revolution itself. (Explain specific tactics used by the revolutionaries.)
4. Use the internet to look up the definition of abdicate. Write your definition here:
5. Explain what happened as a result of the 1917 Russian Revolution. (Explain at least 2 outcomes)

Part II: Depth of Knowledge Chart

- Use your notes to complete the following chart.

<p>LIST 3 problems Russian society was facing during WWI.</p>	<p>DESCRIBE the political and economic reasons leading to the Russian revolution.</p>
<p>ANALYZE Russia's decision to drop out of WWI.</p>	<p>EVALUATE (the short term) outcome of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia..</p>

Revolution in Russia Russia in WWI

- As a result of World War I in Europe in the early 1900's
 - Russia suffered.
 - Russian Industries were not developed enough to meet the need for war supplies.
 - Transportation system could not supply the armies on the front lines
 - Poorly equipped troops suffered huge losses as a result.
 - Czar Nicholas II forced about 11 million peasants to fight even though they suffered high injury and death rates
 - Growing discontent with the war, food shortages, and mass demonstrations started 2 Revolutionary movements.

Two Revolutions in Russia

1) March 1917 -

- Crowds protested the war and shortage of food
 - Government sends troops to restore order but the troops refuse to fire upon the Crowd and some even joined the protesters
 - Czar Nicholas II – abdicated– gave up the throne amid protests.
- A provisional government was established and introduced reforms.
 - Pushed for freedom of speech and religion while calling for a constitution to be written.
 - New government was powerless and revolutionaries all over Russia were setting up their own organization to challenge the provisional government – Soviets – councils made up of workers, soldiers, and peasants – were formed all over Russia Russian Soldiers Protesting

THINK ABOUT IT: What does this mean for the Allied Powers in WWI?

Answer If Russia drops out of WWI, Germany can now send all of their forces to fight against Britain and France on the Western Front.

2) The Bolshevik Revolution -

- October / November 1917

- Bolshevik party called for a socialist revolution – (known as both the Bolshevik Revolution and Russian Revolution)

- Vladimir Lenin moved to increase their power – Lenin won support with the slogan – “Land! Peace! Bread!”

- Armed Bolsheviks captured government buildings and arrested members of the provisional government

- Lenin promised to seek an immediate peace with Germany – 1918

- Russia and Germany signed a treaty that marked the end of Russia’s involvement in World War I Lenin Addresses the Crowd The Reign of the Bolsheviks

- Vladimir Lenin – read the works of Karl Marx and adapted his ideas to fit the conditions in Russia

- Once in power – Lenin created a Bolshevik dictatorship

- Lenin destroyed all other political parties in Russia – Lenin shut down all opposition newspaper

- Set up the Cheka – a secret police – to end all resistance to their rule.

- The Bolsheviks began to call themselves Communists and faced much opposition

- 1918 – 1921 – Civil War raged in Russia – The Communists were better prepared and organized than opposition groups

- Leon Trotsky – Set up and trained a Communist army – Known as the Red Army

- Communists and the Red Army – seized grain from peasants and took control of all factories, mines, banks, and businesses

- Communists win the Civil War and reorganize the country into a union of Four (4) republics.

- Rename the country the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

– The Soviet Union Russian Civil War New Economic Policies

■ When the civil war ended – USSR was on the verge of economic collapse (disease, famine, destruction)

■ To ease the crisis – Lenin – announced his New Economic Policy (NEP)

– Government stopped seizing grain from peasants and allowed them to sell their surplus crops on the open market. Government controlled heavy industry but allowed some private businesses to operate.

What effect did the news of the czar's death have on the Russian people?

4. Refer to the first article. Many claimed that Anastasia may have survived the execution of her family. Watch the video clip and describe your emotions if you were the lost Anastasia finally finding your family, and how you would feel as her grandmother finding a long-lost relative. (If you are unable to view the video clip, you may complete the answer based on how you think you might feel.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJz9gB1mT_4

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Romanov Family

HISTORY.COM EDITORS

The Romanov family was the last imperial dynasty to rule Russia. They first came to power in 1613, and over the next three centuries, 18 Romanovs took the Russian throne, including Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Alexander I and Nicholas II. During the Russian Revolution of 1917, Bolshevik revolutionaries toppled the monarchy, ending the Romanov dynasty. Czar Nicholas II and his entire family—including his young children—were later executed by Bolshevik troops.

Peter the Great

The Romanovs were high-ranking aristocrats in Russia during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1613, Mikhail Romanov became the first Romanov czar of Russia, following a fifteen-year period of political upheaval after the fall of Russia's medieval Rurik Dynasty. He took the name Michael I.

Michael I's grandson Peter I, also known as [Peter the Great](#), transformed Russia from a landlocked state into one of Europe's largest empires. Through wars against the [Ottoman Empire](#) and the Empire of Sweden, Russia expanded its territory and became the dominant power in both the Baltic and

Black Sea regions.

Peter I declared himself emperor of the newly formed Russian Empire in 1721, a position he held until his death in 1725.

Catherine the Great

During the reign of Romanov leader Catherine II, also known as [Catherine the Great](#), the Russian Empire grew larger and stronger. The period of Catherine's rule—1762 to 1796—is often called the Golden Age of the Russian Empire.

Catherine II was a sophisticated patron of the arts, and during her reign, Russia adopted Western European philosophies and culture.

In later years, a campaign by Russian Emperor Alexander I represented a turning point in the Napoleonic Wars. The French invaded Russia in 1812 at the height of [Napoleon Bonaparte](#)'s power. Alexander I's army defeated the French troops, dealing a major blow to Napoleon's reputation and weakening his leadership over much of Europe.

Czar Nicholas II

Czar [Nicholas II](#) was the last Romanov emperor, ruling from 1894 until his forced abdication in March of 1917. The duration of his rule was plagued by

periods of political and social unrest.

When he succeeded his father—Czar Alexander II—Nicholas II had little experience in government. He was widely seen as a politically weak and indecisive leader.

His poor handling of the [Russo-Japanese War](#) of 1904-1905, subsequent 1905 uprising of Russian Workers—known as [Bloody Sunday](#)—and Russia's involvement in [World War I](#) hastened the fall of the Russian Empire.

Czar Nicholas II married Princess Alix of Hesse, a duchy in the German Empire in 1894, shortly after his coronation. Alix, who would later take the name Alexandra Feodorovna, was a granddaughter of [Queen Victoria](#) of the United Kingdom. Nicholas and Alexandra had four daughters—Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia—and one son, Alexei.

Rasputin and the Romanovs

Alexandra—with a brusque demeanor and distaste for Russian culture—was unpopular with the Russian people. Her German ancestry and her devotion to Russian mystic [Grigori Rasputin](#) contributed to her unpopularity. She believed the self-proclaimed holy man could cure her son Alexei's chronic illness.

Alexei, the only son and heir to the throne, suffered from severe hemophilia, and was often confined to bed. Hemophilia is an inherited disease in which

the blood doesn't clot normally, causing excessive bleeding after any injury. (Many relatives of Queen Victoria inherited the disease, which was sometimes referred to as "the royal disease.")

Rasputin's powerful influence on the ruling family infuriated nobles, church leaders and peasants alike. Many saw him as a religious charlatan. Russian nobles, eager to end the cleric's influence, had [Rasputin murdered](#) on December 16, 1916.

Czar Nicholas II left Saint Petersburg in 1915 to take command of the failing Russian Army front in World War I. By 1917, most Russians had lost all faith in the leadership ability of the czar.

Government corruption was rampant and the Russian economy was severely damaged by World War I. Moderates joined with radical Bolshevik revolutionaries in calling for an overthrow of the czar.

Nicholas II abdicated the throne on March 15, 1917, putting an end to more than 300 years of Romanov rule.

Romanov Execution

Czar Nicholas II, Czarina Alexandra, their five children, and four attendants were [executed](#) in Yekaterinburg, a city on the Eastern side of the Ural

Mountains, in the late night or early morning hours of July 16-17, 1918.

During the [Russian Revolution](#) in November 1917, radical socialist Bolsheviks, led by [Vladimir Lenin](#), seized power in Russia from a provisional government, establishing the world's first communist state.

The imperial family was sent to live under house arrest in Siberia. In April and May 1918, members of the Romanov family were relocated to Ipatiev House—a merchant's house in Yekaterinburg.

After the revolution, civil war between the Bolshevik "Red" army and the anti-Bolshevik "White" Russian forces broke out in June. By July, the White army was advancing on Yekaterinburg.

Local authorities were ordered to prevent a rescue of the Romanovs, and after a secret meeting of the Yekaterinburg Soviet, the imperial family was sentenced to death.

On the night of July 16, 1918, the family was ordered to dress and go down to the cellar of the Ipatiev House where they were lined up as if posing for a family photograph. There they were shot by firing squad and bayoneted to death by Bolshevik troops.

The remains of the family were discovered in a mass grave in the Ural Mountains in 1991. Subsequent DNA testing confirmed the identities of the

Nicholas, Alexandra and three of their daughters.

The remains of Alexei and one of his sisters remained a mystery until 2007 when a second grave was discovered near the larger mass grave. The grave contained the remains of two partially burned skeletons, which subsequent [DNA testing showed to belong to Alexei, and one of his sisters, likely Anastasia or Maria.](#)

Anastasia Romanov

In the wake of the Czar Nicholas' execution, rumors swirled that his youngest daughter, [Anastasia Romanov](#), may have escaped her family's grim fate. The legend persisted for nearly a century, inspiring numerous books and films. Over the years, dozens of women came forward, claiming to be the Romanov princess.

The best-known Anastasia imposter was [Anna Anderson](#), a young woman pulled out of a canal in Berlin, Germany in 1920 after an attempted suicide. Anderson was sent to an asylum where she told fellow patients she was the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

Her claims received public attention, though most members of the extended Romanov family believed her to be an imposter. A private investigation funded by Czarina Alexandra's brother in 1927 found that Anna Anderson was actually a Polish factory worker named Franziska Schanzkowska with a

history of mental illness.

SOURCES

Mystery Solved: The Identification of The Two Missing Romanov Children Using DNA Analysis, [PLoS One](#).

Will the real Anastasia Romanov please stand up?, [Town&Country](#).

Great dynasties of the world: The Romanovs, [The Guardian](#).

Citation Information



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Why Czar Nicholas II and the Romanovs Were Murdered

The imperial family fell out of favor with the Russian public long before their execution by Bolsheviks in July 1918.

ERIN BLAKEMORE



Czar Nicholas II of Russia.

Laski Diffusion/Getty Images

When Nicholas Romanov was crowned czar of Russia in 1894, he seemed bewildered. “What is going to happen to me...to all Russia?” he asked an

advisor when he assumed the throne. "I am not prepared to be Czar. I never even wanted to become one."

Twenty-four years later, he seemed just as bewildered as a group of armed thugs, members of the Bolshevik secret police, moved in to assassinate him. Though he had been deposed months earlier, his crown and his name stolen from him and his family imprisoned, he did not expect to be murdered.

But unlike Czar Nicholas, historians have pieced together the exact reasons why the Romanov family was brutally assassinated and the context that led to their downfall.



Czar Nicholas II and empress Alexandra in coronation robes, 1894.

Universal History Archive/ UIG/Getty Images

Russians turn against Nicholas II after a series of unpopular decisions

The roots of the Romanov family's murder can be found in the earliest days of Nicholas' reign. The eldest son of Emperor Alexander III, Nicholas was his father's designated heir. But Alexander did not adequately prepare his son to rule a Russia that was wracked with political turmoil. A strict autocrat, Alexander believed that a czar had to rule with an iron fist. He forbade anyone within the Russian Empire to speak non-Russian languages (even those in places like Poland), cracked down on the freedom of the press, and weakened his people's political institutions.

As a result, Nicholas inherited a restless Russia. A few days after his coronation in 1894, nearly 1,400 of his subjects died during a huge stampede. They had gathered on a large field in Moscow to receive coronation gifts and souvenirs, but the day ended in tragedy. It was a disturbing beginning to Nicholas' reign, and his bungled response earned him the nickname "Nicholas the Bloody."

Throughout his reign, Nicholas faced growing discontent from his subjects. He fought a war the people weren't behind. His government massacred nearly 100 unarmed protesters during a peaceful assembly in 1905. And he

struggled to maintain a civil relationship with the Duma, the representative branch of the Russian government.

World War I catastrophes and Rasputin's reputation erode Nicholas' public support

Nicholas' son, the crown prince, Alexei, was born with hemophilia. But the family kept his disease, which would cause him to bleed to death from a slight cut, a secret. The Empress Alexandra, his wife, became increasingly under the thrall of Grigori Rasputin, a mystic whom she believed had saved Alexei's life. Rasputin's growing influence within the family caused suspicion among the public, who resented his power.

Then, in 1914, Russia was drawn into World War I, but was unprepared for the scale and magnitude of the fighting. Nicholas' subjects were horrified by the number of casualties the country sustained. Russia had the largest number of deaths in the war—over 1.8 million military deaths, and about 1.5 million civilian deaths.

The war eroded whatever semblance of control Nicholas still had over the country. Without men at home to farm, the food system collapsed, the transportation system fell apart, and the people began to riot. At first, Nicholas refused to abdicate, but in March 1917, he stepped down.



The half-basement room of the Ipatiev house where the imperial family was kept by the Bolsheviks.

Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images

During the October Revolution, Bolsheviks imprison the imperial family in remote house

In November 1917, Bolshevik revolutionaries led by [Vladimir Lenin](#) took over the government. Nicholas tried to convince the British and then the French to give him asylum—after all, his wife was the [granddaughter of Queen Victoria](#).

But both countries refused, and the Romanovs found themselves in the hands of the newly formed revolutionary government.

The Romanovs new life was dramatically different from the regal, opulent life they had lived in the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. Both Nicholas and the Empress Alexandra were in denial and refused to give up hope that they'd be saved. Instead, they were shuffled from house to house. Finally, they were imprisoned in a home that the Bolsheviks called "the house of special purpose."

The family that had once lived in a regal home now camped out in the Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg, a house with no bed linens, lots of dust, and not enough plates or silverware. Soldiers hassled them, drawing lewd images on the walls of the bathroom and covering them with obscene poems about Alexandra.



The front page of French newspaper Le Petit Journal Illustré in, 1926, depicting the massacre of Czar Nicolas II of Russia and his family by the Bolsheviks in the half-basement room of the Ipatiev house.

Leemage/UIG/Getty Images

After months of plotting, the Romanov family is assassinated

by their Bolshevik captors

Finally, late at night on July 17, 1918, the Romanov family was awoken and told to get ready for another move. Still hoping to escape, the women packed up their things and put on clothing into which they had sewn precious jewelry, religious icons and a large amount of money. Then, unexpectedly, their captors turned on them, attacking them first with bullets, then with the butts of guns, bayonets and even their own heels and fists. All seven of the Romanovs—and the last gasp of the Russian monarchy—were dead.

What may have looked like an impromptu murder was in fact a carefully planned act of violence. For days, the Romanovs' Bolshevik captors had been preparing the house for the murder, including stocking up on benzene with which to burn the corpses and sulfuric acid with which to maim them beyond recognition.

Yakov Yurovsky, who had coordinated and led the killings, was personally recognized by Lenin, the head of the Bolsheviks, for the murders. But while the country was informed of the Czar's assassination, the public was left in the dark about the rest of the family's gruesome fate—and the location of their bodies—until the fall of the Soviet Union.

Lenin, Yurovsky, and the revolutionaries all saw Nicholas and the monarchy he stood for as a cancer that made it impossible for the working class to rise. But ironically, the assassinations they orchestrated to murder the monarchy for good had consequences for their cause. News that Nicholas had been

assassinated almost completely overshadowed the political victories Lenin and his fellow revolutionaries had achieved, and pushed the Russian Revolution off the front page of newspapers. And, ironically, the deaths of Nicholas, Alexandra and their five children made many Russians yearn for the monarchy.

Even today, there is a contingent of Russian society that wants to restore the monarchy, including an oligarch who funds a school designed to prepare rich Russians for a future monarchy. Nicholas may not have known how to rule Russia, but the monarchy he felt so ambivalent about has maintained some of its pull even 100 years after his murder.

BY ERIN BLAKEMORE

8. Which leaders signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and what were the terms of the treaty?

9. What happened as a result of the Russian Revolution of 1917? (Hint: Who came to power, what effects did this have on WWI, and what happened to the Romanov family?)