

# Year 11 Modern History Work

Weeks 9-11 Term One

Miss Nott

\* Resources located

at back

of booklet

#### Week 9:

Syllabus reference:

• the role of World War I in the collapse of the Romanov dynasty 🕬

#### Activity 1:

#### Brainstorm and note down:

- What are the political implications of war. That is, what sort of impact does a war have on the people in power? Can you think of any examples of this from recent world events? (last 10years).
- Discuss why was the outbreak of WW1 so positive for the autocracy?

#### Watch and take notes:

Watch the rest of the video, *The Russian Revolution: From the Last Tsar to Lenin* (22.00): <a href="https://www.clickview.com.au/curriculum-libraries/video-details/?id=3715990&cat=3708544&library=secondary">https://www.clickview.com.au/curriculum-libraries/video-details/?id=3715990&cat=3708544&library=secondary</a> From the video take notes on how the war impacted the following:

- soldiers
- the working class
- peasants
- the economy.

### Textbook Excerpt:

Read pages 145-146 of textbook Key Features of Modern History. Complete activities 9.3 on page 46.

### Focus: Rasputin:

Read through PowerPoint: Rasputin - Sex Maniac or Holy Man.

Complete sources activities embedded on PowerPoint.

Complete additional research on this topic to complete a profile of Rasputin.

Helpful resources:

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXdbseRz0lc

https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/01/31/510802220/fact-or-fiction-even-when-it-comesto-food-its-hard-to-tell-with-rasputin

Long response: To what extent did Rasputin contribute to the downfall of the Romanov Dynasty?

### Summary activity:

Use the Powerpoint: *Impact of WW1 on Russia and Nicholas's Rule* to summarise the impact of WWI on Russia and Nicholas's rule.

### Week 10:

### Syllabus Reference

- the role of World War I in the collapse of the Romanov dynasty
- the transfer of power from the Romanov regime to the Provisional Government

#### Source activity:

- Students choose a selection of sources (both from the internet and ones we have already looked at in class) on Tsar Nicholas which reflect conflicting views of Nicholas. Using the sources, explain the reasons why there are different perspectives on Nicholas II's rule as Tsar.
- Watch the video, the *Russian Revolution Part 1* (9.57): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0c5Tyw7LDE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0c5Tyw7LDE</a>. This will show the complexity of what happened at the end and shows the events of the revolution that happen after the Romanovs fall.
- Conclusions about Nicholas: Students write 10-15 lines about Nicholas as a person and as a leader and why you suspect he was somewhat responsible for downfall of the Romanov Dynasty. Students should include at least 3 quotes from the source material they have viewed to back up their conclusions.

### The transfer of power from the Romanov regime to the Provisional Government

#### Read and take notes and watch:

Read and make notes on the Powerpoint The transfer of power from the Romonov regime. Also, view the following clip as a summary of this Epic History: The Russian
 Revolution (13.41): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV9G1QUIm7w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV9G1QUIm7w</a>

### Written responses:

- Discuss how the Provisional Government, led by Prince Lvov, picked up the reins of authority after the tsar's abdication; it was really the old duma in a new form.
- Discuss the Provisional Government's unofficial partnership with the Petrograd soviet in the Dual Authority and the difficulty this presented.

#### Timeline:

• Using Visme or another online platform, research and create a timeline of the events of 1917 in Russia.

### Written response:

Research and discuss how Russia witnessed two revolutions in 1917. The February Revolution was essentially
the collapse of tsardom from within, whereas the October Revolution was a seizure of power by Lenin's
Bolshevik Party from the Provisional Government, which had replaced the tsar.

### View and summarise:

- Russia and Soviet Union: The Provisional Government and the Soviet Part 1 (15.01): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FVx">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FVx</a> IM6v M
- Russia and Soviet Union: The Provisional Government and the Soviet Part
   2 (14.39): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuVfAn7dz8U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuVfAn7dz8U</a>
- Russia and Soviet Union: The Provisional Government and the Soviet Part 3 (12.43): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGwakK312il">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGwakK312il</a>

### Week 11:

Syllabus reference:

• the execution of the Romanovs; the role of ethnic minorities in the Russian Empire under Nicholas II \*\* II III

### The execution of the Romanovs

#### Read, watch and summarise:

- Students read about events leading to the murder of the royal family in Key Features of Modern History Pages 149-50.
- Tsar's Family Death | National Geographic (2.37): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoVSNWGUoHw&feature=youtu.be
- Summarise this in your books.

Complete the Romanov family Webquest – attached.

Once you have finished everything, you should return to your syllabus document provided at the start of the topic, and complete your summaries.

All content is assessable so it's important that you stay on top of this.

Feel free to contact me on Alyssa.nott1@det.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions or concerns.

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# 9.3 The fall of the Romanov dynasty

RUSSIA'S SOUTH-WEST FRONT LINE, 1916



SOURCE 21 This map shows Russia's south-west frontline in 1916, including the location of the offensives led by Brusilov in 1916 and 1917.



SOURCE 22 Russian boy soldiers are guarded by German troops after their capture at the Battle of Tannenberg, 1914.

War was declared between Germany and Russia in August 1914, and at first it seemed that the First World War would save the Romanov throne, not destroy it. Political differences were put aside as Russians joined to fight the common enemy in defence of the homeland. Volunteers hastened to join the army, and the tsar blessed the troops as they left for the front. Even urban discontent which had been expressed in an increasing number of political and economic strikes in the first half of the year - vanished. No strikes of any kind were recorded in the month of August 1914.

### The role of the First World War in the collapse of the Romanov dynasty

At first, Russia's campaign on the southwest front seemed a story of unstoppable success. The Austrians were pushed back in Galicia, and the Germans were defeated at Gumbinnen. Then came the German response. At Tannenberg in August 1914, the Germans inflicted a heavy defeat on the Russians. Masses of prisoners, stores and guns were taken, and the Russian commander, Vladimir Samsonov, shot himself. In September, another heavy defeat at the Masurian Lakes confirmed the end of the advance against the Germans and the beginning of a three-year attempt to hold back the German advance into Russia's western provinces. There were some campaign successes against the Austro-Hungarian Army, spearheaded by Russian General Aleksei Brusilov, but the optimistic mood that had greeted the war changed to one of increasing disillusionment.

Russia had been inadequately prepared for a modern war. Vladimir Sukhomlinov, the war minister, had severely underestimated the needs of the army. Factories could not produce enough ammunition, and army commanders were forced to plan manoeuvres using maps as much as 18 years out of date. Soldiers were fighting barefoot because of a shortage of boots, and only one in three had a rifle. Artillery commanders were rationed to three to five shells per gun per day. The wounded were often left unattended on station platforms for days, and were then transported in freight cars - lying on the bare boards and often without adequate clothes or food. By the end of the 1915 summer campaign, Russia had suffered 3.5 million casualties.

### The impact of the war

The economy soon began to feel the strains of war. The normal trade routes through the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea were virtually cut off. Exports fell by 86.7 per cent in the first full year of the war, while budget expenditure rose from 3.5 billion roubles in 1914 to 15.3 billion roubles in 1916. The government tried to fill the gap by borrowing from the Allies and by printing more money. The result was inflation, which saw the price of flour double and the price of meat triple between 1914 and 1916. Speculators flourished, and a third of the grain stocks were held by banks, in anticipation of price increases.

The war hit rural areas particularly hard. Most of the 15 million men mobilised during the war were from the countryside. The loss of fathers and sons and even horses to the war effort meant fewer people and animals to work the soil. Though the 1916 harvest was good, the army took most of the supplies, and the peasants were reluctant to sell grain for devalued money that bought little. There was, in fact, little to buy. With manufacturing focused on the war effort, the production of agricultural implements dropped to 15 per cent of the pre-war level.

In the cities, the situation was no better. Food was hard to come by, as the overloaded rail network had trouble transporting grain from the farming areas to the cities. Wages remained low and as prices rose, discontent showed itself in strike activity. There were 268 strikes in January and February 1917, resulting in 403 295 lost working days.

As long as the state's main priority was feeding and equipping millions of conscripts, there could be no improvement in the overall economic picture. Increasingly, thoughts turned towards ending the war. A soldier named Pireiko wrote:

### SOURCE 23

Everyone, to the last man, was interested in nothing but peace ... who should win and what kind of peace it would be, that was of small interest to the army. It wanted peace at any cost, for it was weary of war.

In Leon Trotsky, The History of the Russian Revolution, 1932, p. 16

If the war showed up Russia's economic weaknesses, it also confirmed the view that the corruption and ignorance of key individuals were leading the country to ruin. The principal objects of gossip and rumour were Tsarina Alexandra and her friendship with a man named

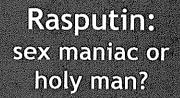
### 9.3 Check your learning

- 1 Use a mind map to summarise the impact of the war on Russia's economy and its people.
- 2 Write a letter from the perspective of a peasant soldier after serving three years in the army.

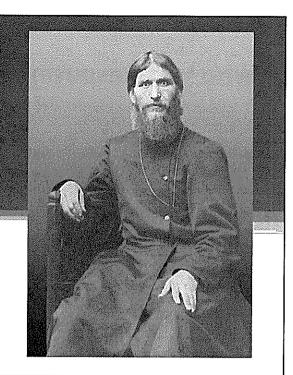
Allies the coalition of countries in opposition to the Central Powers in the First World War; they included Britain, the Commonwealth, France and Russia, which were joined by the United States

conscript a person who is compulsorily enlisted in the armed forces

in 1917

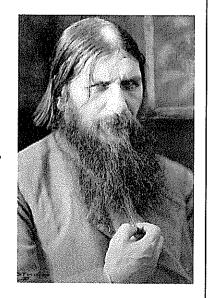


Different historical perspectives on Rasputin and his contribution to the downfall of the Romanovs — Source study



### Who was Rasputin?

- Grigory Efimovitch aka Rasputin (name means 'disreputable one')
- Starets (holy man) from Siberia
- Rumoured member of Kylysty sect (religious fulfilment through the senses)
- Men and women flogged themselves and engaged in sexual acts





The Romanov Children

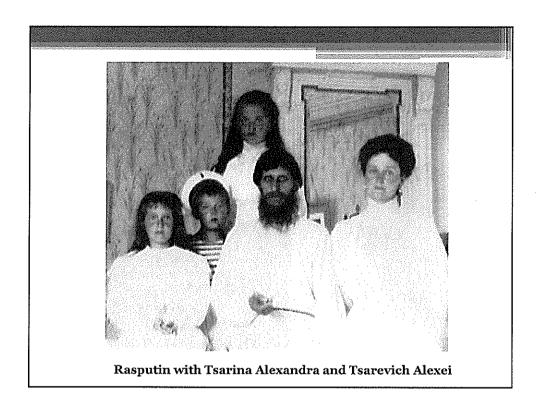
## Ra Ra Rasputin, Russia's Greatest Love Machine...

Prince Yussupov descibes his first meeting with Rasputin

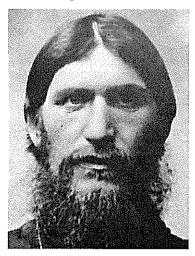
"As he talked I studied his features closely. There was something really extraordinary about his peasant face. He was not in the least like a holy man; on the contrary he looked like a lascivious, malicious satyr.

I was particularly struck by the revolting expression in his eyes, which were very small, set close together, and so deep-sunk in their sockets that at a distance they were invisible. But even at close quarters it was sometimes difficult to know whether they were open or shut, and the impression one had was that of being pierced with needles rather than of merely being looked at.

His glance was both piercing and sullen; his sweet and insipid smile was almost as revolting as the expression of his eyes. There was something base in his unctuous countenance; something wicked, crafty and sensual. Mlle G. and her mother never took their eyes off him, and seemed to drink in every word he spoke."



### Rasputin?

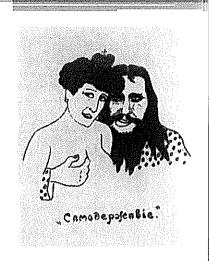


- The Tsar and Tsarina's reputation suffered from their association with Rasputin, the most talked of man in St Petersburg.
- The relationship not only shocked the highest levels of government and society, but soured relations with Stolypin, the Tsar's most able minister.
- Stolypin had Rasputin banished from St Petersburg, much to the Tsarina's fury.
- After Stolypin's assassination in 1912, Rasputin returned and his influence increased.

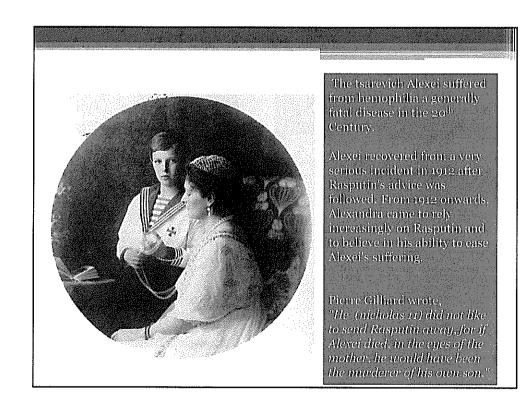
**Source:** Letters from the Tsarina to Rasputin were stolen and found their way to the press and public. Some historians think her letters were altered. This is one of them:

"My beloved, unforgettable teacher, redeemer, mentor! How tiresome it is without you. My soul is quiet and I relax only when you, my teacher, are sitting beside me. I kiss your hands and lean my blessed shoulders...I wish only one thing: to fall asleep...forever on your shoulders and in your arms...Will you soon be again close to me? Come quickly, I am waiting for you and I am tormenting myself for you...I love you for ever."

The 'mad monk' and the 'German woman'...



"Autocracy" postcard with Rasputin and the naked Tsarina - depicting Rasputin's hold on the Tsarina. 1917



**Source:** Michael Rodzianko, a president of the Duma, became a fierce enemy of Rasputin. He said e had received many letters from mothers of women who had been dishonoured by Rasputin. He quoted this story, told by a woman who went to ask Rasputin to help her husband...

"He (Rasputin) scolded me severely and said, 'Aren't you ashamed? Come to me to repent, but with your shoulders bare'...He pierced me with his gaze and took liberties with me, so I left, indignant, deciding not to approach him again. However, anxious and worried, disturbed too – fascinated, in short – I obtained a low-cut dress and, pale-faced, went to see him....A few days later my husband got his promotion."

**Source:** Secret police reports for 1912 have entries such as the following:

"On the night of 17 January, Maria gill, wife of a captain in the 145<sup>th</sup> Regiment, slept at Rasputin's."

"On the night of 25 November, Varvarova, the actress, slept at Rasputin's."

'Rasputin came home in the motor car ....with the prostitute Gregubova....He was blind drunk, kissed Gregubova passionately and stroked her cheeks."



**Source:** By Anna Vyroubova, a loyal friend of the Tsarina and, some claimed, Rasputin's lover:

"Rasputin had no harem at Court. In fact, I cannot remotely imagine a woman of education and refinement being attracted to him in a personal way. I never knew of one being attracted, and although accusations of secret debauchery with women of the lower classes were made against him.....the police were never able to bring forward one woman of any class whom they could accuse with Rasputin. The photograph is authentic. I figure in it and can explain it. It shows a group of women and men who after attending early Mass, sometimes gathered around Rasputin for religious discourse, for advice on all manner of things...Many lovelorn women (and men) used to go to these meetings to beg his prayers on their heart's behalf."

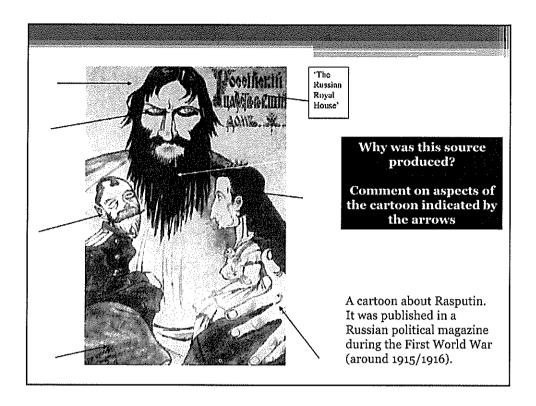
A photograph of Rasputin surrounded by 'ladies of the aristocracy'. It was published in newspapers in Europe and America, suggesting that this was Rasputin's aristocratic harem.

**Source:** Part of a letter from the Tsarina to Nicholas at the war front...

"Deary, I heard that that horrid Rodzianko wants the Duma to be called together — oh please don't, it's not their business, they want to discuss things not concerning them and bring more discontent — they must be kept away.... Listen to our friend [Rasputin]...it is not for nothing God sent him to us...we must pay attention to what he says...Forgive me, but I don't like the choice of the Minister of War, Palianov... is he is not our friend's [Rasputin's] enemy?"



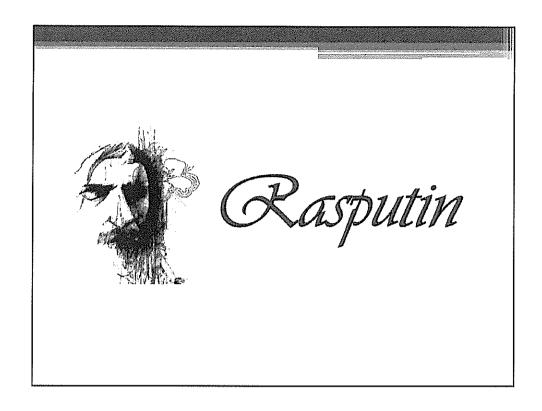
A political cartoon of the Czar dancing to Rasputin's tune.



### The death of Rasputin

• In December 1916, Rasputin was murdered by a loyalist nobleman, Prince Yusupov, who hoped thus to reduce the damage being done to the Tsar's reputation, it was too late. Support for Nicholas from the army and higher levels of society faded away, leaving few prepared to defend him in 1917!

Raspotin, the Mad Monk 1872-1916



Impact of the First World War on Russia and Tsar Nicolas's Rule

STEPS TO REVOLUTION



### Impact of WWI

 Most historians agree that the First World War played a crucial role in bringing down the Romanov regime in February 1917. How?

Tsar Nicholas II and the his Headquarters Staff in the happy days before soldiers actually started dying.



Russia's involvement in World War I proved to be the fatal blow to Czar Nicholas' support in Russia

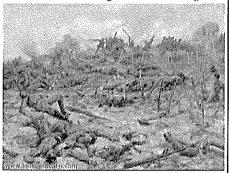
The Russian military was no match for the German army

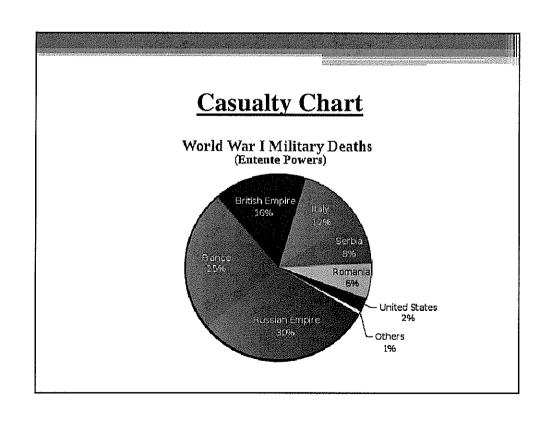
Russia had difficulty producing weapons for soldiers on the front, food shortages were common for troops & civilians, the lack of trains slowed supplies & communication

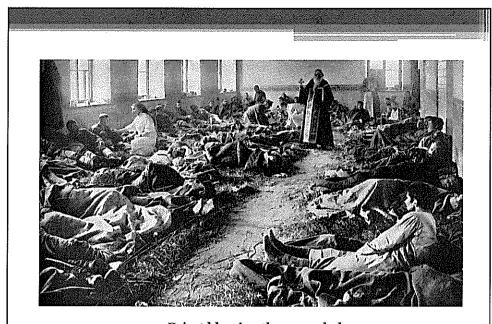
Russia drafted 15 million soldiers & nearly 7 million were killed or wounded; 1.5 million civilians died



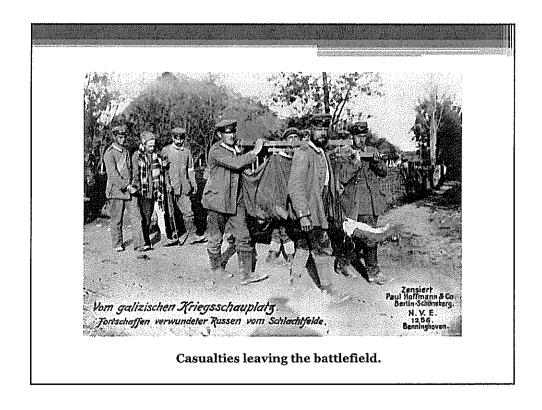
Russian soldiers running from German army, 1918







Priest blessing the wounded





### Impact of WWI

### 3. Failure to make political reforms:

- Allowing the 'progressive bloc' of discontented liberals a greater role in running the country might have helped ease the pressure on Nicholas II and for Russia to have become a constitutional monarchy.
- However, Nicholas' 'dogmatic devotion to autocracy'
  meant that he refused to allow a greater role for
  representative bodies, leaving himself to answer for the
  condition of Russia personally.
- His refusal to compromise on his autocratic principles contributed importantly to his downfall in February 1917.

### Impact of WWI

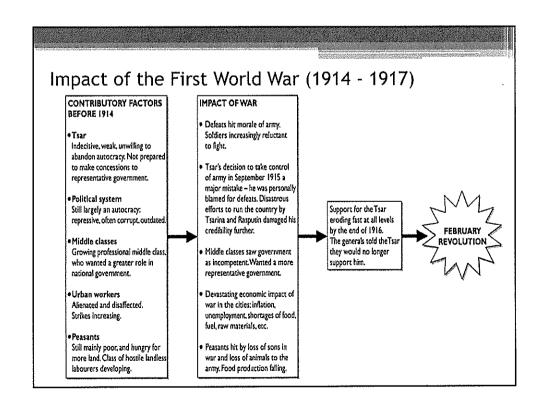
### 4. Impact of war on living conditions:

- Eventual collapse of the Tsardom in 1917 not caused ultimately by ideology or political ideas, but by the desperate suffering experienced by the Russian people as a result of WW1.
- War caused huge distress, as there was a shortage of food, fuel and goods, as well as high prices, inflation and worker unemployment.
- Urban workers were hostile to the Tsar's regime, while peasants were angry about the loss of young men at the front.



Bread queue in Moscow 1917





NAME:	
	WEB QUEST: THE ROMANOV FAMILY CASE STUD
	http://www.dnai.org/d/index.html Then click on "Recovering the Romanovs"

### **The Romanov Family**

1.	Who were the five children of Princess Alexandra and Nicholas II (1st names only)?

- 2. What did Alexei genetically inherit and from whom?
- 3. Who else of royal blood inherited the genetic trait which is cited in the previous question (1st names and family relation for each relative is sufficient...examples: Sergei, 1st cousin...Maria, niece, etc.)?
- 4. When was the royal family executed by soldiers of the Bolshevik Revolution?
- 5. Were there apparently people who were not in the royal family who were also executed with them? If so, who were they? (Their tasks can simply be listed since their names are not made available...example: gardener, pool cleaner, etc.)

### **The Mystery of Anna Anderson**

- 6. Who did Anna Anderson claim to be?
- 7. Did some people believe her? Did confirmed descendants of the royal family believe her?

### **Science Solves the Mystery**

8. In the interviews with Dr. Baden what feature(s) determine if skeletal remains are those of a male or a female? (List all)

9.	In the interviews with Dr. Baden what feature(s) determine the race of skeletal remains?
10.	In the interviews with Dr. Baden what feature(s) give an indication of the persons age when looking at skeletal remains? (List all)
11.	On page 3, click on "count the skeletons" and double click on the blue skeletons. How many?
12.	What skeletal feature does this program use to delineate whether a person was 21/younger OR 22/older?
13.	What skeletal feature does this program use to delineate whether a person was 17/younger OR 18/older?
14.	What skeletal feature does this program use to delineate whether a person male or female?
15.	How would it be problematic if a skeleton were to be found with wisdom teeth AND no ring on their vertebrae? What might be the explanation for that?
16.	Do an analysis of the 9 skeletons. Out of the 27 guesses, on how many did you get it incorrect on your first guess? (you can be honestthis part not for a grade)
17.	On p. 6, compare the royal family member list to the answers for the skeletal remains. Who is missing? How can you tell?
18.	What are the three differences between nuclear DNA and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)?

	19.	How are they alike?
	20.	Answer the page 11 questions below
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
		p. 12; Looking at the Tsarina's pedigree, how can it be determined if the skeletal remains are the royal family's?
		Click on the Bioserver's Sequence Server link on page 13. Which skeletons are NOT part of the royal family? Which are?
	23.	Did you notice anything unusual about those that were not a DNA match?
		Look at the Tsar's pedigree on page 15. Are there any living relatives against which the mtDNA can be compared to determine if Nicholas II is one of the skeletons?
		Click on the Bioserver's Sequence Server link on page 16. Which skeletal remains are Nicholas (If any)?

26.	How can you tell?
27.	On p.19 How can you determine if Anna Anderson is really a member of the royal family? Against whom can we compare her mtDNA?
28.	Does she match Price Phillip's mtDNA?
29.	Carl Maucher is a maternal relative of Miss Franziska (the woman that the royal family claimed Anna Anderson really was). Was she a fraud or was she Anastasia?
30.	What were the two sources of Anna's DNA?



SOURCE 25 A Russian bread queue guarded by the Imperial Police, March 1917



SOURCE 26 Striking workers at the Putilov steelworks, on the first day of the February 1917 revolution

#### SOURCE 27

At ten o'clock I went to Mass. The reports were on time. There were many people at breakfast, including all the foreigners. Wrote to Alix [Tsarina Alexandra] and went for a walk near the chapel by the Brobrisky road. The weather was fine and frosty. After tea I read and talked with Senator Tregubov until dinner. Played dominoes in the evening.

> From the diary of Nicholas II, 26 February 1917, in Orlando Figes, A People's Tragedy, The Russian Revolution 1891-1924, 1997

### 9.3 Understanding and using the sources

- 1 What evidence does Source 25 provide about the impact of the war on the Russian people?
- Describe the scene shown in Source 26. What evidence does the source provide about the nature of the protests on the first day of the revolution?
- 3 What evidence does Source 27 provide about the tsar's understanding of the protests in Petrograd on 26 February 1917?

### The fate of the royal family

Nicholas had hoped that while the political turmoil of the revolution played itself out in Russia, he and his family would be allowed to retire to Livadia, their palace on the Black Sea coast. This was not to be. The new government could not let Nicholas stay at liberty. On the one hand, revolutionaries might try to kill him; on the other, supporters might try to restore him to the throne. Efforts to find the family a refuge abroad brought no results. The most obvious solution was to send them to Britain, where Nicholas's cousin George was king. However, British public opinion was against giving refuge to a man with such a reputation as a harsh ruler.

The royal family were at first confined to the palace at Tsarskoe Selo, outside Petrograd, then later moved to Ekaterinburg, a town far from the capital where the local soviet was loyal to the Bolshevik revolutionary cause. The family remained under guard, an afternoon's walk in the garden being the only break from the confinement in their rooms.

Beyond the walls of their prison, Russia was in the grip of a civil war. Supporters of the revolutionary Bolshevik Government (the Reds) were opposed by a collection of anti-Bolshevik forces (the Whites). As the fighting spread, Ekaterinburg, which was held by Red forces, came under threat from the approaching Whites. The decision was taken to kill the entire Romanov family to prevent their being rescued by the Whites and the possibility of Nicholas being restored to the throne.

Around midnight on 17 July 1918 the family were awoken and told to get dressed and be ready to leave. When they made their way downstairs, they were shown into a basement, and chairs were brought for the Tsarina Alexandra and Alexis. Then a firing squad entered the room.

All seven members of the family were shot, along with their servants and the family physician. Their bodies were placed in a truck and transported to an abandoned mine, where they were doused in sulphuric acid, burnt, and tossed down the mine shaft. This was not their last resting place. The Romanovs' head jailer, Yakov Yurovsky, was appalled to find upon his return to Ekaterinburg that the 'secret' burial place was being talked about all over town. The Bolsheviks did not want the grave of the last tsar to become a shrine for future generations of monarchists, and so it was necessary to move the bodies to a new hiding place. Yurovsky led another group of soldiers back to the mine. Once again, the bodies were placed in the back of a truck, which set off into the forest. There, the bodies were again doused with acid and reburied.

For almost 70 years, their whereabouts remained a mystery. The Soviet Union, under a communist government, kept its state files secret and showed no interest in the 'Romanov mystery'. With the collapse of communist government in 1991 came a new openness and the opportunity to unravel the puzzle. In 1979, three geologists and a writer investigating how the Romanovs had 'disappeared' had discovered the forest location and dug up three skulls. After making casts, the skulls were reburied. Fearful of the reaction from the authorities, they did not tell their story to the press until a decade later. In 1991, the grave was reopened and the bones of nine corpses removed. Modern techniques of forensic science established one of the skulls as that of the tsar. The grave of Nicholas Romanov had been found.

Yet there remained a further mystery. Of the 11 people shot, only nine skeletons were found in the grave. The remains of Alexis and one of the younger females were missing.



## HISTORICAL DEBATE: DID ANASTASIA SURVIVE?

In 1920, a young woman was pulled from a canal in Berlin. It was presumed that she had attempted suicide, and for several months she was kept in a clinic while attempts were made to find her identity. Gradually, it emerged that this young woman claimed to be the tsar's youngest daughter, Anastasia. After she left the clinic and began a life that would take her from Europe to the United States, she became best known as Anna Anderson.

For years, her claim intrigued historians and surviving members of the Russian nobility. She fought several court cases to establish her identity, but they were inconclusive. During her lifetime, many people who claimed to know the Romanov family, including surviving relatives,