

# Year 8 History Unit 4: What were the causes and consequences of the Russian Revolution?

## Why was Russia so difficult to rule?

- Russia is huge
- 4/5 people were peasants
- 50% of people living in Russia were not actually Russian
- Travel was really slow
- Russia did not have the technology that other countries in Europe did
- **Tsar** Nicholas II ran Russia as an **Autocrat**

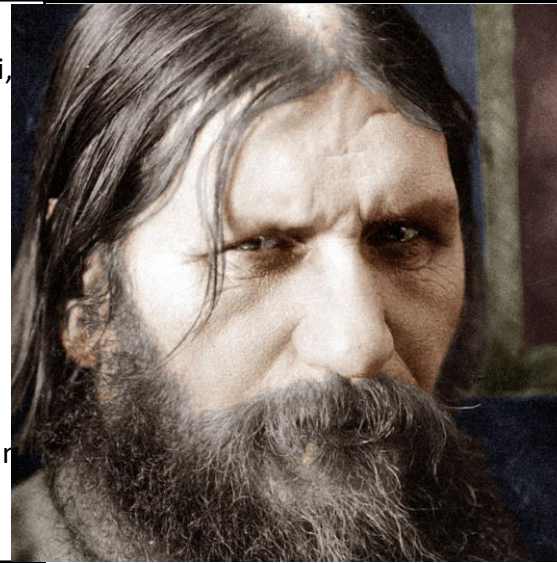


## Rasputin

Rasputin was a healer. The Tsar's son, Alexei, was very ill and the Tsar was desperate. Rasputin was able to heal the boy and save his life.

Rasputin had a terrible reputation as a womaniser and a gambler. This reflected badly on the Royal Family, rumours spread that Rasputin was have an affair with the **Tsarina**.

When the Tsar took command of the Russian forces he left the Tsarina (and Rasputin) in charge.



## Key Words

- Tsar**- Emperor of Russia
- Tsarina**- Empress of Russia
- Parliament** – elected by the people to run the country
- Duma** – Russian parliament
- Revolution** – to have a sudden change
- autocracy** – to have a parliament but not use their advice
- Romanov** – Surname of the Russian royal family
- Rasputin** – famous healer
- Abdicate** – forced to give up the throne
- Bolsheviks** – party that took over Russia
- Communists** – Believed that the working classes should have more power
- Capitalists** – People should work for what they get
- Lenin** – first leader of communist Russia
- USSR**- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – the name for Russia until 1991

## World War One 1914-1917

In 1914 Russia went to war with Britain and France against Germany. However, the army was poorly equipped (lacking boots, medical supplies and food). Nearly a third didn't have rifles! As a consequence of the war Russia was in chaos...

- Millions of peasants had to join the army – there was nobody left to farm the land
- Food did not reach the towns because railways were being used to transport troops and supplies
- Millions of refugees flooded into towns
- Factories closed down – unemployment rose
- Food and fuel prices rose – people died of unemployment and cold

The Tsar took command of the army. This meant he was blamed for military defeats

## The Communist Revolution

In February 1917 Nicholas II was forced to **abdicate**. A temporary government was put in place.

In October 1917 the **Bolsheviks**, led by Vladimir Lenin took power. Russia became a **Communist** country.

## Death of the Romanovs

After the abdication in 1917, Nicholas and the family were held in Ipatiev House in central Russia. In 1918 it was decided that the family were too much of a threat – Lenin gave the order that they must be executed. The entire family were shot, their bodies disfigured with acid and thrown down a mineshaft. The bodies were not found until 1991.



## What happened to Anastasia?

In 1920, a woman jumped off a bridge in Berlin. She claimed she was Anastasia Romanov. Was she?

She was Anastasia	She was NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She had the same foot condition as Anastasia</li> <li>• A relative, Princess Cecile, believed it was her</li> <li>• She spoke good English, French and German</li> <li>• She knew details about the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She was really a Polish factory worker who had been in mental hospitals</li> <li>• She had read magazine while in a mental hospital about the Romanovs</li> <li>• She made a good living out of being Anastasia</li> <li>• Her cousin did not believe it was her</li> </ul>

# Year 8 History Unit 4: How did Russia become a superpower in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?

## How did Stalin control Russia? 1924-53

**Purges:** Anyone suspected of disloyalty was sent to prison camps or murdered. This became the period of The Great Terror. Some 20 million ordinary Russians were sent to **Gulags**.

**NKVD:** Stalin's Secret Police. They did not need hard evidence to act against people. An anonymous tip off was sufficient grounds for arrest. They were allowed to torture

**Cult of personality:** Stalin created a cult of personality around himself with images, statues, songs, poems and books about him. Towns and villages were named after him.



## Cuban Missile Crisis 1961

In 1945 the Americans had used the Atomic bomb for the first time. By 1949 the Soviets had also developed their own nuclear weapons. This developed into MAD – the idea that if either of these sides fired then it would cause destruction to both sides.

In 1961 the Russians were spotted putting nuclear missiles on Cuba – close to the USA. A stand off occurred between the USA and Russia, after President Kennedy blockaded the island of Cuba, until an agreement was finally agreed upon.

## The Space Race 1960s

In the 1960s there was a race between the USA and the Soviets to see who could be first to land on the moon. The Soviets were the first to get a man in space; Yuri Gagarin was the first man to orbit the earth in 1961. In 1969 the USA managed to land a man on the moon in 1969

## Key Words

**Stalin** – led Russia after Lenin's death

**Gulag** – Work camps in Siberia

**NKVD** – Secret Police

**Soviet Union** – name for Russia after the Revolution

**Cold War** – a war where no actual fighting took place

**MAD** – Mutually Assured Destruction

**Federal Republic of Germany** – West Germany

**DDR (German Democratic Republic)** – East Germany

**Berlin** – Capital of Germany

**Khrushchev** – Leader of the USSR after Stalin

**MAD** - Mutually Assured Destruction

**Cuba** – Caribbean Island

**Chernobyl** – powerplant that exploded in Ukraine in 1986

## What was the Cold War?

Although Britain, the USA and Russia had worked together during WWII this quickly fell apart after 1945. The Russians took over the Eastern half of Europe, including East Germany.

## The Berlin Wall 1961

Fed up with East German citizens crossing the border in Berlin. **Khrushchev** ordered the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. This was a 165 km concrete wall.

## What happened to Germany?

Berlin, the capital of Germany, was in the Eastern half so was divided between the Allies and the USSR. In 1948 Stalin tried to cut off West Berlin to starve it out and force the allies to give it to him. The allies airlifted 1.5 million supplies to West Berlin. In 1949 Germany with officially split into two with the Federal Republic of Germany in the West and the German Democratic Republic (DDR) in the East.



## End of Communism 1991

In 1989 the Berlin Wall came down allowing access from East to West. In 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed. Why?

- The Chernobyl disaster had proved to Soviet citizens that they couldn't trust the government
- The Soviets couldn't afford to keep building up the army
- Mikhail Gorbachev, the new president of Russia wanted a new relationship with the west
- The Russian economy was suffering through not being able to make trade deals with the west