



Nicolas II: the last Romanov czar

His life reassessed

The **Soviet** (Marxist) **negative image** of
Nicolas II (“Nicolas the Bloody”)

A **spectacular reassessment** of his role &
personality since the end of the Soviet Union

The consequences of his **family drama** (his son
diagnosed with hemophilia): a permanent
nightmare

Nicolas II: a Russian **patriot**



A family man





Alexander II, his mistress (Catherine Dolgorukova) and their children: the example not to follow

The assassination of his grand-father
(Alexander II): a personal trauma

Nicolas: hostile to any changes (including political)

Perceived as weak

Convinced to incarnate national sovereignty as
God's representative





Nicolas and Alix of Hesse (Alexandra Feodorovna): a **love match**

Alexandra deemed haughty and rigid (growing unpopularity)

Considered “too German”

Uncomfortable in public





Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna

A popular member of the imperial family

The head of a glittering court life

Disliked her daughter-in-law







Nicolas II – **Autocracy** to remain at the core of the Russian political system

Reforms: *“foolish daydreams”*

Urgent modernization of Russia – Unequal prosperity

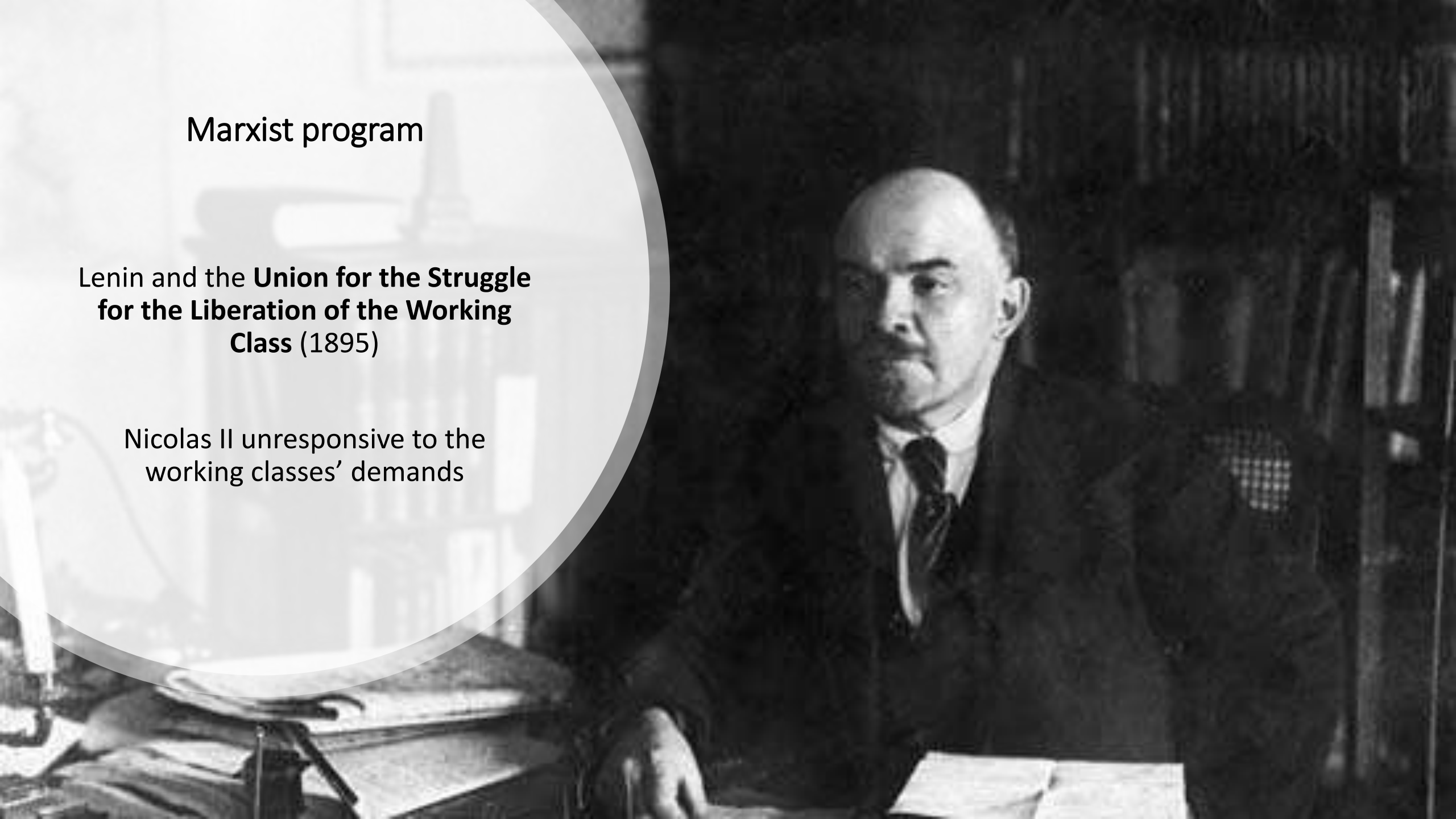
A growing working class – 26 million (Russia's population: 126 million in 1898)



Marxist program

Lenin and the **Union for the Struggle
for the Liberation of the Working
Class** (1895)

Nicolas II unresponsive to the
working classes' demands





Nicolas' obsession: a male heir

1895-1901: 4 daughters (Olga, Tatiana, Maria & Anastasia)

Olga as Nicolas II's successor? Past history of Russian empresses

Nicolas' conservatism: dynastic law established by Paul I to be upheld



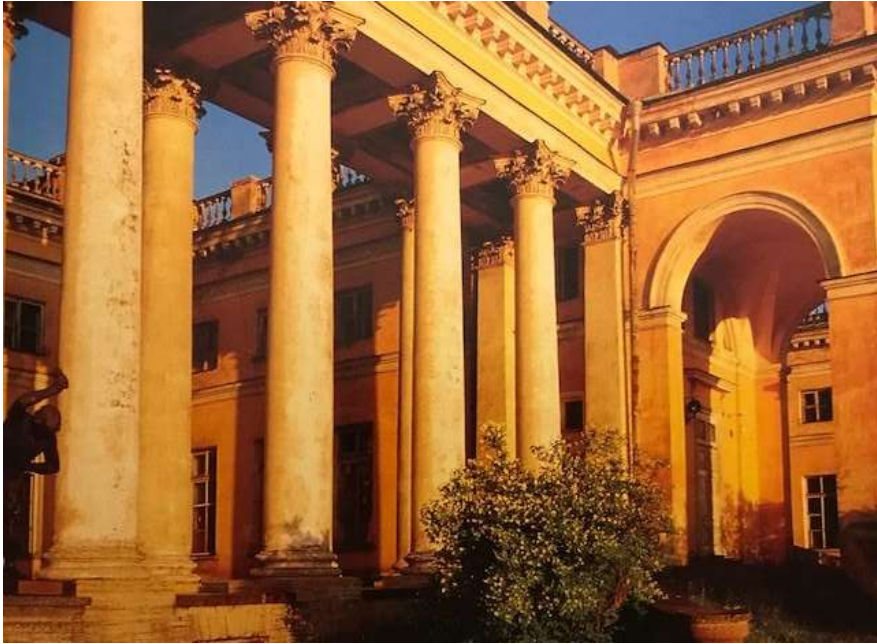
Alexandra's growing mysticism

Alexandra turned to clairvoyants, faith-healers
(charlatans)



Monsieur Philippe





Nicolas and Alexandra increasingly out of touch
and isolated



The Russo-Japanese War: a disastrous conflict for Russia

Nicolas' **main priority**: his wife's health
(pregnant for the 5th time)



30 July 1904: the birth of Alexis

8 September: Alexis diagnosed with
hemophilia

Alexandra inherited the disease from her
grand-mother (Queen Victoria)

Growing isolation





Bloody Sunday
(St-Petersburg, 1905)

Peaceful demonstration (150 000
workers and peasants)

5 000 victims



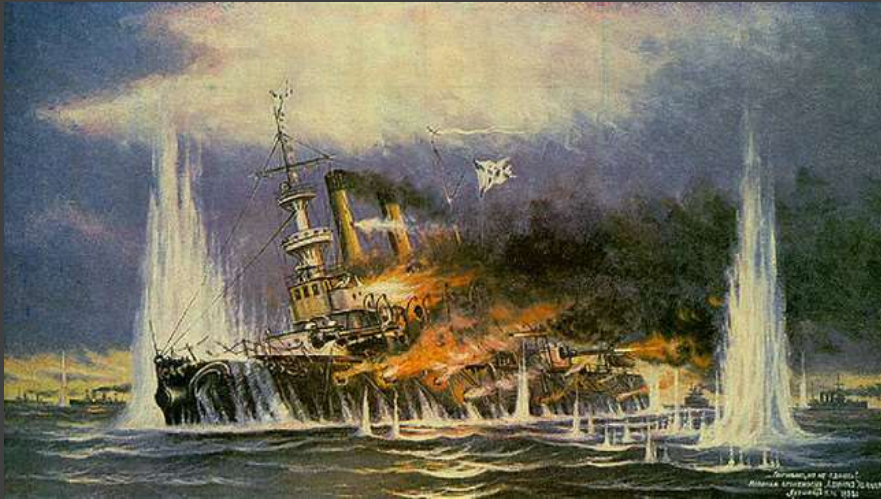
Father Georgi Gapon: call to all
Socialist parties to act through the use
of *“dynamite and bombs, collective
and individual terror”*



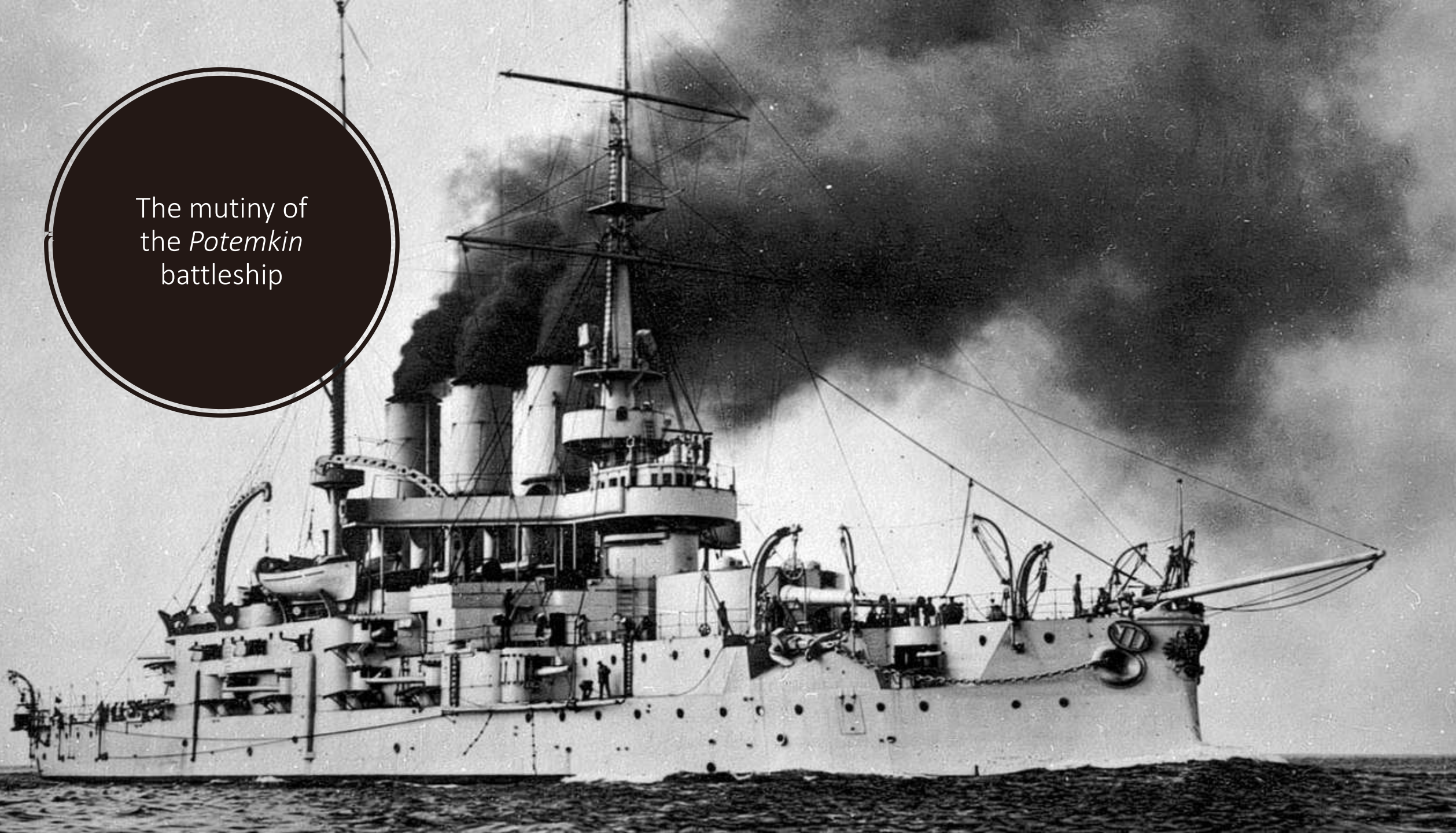
The
Revolution of
1905




The humiliating defeat of Tsushima



The mutiny of
the *Potemkin*
battleship





27 April 1906:
the
inauguration
of the first
Duma

Sergei Witte (President of the Council of Ministers): a reformer

To transform Russia into a **constitutional monarchy**

Nicolas II highly suspicious of that “*politician*” seeking to limit his powers as autocrat



Piotr Stolypin: another reformer

His **objective**: to fight the revolutionaries
while **reforming** Russia

An ambitious **agrarian reform** aimed at
helping peasants acquire land

Nicolas II jealous of Stolypin's prestige



Rasputin introduced to the imperial couple (Ana Vyrubova)

A « *messenger of God* », a healer (through hypnosis & common sense!) – 1907: aspirin discarded

Growing presence at the Alexander Palace

A life of scandals and debauchery in St. Petersburg (surveillance by the secret police) – “*He is hated because we love him*” (Alexandra)



Rumors: the imperial family
discredited



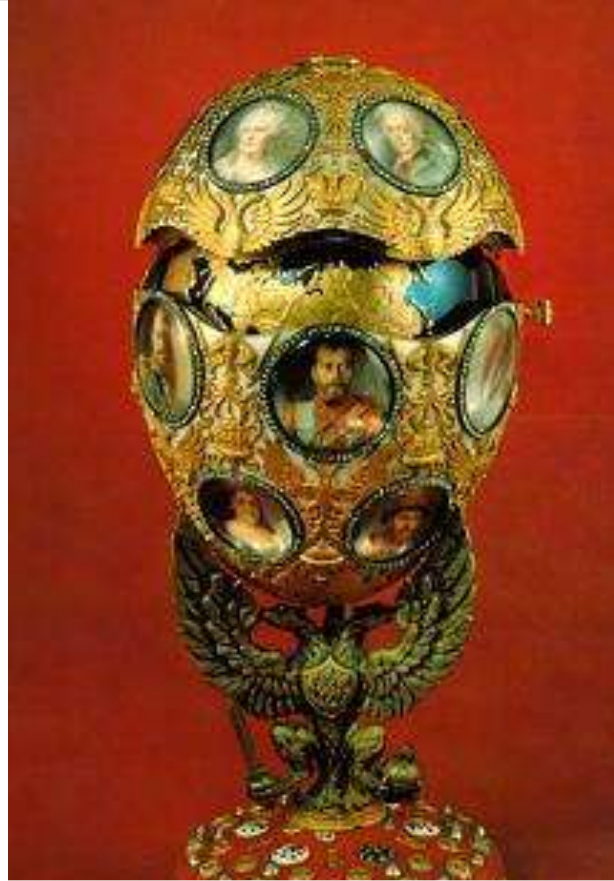
1911: the assassination of Stolypin – The triumph of Rasputin



1913: the Romanov Tercentenary – A deceiving success/False reconciliation



« Bloody Sunday”, the disaster of Tsushima, the growing social/political unrest **not forgotten**



A prevailing atmosphere of melancholy
Alexandra's first official appearance in St. Petersburg since 1905

Russia in 1913: booming economy & renewed international prestige

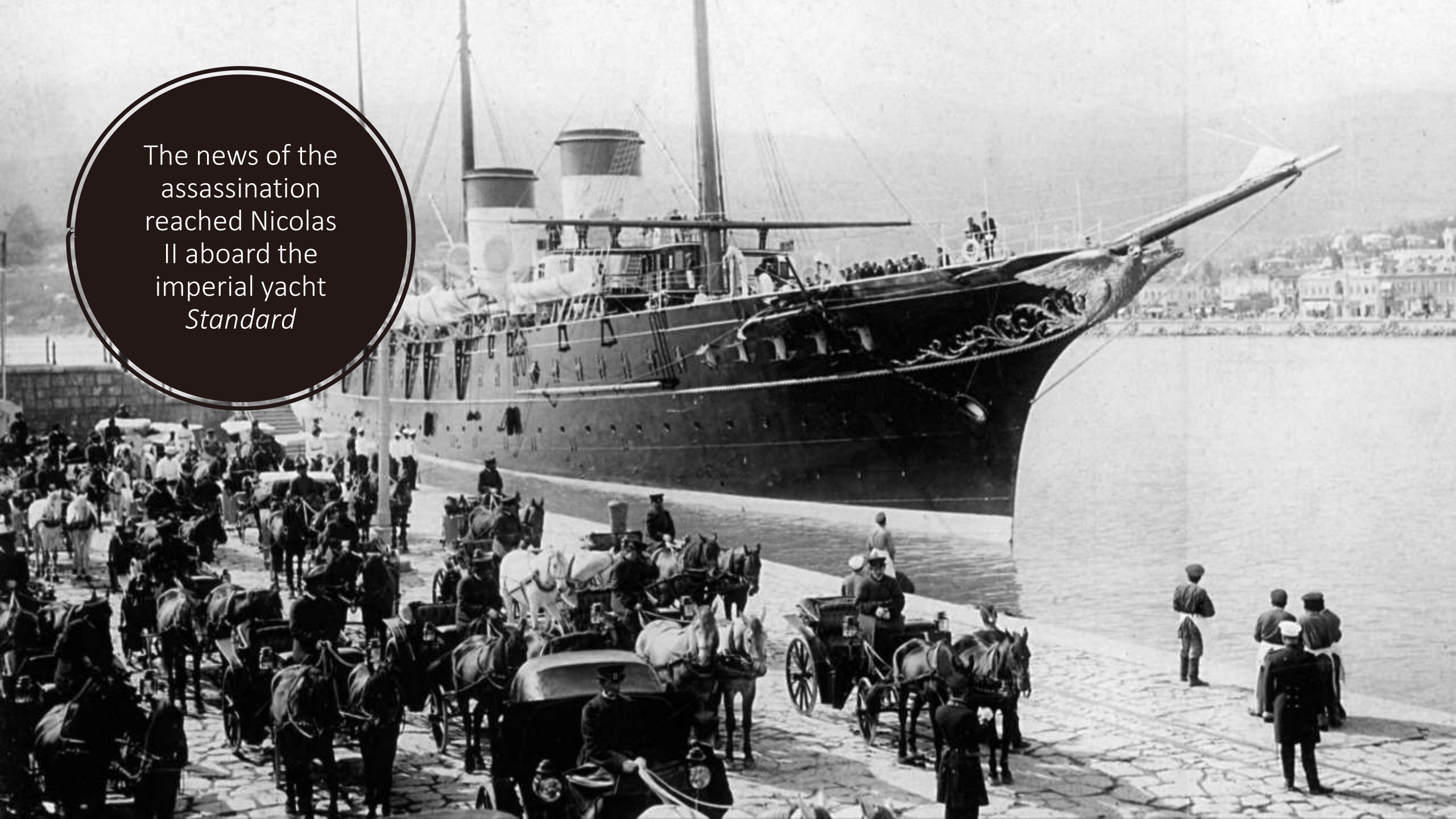


Alphabetization: a success thanks to **education reforms** (actively supported by Nicolas II)

28 June 1914: the assassination of
Franz Ferdinand and his wife



The news of the
assassination
reached Nicolas
II aboard the
imperial yacht
Standard



Nicolas &
Alexandra not
unduly alarmed



The Franco-Russian alliance





French President &
Prime Minister in St.
Petersburg (20 July 1914)

Weather Forecast:
Cloudy Tonight and
Wednesday

The Washington Times

HOME
EDITION

NUMBER 1011

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 28, 1914.

PRICE ONE CENT.

AUSTRIA HAS CHOSEN WAR

TYPICAL SERVIAN SOLDIERS AND THEIR ANTIQUATED EQUIPMENT



On the left is shown a detachment of Serbian soldiers. These men have been ordered to leave the Balkan area and have abandoned their weapons and equipment.

On the right is shown a group of Serbian soldiers showing no interest in their position, as a promise to end of the Balkan trouble against Austria. Serbia's army had not been paid with certain equipment in such long exposure.

MEDIATION REJECTED, EXCEPT TO PREVENT SPREAD OF CONFLICT

Occupation of Belgrade Unofficially Reported—Servians Said to Have Withdrawn Without Contest—English Told Events Have Gone Too Far to Permit Turning Back.

LONDON, July 28—Austria today formally declared war against Serbia, according to Vienna dispatches received here.

It is understood that Belgrade has already been occupied by the Austrians.

This announcement of war quickly followed the

Russia: the traditional **protector** of Serbia – Serbia's independence to be defended



29 July: Nicolas ordered his armies along the Austrian border **to mobilize**

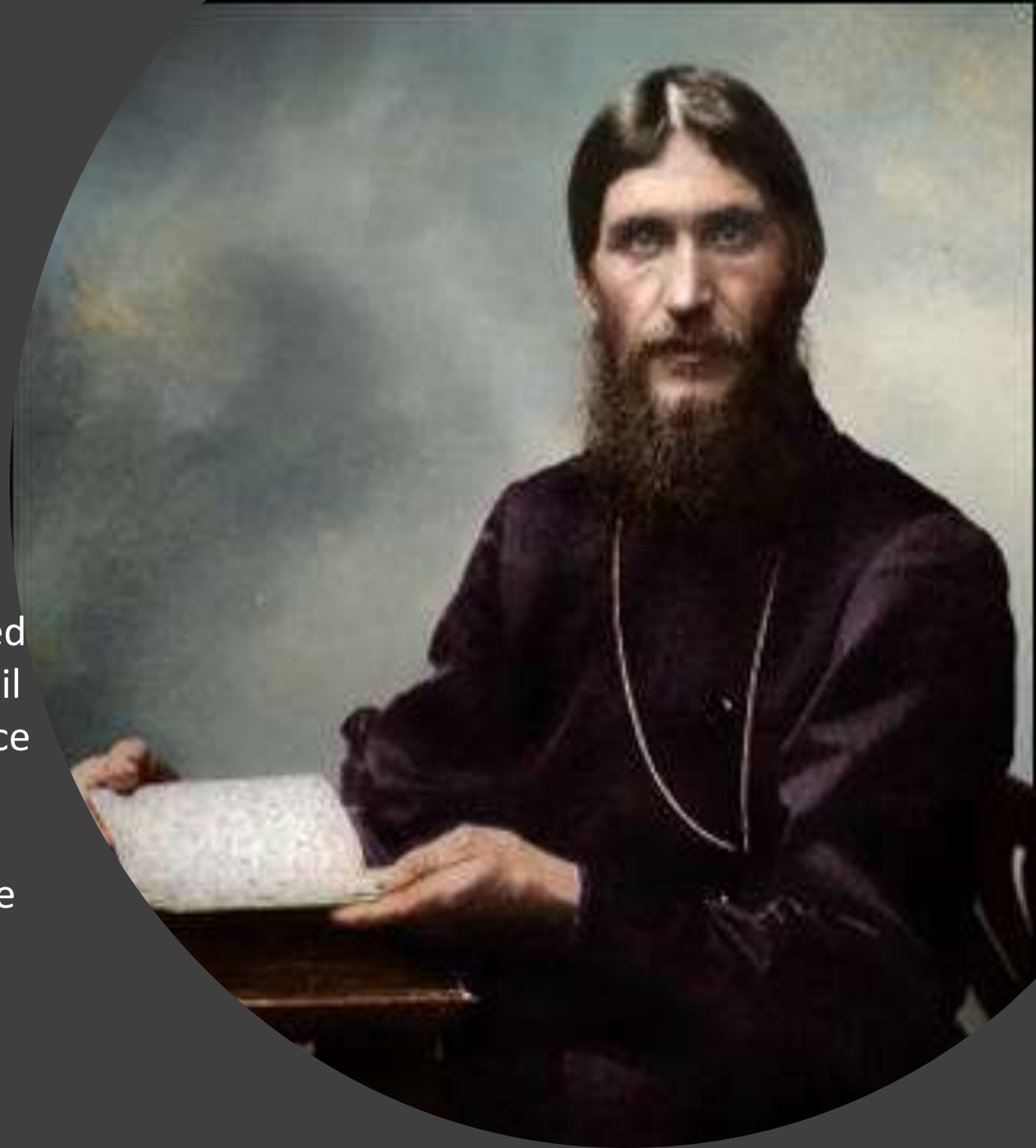


Rasputin: Russia not ready for war
*"Again I say a terrible storm cloud hangs over
Russia"*



Boris Stürmer appointed
president of the Council
of Minister on the advice
of Rasputin

To negotiate a separate
peace with the
Germans?



"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

THE WEATHER
Generally fair today and Monday;
gentle to moderate south winds.
For full weather report see
PAGE 5, SPORTS SECTION.

VOL. LXIII...NO. 20,644.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1914.—88 PAGES, In Seven Parts, Including Editors and Subscribers Section, Real Estate Section, and Section of Books.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

GERMANY DECLARES WAR ON RUSSIA, FIRST SHOTS ARE FIRED; FRANCE IS MOBILIZING AND MAY BE DRAWN IN TOMORROW; PLANS TO RESCUE THE 100,000 AMERICANS NOW IN EUROPE

Transports for Refugees
Being Considered by
State Department.

MAY CHARTER VESSELS

Appropriation Will Probably Be
Asked from Congress to Res-
cue Stranded Americans.

MIGHT SEND OVER GOLD

To Relieve Those Unable to Get
Cash on Paper or to
Obtain Passage.

FEW WARSHIPS NOW THERE

Consuls Being Confronted with
Many Urgent Calls for
Assistance.

ANXIOUS INQUIRIES POUR IN

Washington Can Only Reply That
Our Representatives Are Instruct-
ed to Give All Possible Aid.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—The Ad-
ministration has under consideration

ENGLAND HESITATES
WHAT COURSE TO TAKE

Grey Wants to Throw the Weight
of Great Navy at Once in Fe-
vor of Russia and France.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
LONDON, Sunday, Aug. 2.—Great
Britain's role in the European war
now begins is not a great ques-
tion. The Times correspondent learns
on good authority that the Cabinet is
practically divided into equal parts on
the question whether to take imme-
diate action or await developments in
the hope of remaining outside of the
struggle.

Sir Edward Grey, according to this
information, heads the party which
believes that it is England's duty and
interest to throw the weight of her
navy at once into the scales on behalf
of France and Russia.

Lloyd George leads the other fac-
tion, which believes that this country
can with honor and advantage hold
itself outside and not engage in a
European conflict.

One statement, which is given for
what it is worth, is that the Chan-
cellor of the Exchequer thinks that Eng-
land and the United States can to-
gether intervene at a propitious mo-
ment in such fashion as to reduce to
some extent the horrors of a Conti-
nental Armageddon. In passing it
may be mentioned that the wildest re-
ports have been current on all aspects
of the situation for a week past. The
Times correspondent refrained from

France Orders Mobiliza-
tion After Germany
Asks Her Intentions.

DELCASSE WAR MINISTER

Germany's Old Enemy Heads
Army Organization—Once
Nearly Caused Conflict.

CLEMENCEAU IN CABINET

President and Cabinet Issue a
Manifesto to French
Nation.

PLAIN WORDS TO GERMANY

"You Are Mobilizing; We Know
It," Says Prime Minister
to German Envoy.

ORDERS TO FOREIGNERS

Americans May Stay on Getting
Permits—Austrians and Ger-
mans Liable to Arrest.

PARIS, Aug. 1.—An official decree
orders a general mobilization of the

Poincare Orders Mobilization,
Telling France It Is Not War Yet

PARIS, Aug. 1.—President Poincaré and the members of the Cabinet
today issued the following joint proclamation to the French nation:
For some days the States of Europe have been considerably aggra-
vated, and, notwithstanding the efforts of diplomacy, the horizon has
darkened. At the present hour a greater part of the nations have
mobilized their forces. Even the countries protected by neutrality con-
ventions have deemed it their duty to take this measure as a precaution.
The powers whose constitutional or military legislation differs from
ours have, without having a decree of mobilization, begun and carried
on preparations which, in reality, are equivalent to mobilization, and
are but the anticipated execution of it.

France, who always has affirmed her desire for peace, who on many
a tragic day has given to Europe counsels of moderation and a living
example of decorum, and who has distinguished her efforts to maintain
the peace of the world, has now prepared herself for all eventualities,
and has taken from her arsenal her first indispensable dispositions for the
safeguarding of her territory.

But our legislation does not permit the completion of these prepara-
tions without a decree of mobilization. Conscious of its high responsi-
bility, and feeling that it would fail in its sacred duty if it did not take
this measure, the Government has signed the decree.

Mobilization is not war. Under the present circumstances it would
appear, on the contrary, to be the best means of assuring peace with
honor.

Strung in its ardent desire of arriving at a peaceful solution of this
crisis, the Government under cover of these essential precautions will
continue its openhearted efforts, and will hope to succeed. It cannot
spare the confidence of the people not to give itself up to unjustified
excitement. It cannot open the possibility of every Frenchman, and it
knows that there is not a single one who is not ready to do his duty
at this hour.

There are no longer any parties. There is an eternal France—a
France peaceful and resolute. There is a fatherland of peace and justice,
all united in calm vigilance and dignity.

main unchanged. We wish peace,
and the best proof we can give you
of this is that at the present moment
the French Parliament has not been
convoked. Under our constitution we
should be compelled to convocate it if
our intentions were not peaceful."

Baron von Schön said: "But French
incidents are unfortunately too
frequent."

Premier Viviani replied:
"How can you suppose such things?
Our troops are five miles from the
frontier. We are, in fact, exposed to
the violation of our frontier, and there-

Germany's War Challenge
Delivered to Russia at
7:30 Last Evening

EMBASSY THEN DEPARTS

Enrolment of Reservists Begun
Throughout the Czar's
Vast Empire.

STIRRING SCENES ATTEND IT

Hardly a Family but Loses a
Protector, Yet They Take
the Call Submissively.

FRANCE HAS TILL MONDAY

Reply to Germany Due Then,
but Issue May Be Forced
Earlier.

ITALY REMAINS NEUTRAL

Triple Alliance Obligations Not
Touched, She Says—Feared
a Revolution.

LUXEMBURG INVADIED.

Chronology of Yesterday's Fateful Events

12 Midnight—Germany demands that Russia cease mobilization and
give a twelve-hour limit.
2 A. M.—King George of England, after an audience with Premier
Asquith, telegraphs to the Czar, making a strong appeal for
peace.
12 Noon—The time limit of Germany's ultimatum to Russia expires.
5:15 P. M.—Emperor William signs an order for the mobilization of
the German Army.
7:30 P. M.—The German Ambassador at St. Petersburg delivers to
the Russian Government a declaration of war in the name of
Germany and leaves St. Petersburg.

First Shots Fired in the Russo-German War.

BERLIN, Aug. 1.—A German patrol near Prostken was fired on
this afternoon by a Russian frontier patrol. The Germans returned
the fire. There were no losses.

Prostken is a village of 2,500 inhabitants, in East Prussia. It
is situated about two and one-half miles west of the international
boundary line, on the Königsberg & Lyck Railroad. The nearest
Russian village is Grajewo, about three miles across the international
boundary.

Kaiser Forgives Enemies, Prays for Victory.

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—The Emperor again spoke from a window
of the Castle tonight to a crowd of 50,000 beneath, who cheered and sang
patriotic songs until he appeared. He said:

"I thank you for the love and loyalty shown me. When I enter
upon a fight let all party strifes cease. We are German brothers and
nothing else. All parties have attacked me in times of peace. I for-
give them with all my heart. I hope and wish that the good German
sword will emerge victorious in the right."

The speech was twice interrupted by vociferous cheering. At its
conclusion the Kaiser bowed in all directions, retiring amid a frenzied
demonstration.

The Imperial Chancellor also addressed the assembly, saying:
"All stand as one man for our Emperor, whatever our opinions
or our creeds. I am sure that all the young German men are ready
to shed their blood for the fame and greatness of Germany. We can



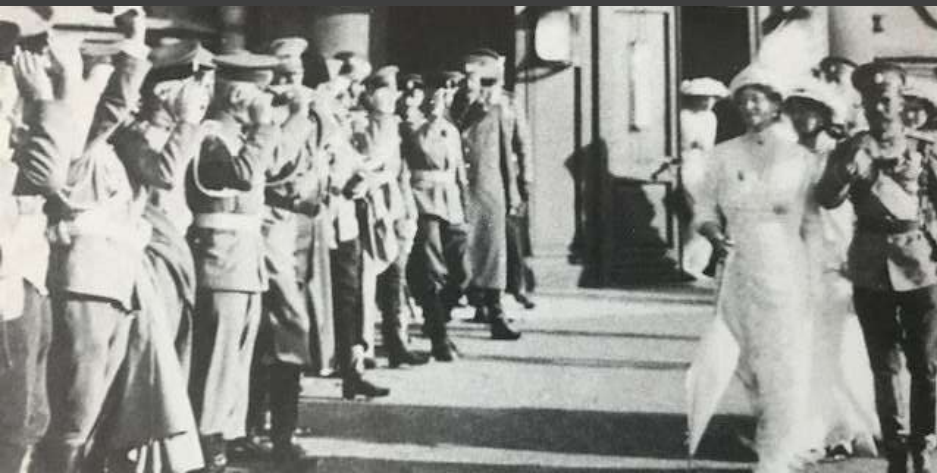


Patriotic fervor (at least in the main cities)
St. Petersburg renamed Petrograd



« At that moment, the czar was really the autocrat, the military, political and religious director of his people, the absolute master of their bodies and soul »

Maurice Paléologue, French ambassador to Russia



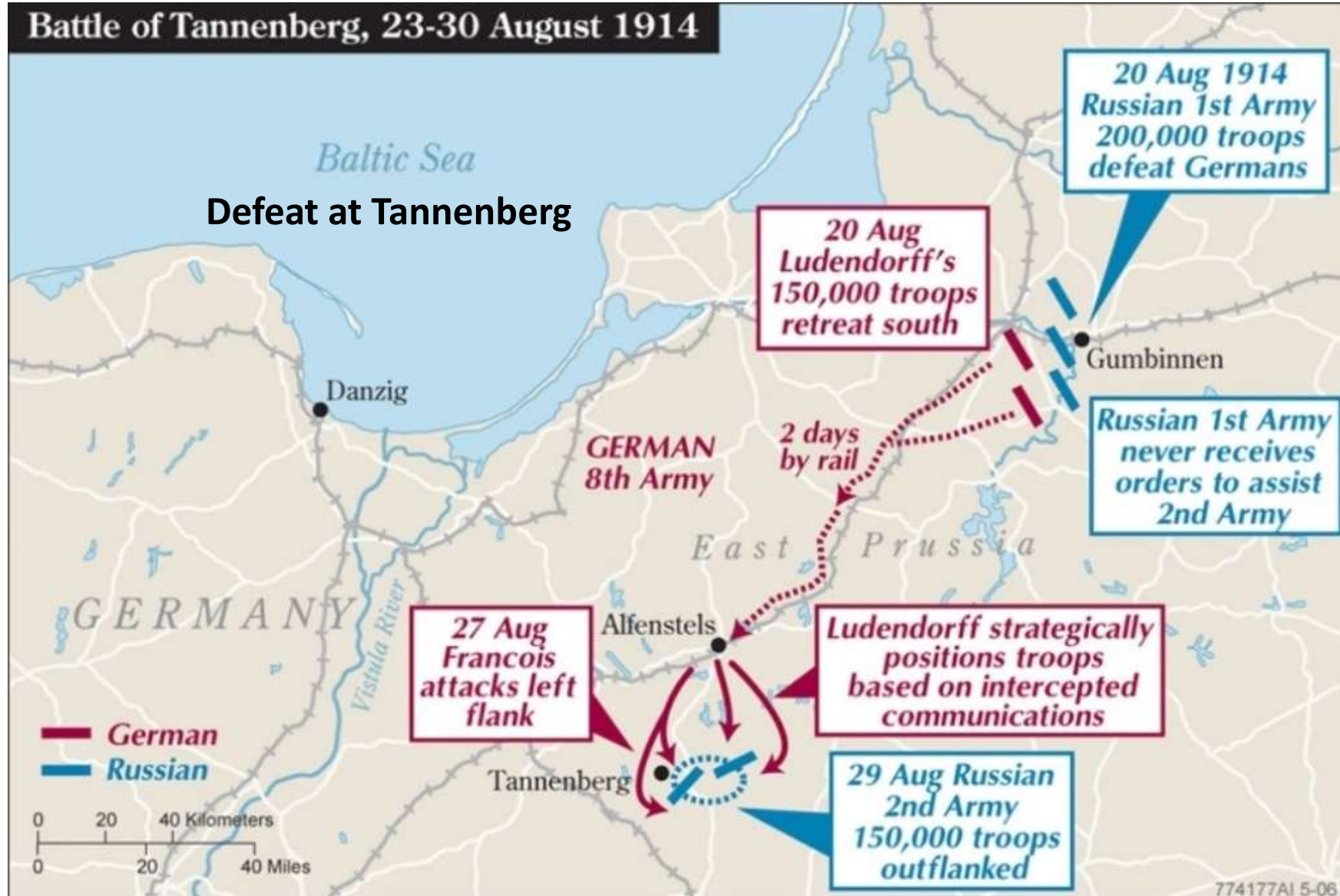


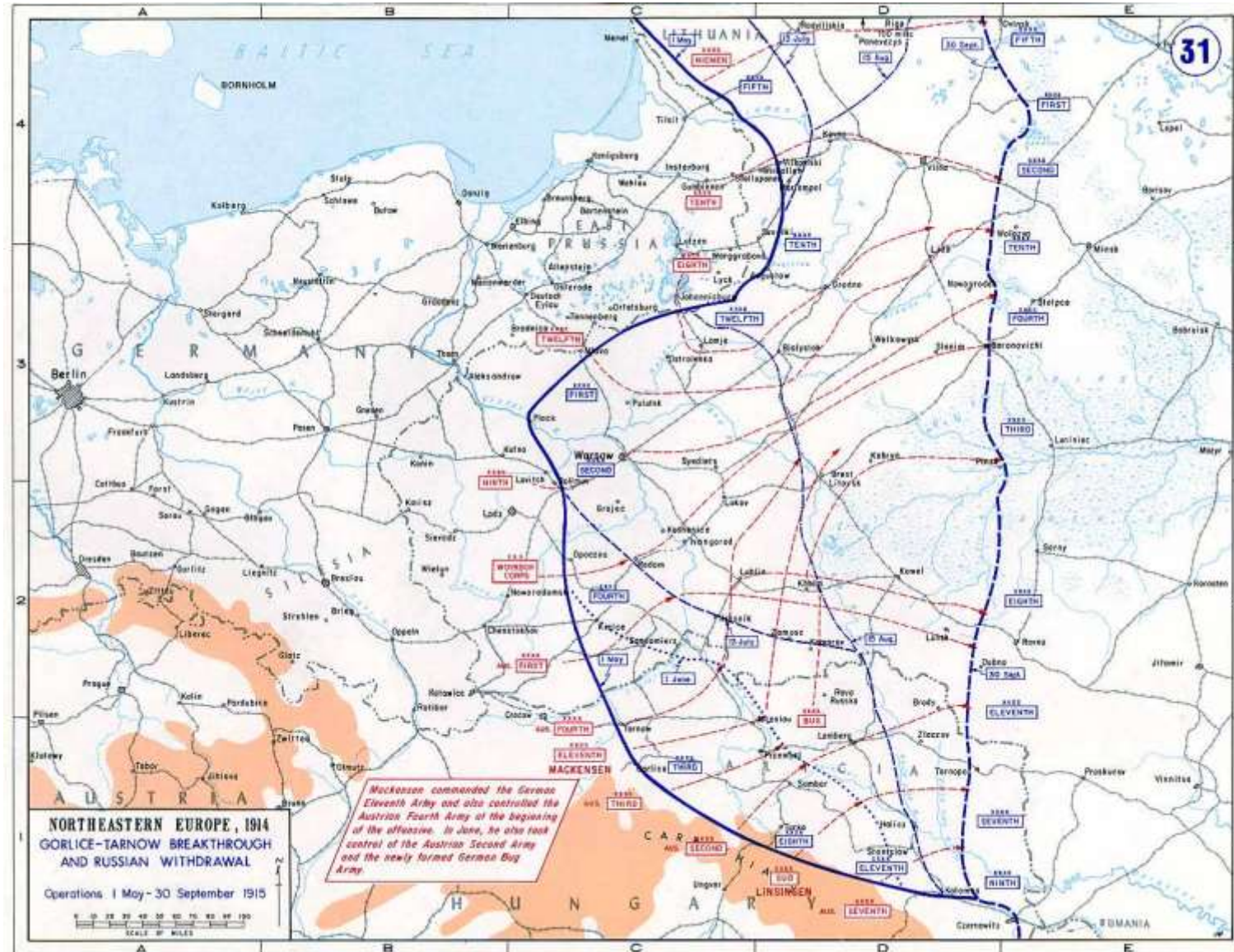




Battle of Tannenberg, 23-30 August 1914

Defeat at Tannenberg





**May 1915:
disastrous military
situation
(the loss of Poland)**

**Poor
management**

**Widespread
corruption**

**Staggering human
losses**

Summer 1915: Nicolas takes command of the armies

A double mistake:

1. Nicolas is neither strategist nor tactician
2. Headquarters 700km away from St. Petersburg: political power left to Alexandra (and Rasputin)





29 December 1916: the assassination of
Rasputin



Prince Yusupov

1 January 1917: traditional New Year reception for the Diplomatic Corps at the Winter Palace





**Growing threat of revolution in
Petrograd:**

- 1- Deficient transportation system paralyzed by harsh winter = Food shortages
- 2- Strikes
- 3- Crushing military defeats to the Germans

Nicolas II unresponsive: decides to leave for Headquarters to escape the “poisonous air” of Petrograd



23 February/8 March 1917: 100 000 people demand bread



25 February/10 March: Army patrols stand by without charging the angry populace

27 February/12 March: **massive defection among soldiers** - Riots have become a revolution





THE TSAR OF RUSSIA ABDICATES

Duma, Army and People Revolt Against Pro-German Influence and Food Crisis; Tsar's Brother as Regent; Battles in Street; Three Days' Bloodshed; Ministers in Prison.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior	PRINCE LYOV
Minister of National Defense	M. GUKENOV
Minister of Justice	M. KERENSKY
Minister of Finance	M. TERESHEVICH
Minister of Foreign Affairs	M. MILIUKOV
Minister of Agriculture and Food	M. SHINGAREV
Minister of Commerce	M. KONDYALOV
Minister of Ways of Communication	M. NEKRASSOV
Prosecutor of the Holy Synod	M. LYOV
Imperial Councillor	M. COOKEV

The abdication of the Tsar has come as a climax to the state of revolution which has existed in Petrograd for some days past. This was the dramatic scene announced in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon by Mr. Bonar Law, and learned by the public in Paris yesterday. The statement made by the British Chamberlain of the Empire was confirmed in a telegram from Sir George Buchanan, his Majesty's Ambassador in Petrograd.

Following his original statement on Thursday, Mr. Bonar Law yesterday announced in Parliament that he had received a second despatch from Sir George Buchanan, in which he regretted the telegram declaration made in his first telegram, and added that the statement that the Tsar had abdicated was not absolutely definite.

Despite the British Ambassador's partial retraction, the prevailing opinion everywhere is that while the official news of the Tsar's abdication has not yet been made known it is nevertheless an accomplished fact.

The news contained in numerous despatches from Petrograd, now released after several days' almost complete isolation of the Russian capital, shows that the Cabinet has been overthrown, and that a Provisional Government established by the Duma has chosen Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, brother of the Emperor, as Regent during the minority of the Czarovich.

TSAR FAILS TO MEET DEMAND.

The Duma, backed by the army, has carried out an astonishing and epoch-making coup d'état. With the Petrograd garrison in command of the city, under Parliamentary orders, Mr. Rodzianko, President of the Duma, demanded of the Tsar a new Government. Failing to receive satisfaction, he placed himself at the head of a Provisional Government of twelve members.

This new Ministry immediately assumed control and adopted drastic measures to completely overthrow the old régime. Many of the late Ministers were seized and are now in prison.

The source of the revolution are now more or less clearly defined, and show that the condition of affairs throughout the Tsar's dominions recently made the change inevitable.

Pro-German influence in high places were deliberately heading military



STORY OF REVOLUTION RELATED IN DESPATCHES FROM RUSSIAN CAPITAL

Source of People Killed Before Duma Assembly Control—History Accidents Allied Ambassadors.

SPINAL TO THE REVOLUTION.—The story of the revolution is told graphically by the Petrograd correspondent of the "Times" in the following despatches sent off between Monday and Wednesday morning.

MOSCOW, 11.45 a.m.—The events of Friday were multiplied manifold yesterday. Scores of people were killed and wounded in various parts of the Nevsky Prospekt during the afternoon. The fire brought everybody out of doors, and the soldiers and civilians were

the Ministry of the Interior and the Office of the Commandant of the City. Early in the day the prisons were captured and all who were detained in them were set free.

M. Mikhaylovich, the reactionary president of the Upper House, refused an invitation that Assembly after the taking of possession. He was arrested by order of the Committee and imprisoned in the Tauris Palace.

According to the latest news from the Duma, the Socialist members seceded from the Committee. Indeed, via demands for moderate. This may impact the usefulness of the Committee as a rallying point, whereas order could be rendered down the greatest change.

The Council of Ministers decided last night to resign and so advised the Emperor, who is said to have replied that he was unable to do so.

leaders signified their entire resignation and withdrew their resignations from the committee, decided to form a Provisional Government. A final vote was deferred in consequence of an invitation telephoned to M. Rodzianko to attend a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Marine Palace.

Duma's Decisive Step.

M. Rodzianko succeeded, after safety traversing the entire city under a guard of the Duma troops in securing a meeting. He found all the Ministers assembled and also Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Tsar. M. Rodzianko informed them that the Duma, acting in accordance with the Army, had decided to constitute a Provisional Government, as they saw no other way of re-establishing order in the capital, and saving the country from anarchy and

yesterday was the sacking of the residence of Count Fredericks, which adjoins the Telegraph Office. It was thought at first that the Telegraph Office was in danger, but as it telegraphed last night, the Fredericks family were in. They could not save Count Fredericks' house. Meanwhile, however, news arrived. The aged wife of the Minister of the Imperial Court was carried out from the burning residence in a fainting condition. Her daughter, a beautiful girl, rushed out carrying a favorite dog. The animal was killed and the beautiful girl liberated by the drunken mob. Both ladies were eventually rescued to a place of safety. Count Fredericks himself is in attendance on the Emperor.

The Social Democratic party has issued a proclamation of a most serious character, which was signed by

Members of the Russian Royal House Who Figure in the Establishment of the New Government—M. Rodzianko, Head of Provisional Government.

Nicholas II, Tsar of Russia, has had a tempestuous reign. He was born at Petrograd on May 6, 1868. In 1904 he married Princess Alexandra of Hesse-Darmstadt, by whom he has had four children, four girls and a boy, Alexis, who was born in 1904.

The Tsar's entire life has been permeated by the association of his relatives and his officials. In 1892 his grandfather, Alexander III, fell.

The year 1905 was one of special terror. On New Year's Day the Tsar attended the annual ceremony of "Blessing the Navy." The sailing guns of the fortress of Peter and Paul fired a volley of cannon in salute for black cartridges, and the Tsar and his suite narrowly escaped death.

The end of 1904 and the opening months of 1905 were a period of confusion even in the terrible annals of Russia. On June 24 of the fateful year 60,000 soldiers, most of them armed, sustained a pitched battle with the military in the streets of Lódz.

The Tsar took no considerable part in the development of the war. At one moment he stood out conspicuously when he assumed the command of the army in the place of Grand Duke Nicholas, but the effect was greater among civilians than among soldiers.

The New Tsar.

The health of Prince Alexis, the lad who now, as it appears, is to succeed to the Russian throne under a Regency, has always been a source of great anxiety to his parents.

In 1902 the story was circulated that he had been injured while at play in the palace gardens, but there were rumors of a Schiller attempt on his life. Four years later he had undergone an operation to be able to accompany his father to the Field Headquarters.

He has been described as a bright, high-spirited boy, "a mixture of the most robust type." He never tires, it is said, of hearing stories of the legendary history of Russia.

Grand Duke Michael's Career.

Nicolas II pressured to abdicate (the Duma & the Army)

Grand Duke Mikhail renounces the throne: the end of the Romanov rule over Russia



February – August 1917: Nicolas II and his family in house arrest at the Alexander palace



Tobolsk (Siberia)
August 1917 – April 1918

The Bolsheviks in power

The Brest-Litovsk peace with
Germany

The family moved to
Ekaterinburg




The Ipatiev House: the “house of special purpose”



The night of July 16-17, 1918: the family **murdered**





Post Soviet interest for the
lost Russian imperial family

17 July 1998: the funeral of
Nicolas II and his family

The canonization of Nicolas II

Soviet interpretation: Nicolas II
deserved his fate

Ongoing rumors surrounding the
massacre of the Imperial family

