

# The Russian Revolution

# Background: Pre-Revolutionary Russia



- Czars very oppressive
- Small revolts – soon a full-scale revolution
- Nicholas II (Romanov) – wouldn't surrender any power, liked tradition

# Causes



- Industrialization – bad working conditions, low wages, child labor
- Agitation from revolutionaries
- Russo-Japanese War – Japan beats Russia
- Bloody Sunday – workers approach palace
  - Shot down by soldiers

# Causes

## World War I: "The Last Straw"

- Not prepared, many died
- Nicholas moves to war front
- Alexandra runs governmentt



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

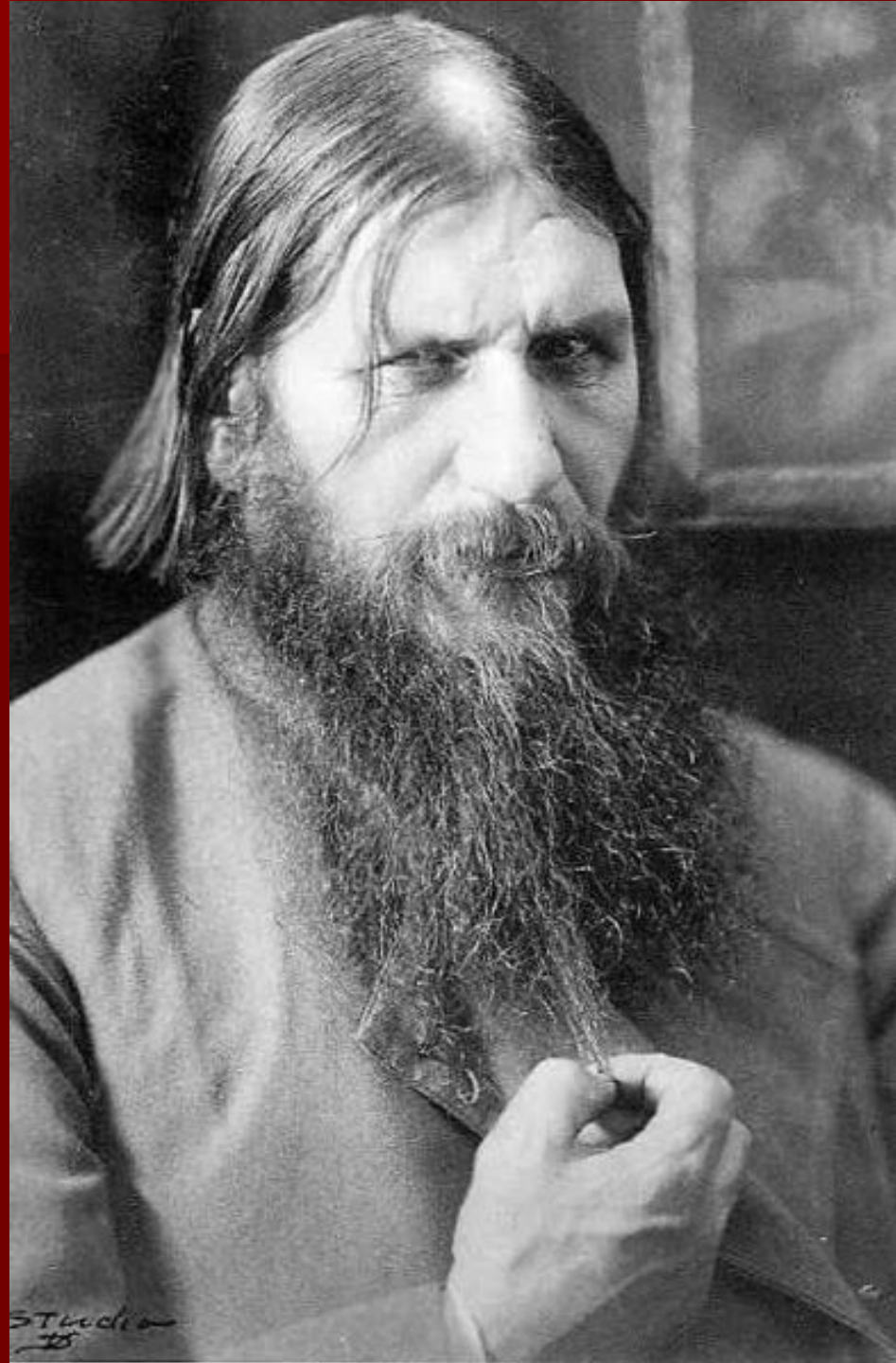
# Causes

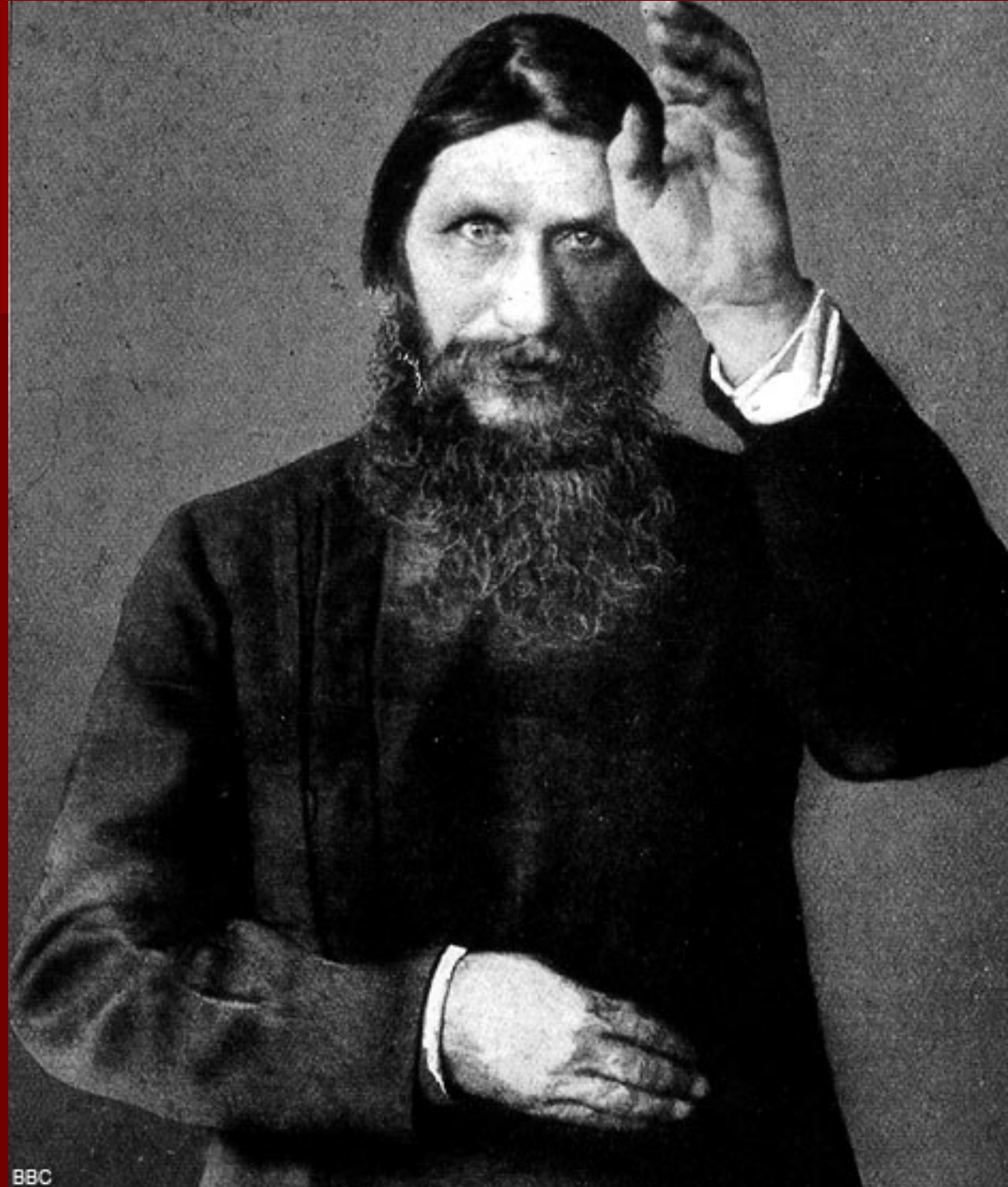
## Alexandra: The Power Behind the Throne



- Advised by Rasputin – a monk claiming to have magical healing powers
- Heals son - Given political power
- Spreads corruption
- Assassinated by nobles









# Alexis: Alexandra's Son with Hemophilia



# The Collapse of the Imperial Government (cont)



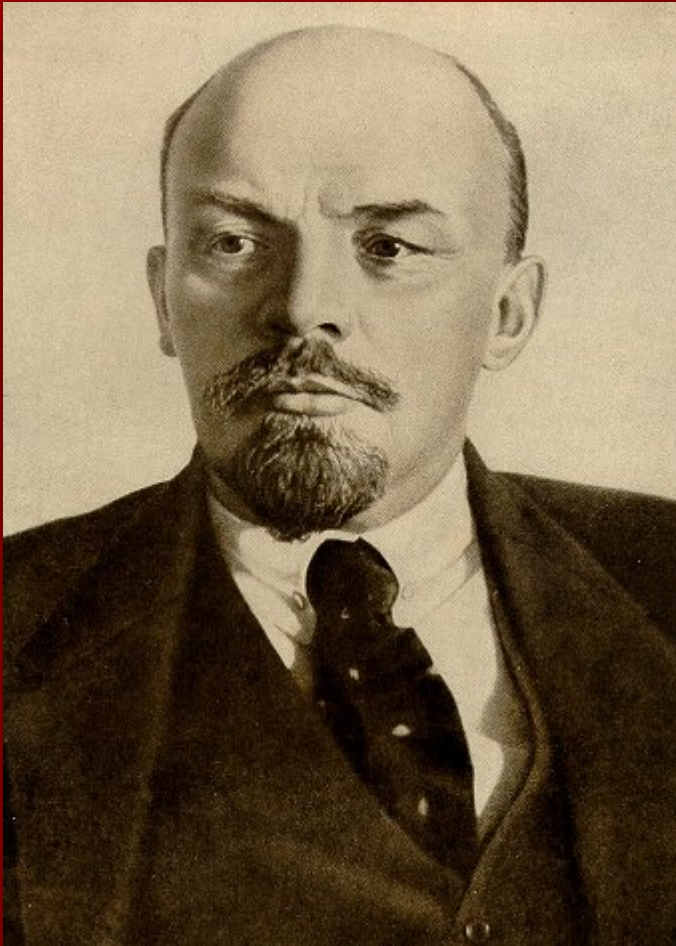
- Rasputin assassinated by nobles in December of 1916
  - “If I die or you desert me, in 6 mo. You will lose your son and your throne”
- First tried to poison him and when he refused to drink they resorted to just shooting him.
  - Then dumping his body in the river. Which was found very quickly by authorities.
  - No one was charged with the crime.

# The March Revolution



- Workers on strike
- Soldiers join in
- Nicholas II steps down
- Provisional Govt – leaders of Parliament (Duma), headed by Alexander Kerensky
- Revolutionaries formed SOVIETS – local councils of workers, peasants, soldiers

# Bolshevik Revolution



- Bolsheviks – group of radicals
- Led by Vladimir Lenin
- Topple Provisional Govt in a coup d'etat
- Bolsheviks take power and make Russia a communist state
- Russia signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk w/ Germany
  - OUT OF WWI
  - Land given to Germany formed into new countries (Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine)

# Effects

## ■ Civil War

– Reds vs. Whites

- Reds – Communists led by Leon Trotsky

- Whites – opposed communism and end of war

– U.S. and Allies help Whites

- Communists distrust West

– Lasted 3 years – REDS win

- 14 million people died during war and the following famine

# Effects

- Czar and family executed – ended czarist rule
- Lenin's Ideas
  - Tries to rebuild economy
  - Organized Russia into several republics under a central government (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – USSR)
  - Used terror to control critics
    - Cheka – secret police force

