Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Pastor Pete

July 8, 2018

**“Tsar Nicholas Romanov II”**

**I. Five Causes of the Bolshevik Revolution (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

*1. Peasant Poverty and the Class System*

By the middle of the 1850s Russia’s bureaucracy and its ministries were silting up, and the country was falling behind commercially and industrially. The dead hand of the state was the chief reason for this. A good example was the way that Russian society was still locked in the near-feudal hierarchy established by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nearly 120 years before. Class segregation was enforced by the government—everyone was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a particular social estate, and your estate dictated your dress, the education you were entitled to, the occupations you could follow, where you could travel, how much tax you paid—the more socially lowly paid proportionally more.

*2. Growing and Politicized Work Force*

The industrial revolution came to Russia largely in the 1890s, with ironworks, factories and the associated elements of industrial society, and large numbers of peasants moved to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take up new jobs. The government was afraid of the developing urban class but more afraid of driving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ investment away by supporting better wages, and there was a consequent lack of legislation on behalf of the workers. These workers swiftly began to grow more politically-engaged and chaffed against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ restrictions on their protests.

*3. Tsarist Autocracy, A Lack of Representation and Bad Tsar*

*4. Tremendous Losses in World War I*

In 1914, Russia entered World War I on the side of the Allied Powers (Russia, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). They fought against the Central Powers (Germany, Ottoman Empire, and Austro-Hungary). Millions of peasants and workers were forced to join the army. They were forced to fight even though they had little training, no shoes, and little food. Some were even told to fight without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The army was soundly defeated by Germany at the Battle of Tannenburg (Poland). Nicholas II took over the command of the army, but things only got worse. Millions of peasant men died due to the incompetence of the Russian leaders.

*5. Economic Collapse*

By the end of 1916, Russia’s already limited resources were severely depleted by the war. Food, goods, and other essentials were scarce in Russian cities. Strikes and protests began in late 1916; however, the Tsar failed to respond appropriately. He blamed the rebellions and strikes on undesirables and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the people. When Nicholas attempted to return to Petrograd, he was faced with railway strikes, and members of the military and Duma, Russia’s national parliament all had deserted him.

**II. Christian Faith in the Russian Empire (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

According to its own tradition, the Russian Orthodox Church was founded by the Apostle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who allegedly visited Scythia and the Greek colonies along the northern coast of the [Black Sea](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Black_Sea). It is said that Andrew reached the future location of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and foretold the foundation of a great Christian city. The spot where he reportedly erected a cross is now marked by Saint Andrew's Cathedral. Christianity was apparently introduced into the East Slavic state of Kievan Rus by Greek missionaries from Byzantium in the 9th century. An organized Christian community is known to have existed at Kiev as early as the first half of the 10th century, and in 957 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the regent of Kiev, was baptized in Constantinople. This act was followed by the acceptance of Christianity as the state religion after the baptism of Olga’s grandson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, prince of Kiev, in 988. Under Vladimir’s successors, and until 1448, the Russian church was headed by the metropolitans of Kiev (who after 1328 resided in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). In 1914 in Russia, there were 55,173 Russian Orthodox churches and 29,593 chapels, 112,629 priests and deacons, 550 monasteries and 475 convents with a total of 95,259 monks and nuns. The year 1917 was a major turning point for the history of Russia, and also the Russian Orthodox Church. The Russian empire was dissolved and the Tsarist government - which had granted the Church numerous privileges – was overthrown. After a few months of political turmoil, the Bolsheviks took power in October 1917 and declared a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of church and state. The government \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all church lands. One of the first decrees of the new Communist government declared freedom of "religious and anti-religious propaganda". The Church was also caught in the crossfire of the Russian Civil War that began later the same year, and many leaders of the Church supported what would ultimately turn out to be the losing side (the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movement). According to Lenin, a communist regime cannot remain neutral on the question of religion but must show itself to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ towards it. The Soviet government stood on a platform of militant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, viewing the church as a "counter-revolutionary" organization and an independent voice with a great influence in society. At least 21 million people are believed to have died in repression, persecution and “terror famines” after 1917, including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Orthodox clergy shot during the 1937-8 Great Purge alone, according to Russian government data.

## III. Tsar Nicholas Romanov II (1868-1918)

## Nikolai Aleksandrovich Romanov was born near St Petersburg on 18 May 1868, the eldest son of Tsar Alexander III. Growing up, Nicholas was taught by private tutors. He enjoyed studying foreign languages and history. Nicholas traveled quite a bit and then joined the army when he was nineteen. Unfortunately, his father didn't get him involved in Russian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This lack of on the job training would become an issue when his father died young and an unprepared Nicholas became Tsar of Russia in 1894. When Nicholas first took the crown, he continued with many of his father's conservative policies. This included financial reforms, an alliance with France, and the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railroad in 1902. Nicholas also proposed the Hague Peace Conference of 1899 in order to help promote peace in Europe. In the same year, Nicholas married Princess Alexandra of Hesse-Darmstadt (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_), they were 2nd cousins. Nicholas' wife, Alexandra, was the granddaughter of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the United Kingdom. He was first cousin to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of England and second cousin to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Germany. They had four daughters and a son, Alexis, who suffered from the disease hemophilia. Alexandra was the dominant personality in their relationship and encouraged the weaker Nicholas's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tendencies. He mistrusted most of his ministers and yet was incapable of carrying out the task of ruling the vast Russian empire alone. Determined that Russia should not be left out in the scramble for colonial possessions, Nicholas encouraged Russian expansion in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This provoked war with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1904. The resulting Russian defeat led to strikes and riots. In January 1905, on 'Bloody Sunday', the army in St Petersburg shot at a crowd demanding radical reforms. Opposition to the tsar grew and Nicholas was forced to grant a constitution and establish a parliament, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Nicholas's concessions were only limited. Changes were made in the voting laws to prevent the election of radicals and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ continued to crush opposition. However, the Duma did give many more people, especially the middle classes, a voice in government. The outbreak of World War One in 1914 temporarily strengthened the monarchy, with Russia allied to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against Austria-Hungary and Germany. In mid-1915 Nicholas made the disastrous decision to take direct command of the Russian armies. From then on, every military failure was directly associated with him. With Nicholas often away, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ took a more active role in government. Russia was suffering heavy losses in the war, there was high inflation and severe food shortages at home, which compounded the grinding poverty most Russians already endured. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Alexandra soon became the focus of discontent, as did her confidante, the mystic, Rasputin, who had been at court since 1905 and had gained great influence through his apparent ability to treat the hemophilia of Alexis, the heir to the throne. In December 1916, Rasputin was murdered by a group of disaffected nobles. Then in February 1917, widespread popular demonstrations began in the capital Petrograd (St. Petersburg). Nicholas lost the support of the army and had no alternative but to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A shaky provisional government was established. The tsar and his family were held in various locations, eventually being imprisoned in Yekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains. In October 1917, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ overthrew the provisional government. Following a harsh peace treaty with Germany in March 1918, Russia descended into civil war. On 17 July 1918, as anti-Bolsheviks approached Yekaterinburg, Nicholas and his family were executed. This was almost certainly on the orders of the Bolshevik leader\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

## IV. Lessons from the life of Tsar Nicholas II

## We cannot manage and lead people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 10:35-45)

## All people are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God, especially the weak and poor. (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 15:11)

## We cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God for our personal failures and poor decision-making. (Dan. 9:4-6; Psalm 32:5)

## Church was seen as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ institution, in line with the standards of the world. (1 Timothy 3:15)

## 7/15 Woodrow Wilson