



Russian Duma 1917 (DUMA)

MUNUC 33
ONLINE



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CHAIR LETTERS

My Fellow Russians,

We stand today on the edge of a great crisis. Our nation has never been more divided, more war-stricken, more fearful of the future. Yet, the promise and the greatness of Russia remains undaunted. The Russian Provisional Government can and will overcome these challenges and lead our Motherland into the dawn of a new day.

Out of character. To introduce myself, I'm a fourth-year Economics and History double major, currently writing a BA thesis on World War II rationing in the United States. I compete on UChicago's travel team and I additionally am a CD for our college conference. Besides that, I am the VP of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, previously a member of an all-men a cappella group and a proud procrastinator. This letter, for example, is about a month late.

We decided to run this committee for a multitude of reasons, but I personally think that Russian in 1917 represents such a critical point in history. In an unlikely way, the most autocratic regime on Earth became replaced with a socialist state. The story of this dramatic shift in government and ideology represents, to me, one of the most interesting parts of history: that sometimes facts can be stranger than fiction. I want to see what delegates, thrust into a crisis unlike any other, can accomplish and dream up. I personally want to see how delegates will change history by using their intellect, courage and cunning.

To be completely frank, I wrote this letter after thinking a lot about what Model UN has meant to me. I have spent nearly four years doing this interesting and sometimes infuriating activity. At the end of the day, if I can give some unsolicited advice to delegates, focus your attention on the people rather than the activity. MUN can sometimes be toxic, but I think that if you focus more on making friends and building lifelong connections, it will turn out to be an amazing and rewarding activity.

Thank you to all the UChicago MUN people, including those who have graduated, for being one of the best groups of people I've ever known. I would like to send a shoutout to Heleena for being a great chair and partner, to Alex for dealing with my late background guide, and to Issac and Stasya for being great friends during our weird Chicago summer. I'd like to thank Grace Park for introducing me to MUNUC and for the countless other friends that I've made through MUN and MUNUC. And finally, delegates, I am honored and excited to spend my last MUNUC with you. To repurpose a famous quote, this is the way my time at UChicago ends, not with a whimper, but with a bang.

Stay healthy, safe and sane.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Wang

Brother and Sisters,

I stand before you today, the leader and Chair of this great body, as Russia stands on the precipice of its next era. Through debate, compromise, and fierce politicking, I hope to see a stronger Russia emerge at the conclusion of this session

Through the course of the next few days, be prepared for anything and everything to come your way. Michael and I have worked tirelessly to make sure that this experience is as entertaining as it is educational and challenging. Buckle up!

When I'm not overseeing the Duma, I am a third year at the University of Chicago majoring in Public Policy (Spec econ), with minors in Data Science and Environmental Studies. I like to spend my free time as Chief of Staff of ChoMUN, our college MUN conference. I'm also on the board for the Partnership for Refugee Rights, head of Recruitment for the Chicago Economics Forum, and compete in college conferences.

Aside from my on-campus commitments and extracurriculars, I really enjoy history, classic films, and all things Pop culture. I'm beyond excited to debate all these topics and more during the next few days.

Best,

Heleena Assefa

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ROOM MECHANICS

Frontroom Mechanics

Political Parties:

This committee has delegates grouped in political parties reflecting real-world ideologies and ideas espoused by Russian Parliament members. Potential goals and objectives for delegates will be provided, which should give delegates the ability to further understand their character's positions. For example, delegate Leon Trotsky, who is a member of the Bolsheviks, will be given a focus on improving the strengths of the Bolshevik Party. Similarly, members of the ultraconservative monarchist factions should attempt to bring back the Romanov dynasty and the absolute monarchy. Though delegates are allowed and encouraged to achieve their goals in their own manner, the dais believes that delegates should generally act in character to their given political party.

In the frontroom, delegates will be expected to vote as a bloc with their political party on most matters. The dais, however, does not wish political parties to become beholden to the wills of a single member. Rather, constant collaboration and teamwork within a political party is expected. Furthermore, these votes do not necessarily need to align with the supposed beliefs of that political party if the vote would potentially advance that party's goals and objectives. For example, parties are encouraged to collaborate with each other in order to achieve common goals and objectives.

Formation of governments:

Political parties will compete with each other to form a working coalition of members in order to form a governing coalition. This coalition will then distribute assignments to political parties, which gives that political party additional power in the backroom. For example, suppose the ultra-monarchist, monarchist and centrist factions create a right-wing government. They will then distribute government positions amongst the various political parties (not individual delegates). These powers will then be granted to that political party. Delegates maintain some individual powers as heads of their various agencies but will not be able to fully exercise the powers of their

departments. Instead, they have limited authority over these agencies. For example, the Minister of Post and Telegraph can reroute certain lines to benefit his or her party but cannot simply unilaterally shut down the services without an act from the Russian Provisional Government. The following powers will be distributed to the parties:

Domestic Security: Minister of Interior, Minister of Justice, Minister of Post and Telegraph, Minister of Transport

Economic Policy: Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Food

Foreign Policy: Ambassadorships, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Military: Minister of Navy, Minister of War

Voting Procedure:

All substantive and procedural matters require a plurality of the votes + 1 to pass. Therefore, as long as the 'yes' votes outnumber the 'no' votes, the bill will pass. Because this committee is simulating the procedures of a true parliament, we will implement a special form of voting that will include the use of political parties. The government is allowed to present its bill first, but the government is required to pass the bill, or the government will dissolve, requiring the formation of a new government. Due to the nature of the political system, only one bill can pass per voting session. The party that occupies the prime minister position will be ineligible to be in the government for the next round and will suffer consequences in the backroom. Additionally, all parties that are part of a failed government will suffer consequences (though less than the ruling party). These parties are not allowed to form a government or occupy a prime minister position, but they can be a part of a government. In contrast, parties that are in the opposition or who successfully defect from the majority government will be allowed to form a government and occupy the prime minister seat. Parties that successfully pass legislation will receive additional support in the backroom and occupy stronger public approval. Thus, though delegates will be working on their individual plans and goals, they must simultaneously work for their party to succeed. Furthermore, these mechanics ensure that

no party can remain dominant for too long, because there will be incentives for weaker parties to defect and attempt to mount their own takeover of the government.

Backroom Mechanics:

Public Approval:

All public parties must deliver policies in frontroom bills that correspond to their chosen ideology. Additionally, successfully forming a government and being in the majority coalition during votes will provide boosts to public approval. Similarly, policy successes will allow the chosen ideology of the party to grow considerably amongst the population. Furthermore, the backroom actions of a political party can grow more intense as the party grows in popularity. For example, an extremely popular party can attempt a military coup or a total overhaul of the government, even following a lost election. As a result, parties must balance ideological considerations and the potential gains of being in the government. A failure to solve a crisis or a lack of ideological purity will result in a dramatic decrease in public opinion and could lead to a diminishment of political power.

Party Crisis Notepad:

Delegates will have two notepads per delegation, which will allow delegates to simultaneously work on passing bills and writing notes (please attend MUNUC crisis training or review online training content before committee). At the same time, there will also exist a party crisis notepad. Every session, the party will send a note to the backroom as a whole regarding the chosen policies of the party as a whole. Party notepads will automatically pool the collective resources of the individual members and will thus allow the party to engage in a far stronger and more diverse set of actions. Party notepads can engage in actions such as conducting a coup or in establishing a secessionist government. Such actions would allow for greater cooperation amongst delegates in furthering collective goals while simultaneously providing delegates with the ability to pool resources. The notepads additionally reflect the goals of the party system within the committee. Delegates are highly encouraged to work closely with party members to further collective goals and thus delegates should contribute the breadth of their resources towards the party.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

On March 2nd, 1917, the Russian Tsar, previously claimed to be the successor to the Roman Emperors, abandoned the throne and returned to being a mere citizen of a new Russia.¹ Tsar Nicholas II has called for the Tsarevich Alexei, a sickly boy, to take power of the largest Empire on Earth.² The Russian Provisional Government, originally constituted as a rubber stamp institution for the Tsar, now claims the authority to rule the entire Russian Empire.³ First and foremost, the Government must decide how to constitute the new government. Should the Provisional Government allow for an absolutist or constitutional Tsar or create a true republic? Yet, the authority of the body is challenged from all corners. From the right, powerful absolute monarchists plot to restore Tsar Nicholas to the throne and expand the powers of the Tsar.⁴ From the left, socialist and communist parties' bicker with each other, with the Bolsheviks attempting to overthrow the Provisional Government and create a true socialist state.⁵ The way forward is treacherous. Can the Provisional Government survive and build a stronger Russia, or will the nation fall into civil war?

¹History.com Editors, "Russian Revolution," History.com (A&E Television Networks, February 28, 2020), <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution>.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid



The Future of the Tsar

The first question of the government is the ultimate fate of the previous ruler, Tsar Nicholas II. When stepping down, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated first in favor of his son and then to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich of Russia, a younger brother of Nicholas.⁶ Grand Duke Michael, once proclaimed Tsar, decided to defer to the authority of the Russian Provisional Government.⁷ The first act of business for this new government is to decide the future place of the royal family. Radical socialist and communist parties seek the total destruction of the royal family, the proclamation of a Russian republic and the execution of the Tsar's immediate family.⁸ Moderate parties and constitutional monarchists seek the establishment of Grand Duke Michael as a powerless figurehead able to give

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸History.com Editors, "Bolsheviks Revolt in Russia," History.com (A&E Television Networks, November 4, 2020), <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/bolsheviks-revolt-in-russia>.

legitimacy to the new regime.⁹ Finally, radical absolute monarchists want to overthrow the new Russian Provisional Government, which they see as illegitimate, and the reestablishment of the Tsar as an all-powerful autocrat.¹⁰ At the same time, the Romanov family itself plots against the Russian Provisional Government, and is attempting to control the monarchist faction within the Government to restore the Tsar.¹¹

The Petrograd Soviet, Legitimacy and Power

Leftist revolutionaries have banded together and formed a separate body claiming total authority over the Russian nation.¹² A soviet is the Russian word for a worker's council, and the Petrograd Soviet claims authority over all the workers' councils that have been established after the Tsar's abdication.¹³ In the past few days, the Petrograd Soviet has denounced the Government and issued "Order No. 1." This order declares that no order from the Russian Provisional Government should be followed without approval from the Petrograd Soviet.¹⁴ Thereby, the Soviet has essentially claimed veto power over the authority of the Russian Provisional Government.¹⁵ Thus, if the Russian Provisional Government seeks to issue any order to pro-Soviet military groups, it must first obtain the permission of the Petrograd Soviet to do so. Otherwise, the government's orders would be ignored. The Russian Provisional Government therefore lacks legitimacy, military or economic control. In essence, the Petrograd Soviet is an existential threat to the Government because it can conceivably claim to be the true legitimate successor to the Tsarist regime. Within the Provisional Government itself, there exists a significant number of leftist members who sympathize greatly with the Soviet or are more loyal to the alternative government.¹⁶ The Provisional Government must either gain the support of leftist revolutionaries or purge the government and destroy the Soviet.

⁹History.com Editors, "Russian Revolution," History.com (A&E Television Networks, February 28, 2020), <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution>.

¹⁰History.com Editors, "Bolsheviks Revolt in Russia," History.com (A&E Television Networks, November 4, 2020), <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/bolsheviks-revolt-in-russia>.

¹¹ Ibid

¹²Michael Ray, ed., "Russian Revolution," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., October 30, 2020), <https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution>.

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

Unfortunately, due to the power of the Soviet and of leftist revolutionaries, such actions will likely lead to a civil war.

The problem of the Petrograd Soviet ties into the general problems of creating a working government. The Government must undertake a careful balancing act, using the goodwill of the people and the temporary alliance with the Soviet to build power and legitimacy. In this new parliamentary system, the government must obtain a majority of delegates in order to maintain the confidence of the people. Significant missteps by the Government will lead to more and more people looking towards the Soviet as the true successor to the Tsar. For this reason, the Government must carefully nurture its power and use it to build legitimacy and authority.

The Great War

The Russian Empire continues to fight in the Great War, and the German Empire has seized on the political instability to simultaneously begin peace discussions and launch military offensives into the Russian heartland.¹⁷ The Germans believe that a quick peace with Russia will allow the Central Powers to focus their efforts on the Western front. To that end, the German Empire has released Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin and has funded pacifist elements within Russian society. The Great War is incredibly unpopular and the Russian people seek a negotiated peace, but initial German demands require the return of significant Russian lands.¹⁸ Initial German negotiators, seizing on the Russian weakness, are currently seeking the creation of German puppet states in previously Russian Baltic states, and the creation of an independent Ukraine.¹⁹ Any such peace deal will likely lead to anger from aristocratic elites and the military establishment, while the continuation of the war will continue to infuriate the working classes.

¹⁷Michael Ray, ed., "Russian Empire - World War I," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., November 19, 2020), <https://www.britannica.com/place/Russian-Empire/World-War-I>.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Smele, Jonathan. "World Wars: War and Revolution in Russia 1914 - 1921." BBC History, March 10, 2011. http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/eastern_front_01.shtml.

The Russian Provisional Government, as of now, continues to want to fight the German Empire, both to defend its previous allies and out of a genuine fear of German interference in Russian politics and German military power. Yet, the Russian people are suffering greatly due to the war. First, Russia is primarily a poor, agrarian and un-industrialized nation, and the majority of Russian soldiers are ill-equipped or malnourished.²⁰ Furthermore, the Russian people are generally poor, with the majority of Russian people living in subsistence agriculture, *de facto* serfdom or for low wages in urban areas.²¹ As a result, the war is incredibly unpopular amongst the working poor, and a primary demand of leftist politicians is the end to the war and the use of Russian industry to provide increased economic opportunities to the poor.²²

Finally, the government must be careful in dealing with foreign governments intervening in Russian politics. Great Britain and France are vengeful great powers and will not be happy to see a pacifist Russian state. It is likely that any attempt by the Provisional Government to move towards a completely pacifist Russia will be met with hostility from its erstwhile allies. Without Russia in the war, Germany can focus its attention on combating the Western Allies. In the past, the British and the French have supported the Tsarist regime because of its commitment towards containing German expansionism.²³ If the Provisional Government moves towards a quick end to the war with Germany, it is likely that the Allies will attempt to restore the Tsar in order to keep Russia in the war. Above all, Britain, whose monarch shares deep blood ties with the Romanov dynasty, will be angry at a total abolition of the Tsardom. Moreover, the Tsar has been in recent contact with his British counterpart and is currently attempting to gain political exile within the United Kingdom. Any attempts by the Government to end the Romanov dynasty will likely be met with a British backed restoration movement.

If the Russian Provisional Government decides to stay in the war, the German government is likely to provide money and weapons to the various revolutionaries to try and secure a pacifist regime in Russia. The Bolsheviks, especially, seek a quick negotiated peace. Ohkrana agents have recently

²⁰Michael Ray, ed., "Russian Revolution," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., October 30, 2020), <https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution>.

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

²³ Michael Ray, ed., "Russian Empire - World War I," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., November 19, 2020), <https://www.britannica.com/place/Russian-Empire/World-War-I>.

found that Germany has provided the Bolsheviks with significant military and financial support.²⁴ The Germans have already been attempting to sneak Vladimir Lenin, the head of the Bolsheviks, back into Russia. Therefore, when dealing with the Great War, it is essential that the Government protects against foreign interference.

Protestors and Leftist Revolutionaries

On April 9th, 1905, a group of starving peasants marched up to the Tsar's palace, singing songs and holding banners proclaiming the Tsar as the savior and father of the nation.²⁵ They sought to bypass the Tsar's court and planned on petitioning directly with the Tsar for changes in the peasants' livelihoods, wages and work.²⁶ The Tsar, whose cabinet and advisors gave counsel to put down the protestors harshly, gave orders to his guards to open fire on the demonstrators, killing 130 protestors.²⁷ The priest, who led the petitioners, proclaimed "There is no God. There is no Tsar," as he watched his fellow Russians perish.²⁸ Thus began the revolution of 1905 and Bloody Sunday.²⁹

Political parties of all stripes and ideologies, from absolutists who sought to expand the Tsar's authority to full-scale revolutionary Bolsheviks, took to the streets in a bloody conflict of revolution and counterrevolution.³⁰ The Tsar, again, ordered his troops to fire upon the protestors, heightening the revolutionary fervor and turning the population against him.³¹ Previously, the Tsar was believed to be the "Father of the Nation" and the "Intermediary between God and Men," and was quite beloved by the peasants and lower-classes who blamed his advisors for corrupting the perfect Tsar.³² Now, peasants, clergymen and noblemen all came together to call for radical reforms to the Russian

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵Michael Ray, ed., "Russian Revolution," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., October 30, 2020), <https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution>.

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Encyclopedia Britannica. "Russian Provisional Government | Facts, History, & Summary." Accessed December 15, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Russian-Provisional-Government>.

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

government, seeking the establishment of a constitutional monarchy and the divulgement of powers from the absolutist Romanov dynasty to the Russian people.³³

In response, Tsar Nicholas allowed the recreation of an old parliamentary body, the Duma, allowing rich aristocrats, merchants and clergymen to begin participating in government.³⁴ The Duma, in the present crisis, has declared itself the Russian Provisional Government, the body which seeks to rule the new Russia. Today, the protests are even greater, with hundreds of thousands of protestors calling for full-scale reform of the Russian political system. Likewise, loyalists, monarchists and other counter-protestors seek the protection of the Tsarist regime and the continuation of the dual principles of autocracy and Orthodoxy. Thus, Russia is awash with different political ideologies: republicans, monarchists and radical leftists.³⁵ Economic factions range from capitalists, industrialists and communists, all of whom are calling for overhauls of the agrarian Russian state.³⁶ Finally, there exist people calling for rampant social reforms, including the increase in freedoms for peasants and the abolishment of the aristocracy.³⁷ The Russian Provisional Government will need to decide which of these factions to support or purge.



³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵Michael Ray, ed., "Russian Revolution," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., October 30, 2020), <https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution>.

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid

HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM

Many of the issues and topics discussed in this committee are rooted in hundreds of years of complex political and economic dynamics. Russia's unique ethnic, geographic and political makeup distinguish it from the rest of Europe. This section will discuss any relevant historical context to the issues delegates can expect to grapple with during the committee.

Russia's place in Europe

Russia initial approach towards Europe was one of reverence, particularly after the reign of Peter the Great and the founding of St. Petersburg (his "window on the West").³⁸ In 1703, educated Russians looked to Europe as their ideal of enlightenment and culture, even going so far as to speak French in Russian court. When Peter the Great constructed St. Petersburg, he ultimately intended for the city to serve as the catalyst for the cultural, political, and economic transformation of Russia into a Western power.³⁹ Peter forced his noblemen to shave their "Russian" beards (which were more a mark of devotion to the Russian Orthodox faith than representative of an allegiance to the east), adopt Western dress, build palaces with classical facades, and adopt European customs and habits. By the early nineteenth century, most members of the nobility spoke French better than they spoke Russian; speaking Russian became a quality of the common man.⁴⁰ It's important to note here that this attitude is highly concentrated within the upper classes, and this division becomes more evident in later portions of Russian history.

Unfortunately, this feeling was in no way mutual. In fact, many Russians reported a palatable distaste emanating from Western Europeans towards Russia and its people.⁴¹ Russians were often referred to as "barbarians," and the French rather viciously referred to them as "monkeys."⁴² In the 1850's nationalists began to emerge that challenged the West as an ideal region. They argued that

³⁸Orlando Figes, "Russia and Europe," OpenMind (BBVA, January 14, 2016), <https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/russia-and-europe/>.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² W. Bruce Lincoln, *The Great Reforms: Autocracy, Bureaucracy, and the Politics of Change in Imperial Russia* (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 1990).

the west's technological advancements may be impressive, but they would ultimately lead to the collapse of society because they relied on a sense of individualism that was foreign to most Russians, who prized collective action instead.⁴³ This was only worsened by the events of the Crimean War, in which Russia suffered an exceedingly humiliating defeat. Defeat in the Crimean War left the Russians with a profound resentment towards the West.⁴⁴ The peace treaty imposed by European powers was a complete catastrophe for Russia, which was forced to destroy its Black Sea Fleet. No compulsory disarmament had ever been imposed on a Great Power until this point. The way Russia had been treated was unprecedented and especially notable, since at this point most European leaders subscribed to the doctrine that no Great Power should be humbled by others.⁴⁵ The allies did not really believe Russia was a European power and instead regarded Russia as a semi-Asiatic state. During negotiations, many leaders even compared Russia to China, and saw this treaty as allegorical to the treaty that ended the Opium wars.⁴⁶

After the humiliation of Crimea, Russia turned towards the East, and entered its imperialist phase.⁴⁷ They saw China, and other Asian conquests, as an opportunity to assert their relative Europeanness and compete with Britain and Western powers.

The Russian Monarchy

The Romanov family was the last imperial dynasty to rule over Russia. Over the course of history, 18 Romanovs ascended to the throne, including famed monarchs Catherine the Great and Peter the Great.⁴⁸

The Tsar of Russia in 1917, Nicholas II, succeeded his father, Alexander III.⁴⁹ The two were known to be rather close, and Nicholas was said to idolize his stern, intimidating father. Alexander III came to power around 1881, which was right about when the industrial revolution had made its way to

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Andrew D. Lambert, *The Crimean War: British Grand Strategy, 1853-56* (Manchester: Manchester Univ. Pr., 1991).

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ "Nicholas II Biography," *Biography.com* (A&E Networks Television, June 12, 2020), <https://www.biography.com/royalty/nicholas-ii>.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

Russia.⁵⁰ Primarily, Alexander III focused on embedding Nicholas II with the same religious, fiercely authoritarian mindset that characterized his own rule.⁵¹ Although the empire stabilized during Alexander's reign, most attribute this to his brutal crackdown on journalism and political dissent that later would backfire on his successor.⁵² Alexander III never participated in war, but he dedicated large amounts of resources towards revitalizing Russia's dated military.⁵³ While history tends to see Alexander's contributions to history as solely filling prisons in Siberia with political dissidents and expansions of his own power, it's clear that his reign was also characterized by prosperity and peace.



⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Scott Malsom, "Diaries and Letters - Alexander III," The Home of the Last Tsar - Romanov and Russian History (Alexander III - Blog & Alexander Palace Time Machine), accessed December 14, 2020, <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/alexbio.html>.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ "Nicholas II Biography," Biography.com (A&E Networks Television, June 12, 2020), <https://www.biography.com/royalty/nicholas-ii>.

Despite his brutish reputation, Alexander III often spoiled his children.⁵⁴ Surprisingly, he neglected to ensure his son had a grasp of political science and economics and indulged him by allowing him to spend his time studying foreign languages and history - both areas for which he had a clear affinity.⁵⁵

When Alexander III died suddenly 1894, young Nicholas II was suddenly expected to fill his father's very large (literally, he was 6'4) shoes.⁵⁶ This was despite the fact that Nicholas II was 26, and by most accounts completely inept and uneducated in matters of state.⁵⁷ After Nicholas' rather traumatic loss of his father, he confided to a friend that he was "[unprepared]to be a tsar" and "never wanted to become one." He also admitted that he "knew nothing of the business of ruling."⁵⁸ Interestingly, Nicholas did rather enjoy war, and rose to the ranks of colonel. In fact, he often shirked political meetings and duties during his time in the military.⁵⁹

Within a month of his father's passing, Nicholas married Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt (more commonly known as Alexandra).⁶⁰ The couple quickly went on to have three girls in succession. Finally, their fourth child was a boy, and Nicholas and Aleksandra were relieved to have a male heir to the throne.⁶¹ Unfortunately, their celebrations were curtailed after they realized the young boy had hemophilia. This is no surprise, as hemophilia is a condition associated with inbreeding, which ran rampant within European royalty and aristocracy. At this point in history, centuries worth of royals had been intermarrying, which inevitably led to some overlap.⁶² In fact, Alexandra and Nicholas were related through multiple different lines of European royalty; they were second cousins through a common great-grandmother, and third cousins-once-removed via another obscure European royal.⁶³ Desperate to find a cure for their son, Alexei, Nicholas and Alexandra relied on the

⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶"Nicholas II Biography," Biography.com (A&E Networks Television, June 12, 2020), <https://www.biography.com/royalty/nicholas-ii>.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Poltoratzky, Nikolai P., Victor Alexandrov, William Sutcliffe, and Robert K. Massie. "The End of the Romanovs." *Russian Review* 27, no. 2 (April 1968): 246. <https://doi.org/10.2307/127037>.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰Scott Malsom, "Diaries and Letters - Alexander III," *The Home of the Last Tsar - Romanov and Russian History* (Alexander III - Blog & Alexander Palace Time Machine), accessed December 14, 2020, <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/alexbio.html>.

⁶¹"Nicholas II Biography," Biography.com (A&E Networks Television, June 12, 2020), <https://www.biography.com/royalty/nicholas-ii>.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

counsel of Rasputin, a failed Orthodox monk turned court-healer that gained significant influence over Alexandra after he seemingly cured Alexei.⁶⁴ After a session with the young boy, the bleeding seemed to stop for some time.⁶⁵ Some historians attribute this to Rasputin's insistence that Alexei stop taking aspirin, which is known to thin blood and exacerbate the effects of hemophilia.⁶⁶ Either way, the Tsarina was amazed, and her loyalty to the monk was ironclad. His growing power and influence over the royal family led to Rasputin's eventual downfall. A group of conspirators, mainly consisting of various military officials and aristocrats, invited him to a seemingly benign dinner and shot him dead.⁶⁷ Legend has it that they fed him cyanide first, and only decided to shoot him after he seemed unaffected by the poison. Although this narrative makes a compelling story, autopsy reports show no traces of cyanide were found in his blood.⁶⁸ Although Rasputin was dead, his prophecies continued to unfold. Eerily enough, Rasputin wrote to the Tsar shortly before his murder and predicted that if he were to die at the hands of government officials, the entire royal family would be killed at the hands of the Russian people.⁶⁹ Holy or not, we know this prophecy eventually came to fruition.⁷⁰

History of Civil Unrest and the Duma

Nicholas II's reign was affected by civil unrest from the outset. During a public celebration of his coronation near Moscow, poor planning led to one of the deadliest stampedes of all time.⁷¹ Initially, most citizens didn't blame the Khodynka Catastrophe, as it's commonly known, on Nicholas II. Instead, they were incensed that he continued celebrations of his coronation, despite being well aware of the fact that bodies were being wheeled out and dumped in unmarked graves.⁷² Nicholas II

⁶⁴ Harris, Carolyn. "The Murder of Rasputin, 100 Years Later." Smithsonian Magazine, December 27, 2016. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/murder-rasputin-100-years-later-180961572/>.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Scott Malsom, "Diaries and Letters - Alexander III," The Home of the Last Tsar - Romanov and Russian History (Alexander III - Blog & Alexander Palace Time Machine), accessed December 14, 2020, <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/alexbio.html>.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

and Alexandra were spotted smiling at their ball, and incensed citizenry were left with a bad taste in their mouths.⁷³

For the next 15 years, Nicholas II closely followed his father's brutal footsteps by jailing political dissidents and activists.⁷⁴ Building discontent within the populace finally came to a head on January 5th, 1905. Father George Gapon led a sizable but peaceful demonstration of workers in St. Petersburg; The demonstrators appealed to Nicholas II to improve working conditions and establish a popular assembly.⁷⁵ At the behest of Nicholas II, troops opened fire on the demonstrators, killing more than a thousand people in what would come to be called "Bloody Sunday."⁷⁶ The rather harsh retribution from the government seemed to backfire; if anything, Bloody Sunday galvanized the agitated populace and helped dissidents build momentum. Soon after, workers throughout Russia went on strike.⁷⁷ Peasants all over Russia sympathized with the workers' cause, and thousands of uprisings took place. Despite the events of the past, Nicholas II chose to respond to these smaller uprisings with the same violence and brutality that caused them.⁷⁸ This created a cyclical effect, where violent government reactions to peaceful protests led to anger within the populace, which led to more peaceful protests and another violent response, and so on.⁷⁹ Nicholas II was eventually forced to concede some of his power and create an elected legislature, called the Duma.⁸⁰ Despite this concession, or perhaps because he was still bitter over it, Nicholas II rebuked further reform efforts.⁸¹ World War was another catalyst to the revolution, and the consequences of Russia's involvement in the war proved to be the final death knell for the Romanov dynasty.⁸²

The Great War and Civil Unrest

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Keep, John. "Nicholas II | Biography, Death, & Facts." Encyclopedia Britannica. Accessed December 15, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nicholas-II-tsar-of-Russia>.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

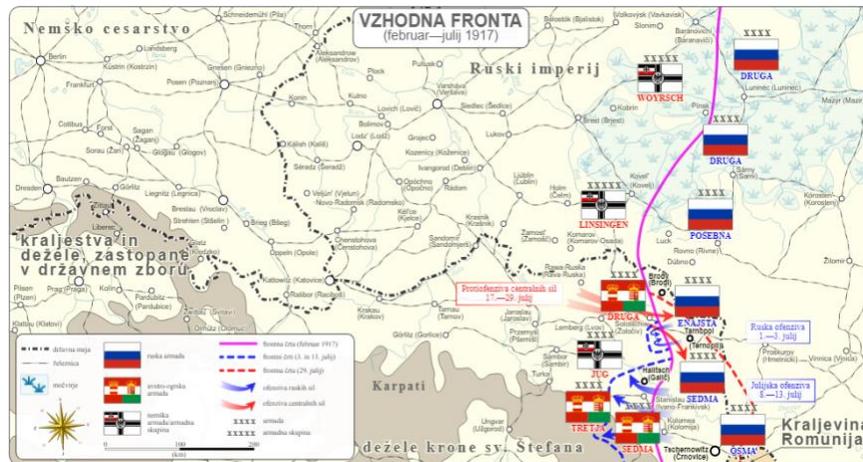
⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

Over the course of WWI, Russia endured major losses and was subject to extreme poverty and high inflation.⁸³ The Russian public blamed Nicholas II for his poor military decisions, and Empress Alexandra for her ill-advised role in government. Because Alexandra was originally from Germany, suspicion spread that she might have even deliberately sabotaged Russia, ensuring its defeat in the war.⁸⁴

By February 1917, Nicholas II's subjects were in such an uproar that riots broke out in St. Petersburg.⁸⁵ Nicholas was still headquartered at Mogilev at the time.⁸⁶ When he tried to get home to Petrograd, the Duma (the elected legislature), which had by then turned on him, prevented him from boarding the train.⁸⁷ After the Duma elected their own provisional committee built of progressive bloc members, and the soldiers sent to quash the St. Petersburg riots mutinied, Nicholas II had no other choice but to step down from the monarchy.⁸⁸ On March 15, 1917, he abdicated the throne.⁸⁹ He and his family were then taken to the Ural Mountains and placed under house arrest.⁹⁰ In the fall of 1917, Russia's provisional government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks.⁹¹



⁸³ "Nicholas II Biography," Biography.com (A&E Networks Television, June 12, 2020), <https://www.biography.com/royalty/nicholas-ii>.

⁸⁴ Scott Malsom, "Diaries and Letters - Alexander III," The Home of the Last Tsar - Romanov and Russian History (Alexander III - Blog & Alexander Palace Time Machine), accessed December 14, 2020, <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/alexbio.html>.

⁸⁵ Ibid

⁸⁶ Ibid

⁸⁷ Ibid

⁸⁸ Ibid

⁸⁹ Ibid

⁹⁰ Ibid

⁹¹ Ibid

ROSTER

Constitutional Democratic Party (Kadets): The Constitutional Democratic Party is a liberal political party that advocates for the establishment of a constitutional monarchy with a strong legislature. Made up of prominent intellectuals and professors, the party has always advocated for increased protections for workers and peasants. Unlike many chauvinist and nationalist political parties, the Kadets have advocated for the expansion of Russian identity and citizenship status to a variety of minority groups. Finally, following the recent crises, the Kadet party has gravitated from vehement opposition to assembling a coalition of like-minded liberal revolutionaries to form a government of national unity. As the strongest political party, the Kadet party is poised to lead the nation.

1. Georgy Lvov

- a. Position: Chairman of the All-Russian Union of Zemstvos
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Georgy Lvov, a Russian nobleman, graduated from the University of Moscow, focusing on law. As chairman of the All-Russian Union of Zemstvos, he has been integral in the Russian war effort, and is able to mobilize hundreds of thousands of Russian volunteers for various work projects. Following the recent political upheaval, he has been jockeying to become the head of the provisional government. Lvov is incredibly well-connected as he is a descendant of the Rurik dynasty, a powerful Russian family. Additionally, he is married to a descendant of Catherine the Great. Finally, he worked closely with the former Tsar in helping to coordinate the Russian war effort.

2. Pavel Milyukov

- a. Position: Minister of Foreign Affairs
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Pavel Nikolayevich Milyukov, the founder and head of the Constitutional Democratic Party (Kadets), received degrees in history and philology at the Moscow University. Milyukov regularly engaged in acts of political defiance against the Tsarist regime,

agitating for liberal ideas such as political freedom and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy. Milyukov became a member of the Third Duma in 1907, and became a more rightist deputy following the start of World War I. Milyukov believes that the constitutional monarchy should be preserved, with Alexei Romanov as Tsar and Grand Duke Michael as Regent.

Furthermore, Milyukov is a staunch supporter of the war, regarding any surrender as a betrayal of Russia's commitment to her allies.

3. Nikolai Nekrasov

a. Position: Minister of Transport

b. Party: Kadet

c. Nikolai Vissarionovich Nekrasov is a Russian professor of transportation engineering at the Tomsk Engineering Institute. A prominent member and co-founder of the Kadet party, he attempted to push the party leftward in response to the power of the Tsarist regime during World War I. Nekrasov is a staunch constitutional monarchist and played a large part in attempting a palace coup to force Tsar Nicholas' abdication. Nekrasov is an incredibly well-connected individual, as he is the Secretary General of the Grand Orient of Russia's Peoples, a freemason lodge. He additionally became deputy chairman of the Duma in 1916, giving him parliamentary and procedural power within the body.

4. Andrei Shingarev

a. Position: Minister of Finance

b. Party: Kadet

c. Andrei Ivanovich Singarev is a Russian aristocrat and doctor, with degrees in physics, mathematics and medicine from the Lomonosov Moscow State University. Shingarev, an early revolutionary, participated in the 1905 protests against the Tsar. Following the failed revolution, he was elected multiple times to the Duma, where he served as a prominent leader in the Constitutional Democratic Party. Like Nekrasov, Shingarev actively participated in the Grand Orient of Russian Peoples. Finally, Shingarev

maintains strong connections with a variety of newspapers and magazines, and he is a regular correspondent in the *Russian Idea*.

5. Alexander Manuilov

- a. Position: Minister of Education
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Alexander Appolonovich Manuilov is a Russian economist and a co-founder of the Constitutional Democratic Party. He served as rector of the Moscow State University, where he maintained significant control over the student body and university funds. Additionally, through his lifelong focus on education, Manuilov has cultivated ties with a variety of university faculty and liberal professors across Russia.

6. Sergey Oldenburg

- a. Position: Minister of Education
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Sergey Oldenburg is a Russian intellectual focusing on Oriental studies. As a younger man, Oldenburg worked closely with Vladimir Lenin and his older brother Aleksandr Ulyanov in a variety of terrorist activities against the Tsarist regime. Oldenburg and other members of the Scientific-Literary Association of Students attempted to assassinate Tsar Alexander III, which led to the execution of Ulyanov. Though a member of the Kadet party, Oldenburg has cultivated deep and lasting relationships with a variety of Bolsheviks and a lifetime friendship with Lenin. Finally, as Secretary of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a member of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, Oldenburg maintains access to prominent liberal intellectuals throughout Russia and deep connections to leaders of Asian nations.

7. Piotr Yurenev

- a. Position: Minister of Transport
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Piotr Yurenev served as a prominent member of the Kadet party, following his election to the Duma. Yurenev, who graduated from Moscow State University with

degrees in physics and mechanical engineering, assisted in the establishment of the Trans-Siberian Railway alongside a variety of Tsarist officials. A rightist member of the Kadet party, Yurenev favors the reestablishment of Nicholas as Tsar and the restoration of a variety of noble privileges. Yurenev is a distant member of the cadet branch of the Romanov dynasty, and was personal friends with Empress Alexandra. Finally, Yurenev runs the prominent Moscow Transportation Company, a private corporation with ties to corrupt Tsarist officials.

8. Prince Pavel Dolgorukov

- a. Position: Chairman of the Kadet Central Committee
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Prince Pavel Dmitrievich Dolgorukov is a prominent member of the Russian aristocracy, as the scion of the Dolgorukov family, one of the most powerful and richest families in Russia. As a liberal nobleman, he mobilized his incredible wealth towards increasing the power of Moscow zemstvo. Dolgorukov additionally co-founded the Kadet party and accumulated strong political backing from his Moscow backers.

With his work in the zemstvo, Dolgorukov gained significant influence with the military establishment. He focused his efforts on increasing the strength of the Red Cross within Russia, and has strong connections with a variety of international charitable organizations.

9. Fyodor Kokoshkin

- a. Position: Controller General
- b. Party: Kadet
- c. Fyodor Fyodorovich Kokoshkin is a Russian lawyer and a co-founder of the Russian Constitutional Democratic Party. Kokoshin is widely regarded as the foremost scholar on constitutional government and is in contact with the most prominent liberal intellectuals of the day. Furthermore, as vice-secretary of the Duma, he has pushed for the Russian government to adopt equal political freedoms, in which all people are equal under the law.

Kokoshin has engaged in a variety of liberal groups focused on legal issues, especially the Union of Local Constitutionals and the Union Liberation, both of which are focused on the establishment of a liberal constitution. He is additionally a frequent contributor to the *Ruskiye Vedomosti*, a liberal newspaper that has been sharply critical of the Tsarist regime.

Progressive Party: The Progressive Party believes deeply in the notion that capitalism and entrepreneurship can lift up the Russian economy and people. Advocates of expanding political and economic freedoms, the Progressive Party is deeply skeptical and critical of the Tsar's heavy-handed control over the country. Following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, the Progressive Party has advocated the establishment of a constitutional monarchy and a powerful legislature that is able to provide significant checks on the executive branch. Furthermore, the Progressive Party seeks the redistribution of state assets back to private hands, and the end to the state's ability to grant monopolies to well-connected individuals. Moreover, the Progressive Party advocates for the appointment of technocrats and other well-educated bureaucrats to key government positions. Though small, the Progressive Party maintains broad support from the wealthiest Russians, allowing the party to wield outsized power by leveraging its wealth and influence.

10. Mikhail Tereschenko:

- a. Position: Minister
- b. Party: Progressive Party
- c. Mikhail Ivanovich Tereshchenko is a Ukrainian aristocrat and businessman born to the wealthy and well-connected Tereshchenko family. The Tereshchenko family own a network of sugar factories throughout Russia, eastern Europe and the United States that process and distribute sugar. Tereshchenko is a prominent member of the Freemasonry and has used his great wealth towards the establishment of a variety of charitable organizations throughout Russia. Most importantly, Tereshchenko has focused on empowering the Red Cross and has established a network of hospitals to care for wounded soldiers. As chairman of the Kiev Military Industry Committee, Tereshchenko worked closely with a variety of moderate constitutional monarchists

and socialists, and he is widely seen as a pragmatic deputy. At the same time, Tereshchenko is an avid supporter of the war effort and views a separate peace with the German Empire as humiliating.

11. Vladimir Lvov

- a. Position: Ober-Procurator of the Most Holy Synod
- b. Party: Progressive
- c. Vladimir Nikolaevich Lvov is a Russian nobleman and a chairman of the Commission for the Russian Church. A deeply religious man, Lvov has focused his effort on expanding the power of the Russian Orthodox Church and preserving its power regardless of the fate of the Tsar. An active proponent of the supremacy of the Church, he has long rejected the control of the Tsar over the church. Rather, Lvov believes that the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church ought to be in control of all Russian spiritual and religious matters. Finally, he is a firm believer in the importance of unity within the church; Lvov deeply despised Grigori Rasputin and openly cheered his assassination due to Rasputin's manipulation of Church doctrine toward his own ends.

12. Alexander Konovalov

- a. Position: Minister of Trade and Industry
- b. Party: Progressive
- c. Alexander Ivanovich Konovalov is a Russian politician and entrepreneur. His business specialized in the production of textiles and Konovalov made a fortune by selling his clothing to the Russian Army. Simultaneously, Konovalov serves as vice president of the Military-Industrial Committee, which assisted in the allocation of resources throughout Russia. Konovalov has utilized his knowledge of the textile industry to assist in the provision of warm clothes for Russian soldiers. Finally, Konovalov is a member of the Grand Orient of Russia's Peoples.

13. Ivan Efremov

- a. Position: Minister of Healthcare

- b. Party: Progressive Party
- c. Ivan Nikolaevich Efremov served the Tsar in a variety of capacities as a liaison to various business and special interest groups. Efremov worked closely with Konovalov in the Military-Industrial Committee, and specialized in setting up hospitals throughout Russia to take care of wounded soldiers. Efremov graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in medicine and has assisted Russian doctors in creating new procedures for the care of wounded soldiers. Efremov is also the owner of the Efremov Medical Limited, a chain of hospitals in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Octobrist Party: The Octobrist Party, also known as the Union of October 17, is a liberal, constitutional monarchist political party founded following the failed revolution of 1905. The party seeks the establishment of checks and balances on the Tsarist government and a strong parliament able to reform the Russian Empire. Currently, the party has suffered a series of humiliating electoral defeats following the outbreak of World War I, as more extremist political parties have stolen away its key supporters. Currently, the Octobrist Party is active only in St. Petersburg, as rural supporters have gravitated towards socialist parties. Furthermore, its support of constitutional monarchism has been challenged by the refusal of the Tsar to give up significant power. Though its support is small, the party has a large number of delegates within the Duma and can wield significant legislative power. The Octobrist and Kadet parties, despite their policy similarities, have fought repeatedly as both parties try to take up the mantle as the most powerful moderate party.

14. Alexander Guchkov

- a. Position: Minister of War and Navy
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Alexander Ivanovich Guchkov is a Russian politician and head of the Octobrist party. He briefly served as the Chairman of the Duma's Committee of Imperial Defense and then served as the President of the Third Duma. Under his leadership, the Octobrists suffered huge losses in 1912 and 1915, causing the party to lose significant support outside of St. Petersburg. A founder of the Progressive Bloc, an alliance of liberal and

constitutional monarchist parties, Guchkov plotted to execute a coup against the Tsar and establish a new government of national unity.

Guchkov served in the Red Cross during the Russo-Japanese War and assisted in the establishment of hospitals throughout Russia. Guchkov has a strong dislike of the Kadet party, viewing them as insufficiently sympathetic towards the Russian poor and unable to compromise. Above all, Guchkov is a pragmatic politician. Finally, Guchkov is an "Old Believer," a member of a traditionalist sect of Russian Orthodoxy.

15. Mikhail Rodzianko

- a. Position: State Councillor and Chamberlain of the Imperial Family
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Mikhail Vladimirovich Rodzianko is a Ukrainian politician currently serving as the Chairman of the State Duma. As a result, he maintains significant ability to manipulate parliamentary procedure and influence the proceedings of the Duma. Rodzianko despised Grigori Rasputin and tried desperately to save the Tsar from making the various mistakes that led to his abdication. Furthermore, as the protests in the capital intensified, Rodzianko attempted to simultaneously reform the government and save the Tsarist regime. Rodzianko is currently leading talks with the Tsar regarding abdication.

16. Sergei Shidlovskiy

- a. Position: Chairman of Progressive Bloc and Co-leader of Left Octobrists
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Sergei Shidlovskiy is a Russian politician and former deputy chairman of the State Duma. Following his election, Shidlovskiy led the left-wing bloc of the Octobrists. In 1915, the Octobrist party faced dramatic infighting and Shidlovskiy emerged as a powerful force preventing the left-wing Octobrists from defecting to more radical, socialist parties. As a result, the Octobrist party has drifted left and had to accommodate Shidlovskiy and his supporters. Thus, Shidlovskiy maintains significant influence over the Octobrist party as a whole.

17. Ivan Dmitryukov:

- a. Position: Co-leader of the Left Octobrists
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Ivan Dmitryukov, along with Shidlovskiy, has worked desperately to prevent the left Octobrist faction from defecting to socialist parties. Following the recent crisis, Dmitryukov has rethought his previous vehement opposition towards joining the socialist politicians. Furthermore, Dmitryukov, previously a constitutional monarchist, has flirted with the idea of removing the monarchy entirely and creating a fully fledged republic.

18. Sergey Sazonov

- a. Position: Ambassador to the United Kingdom
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Sergei Dmitriyevich Sazonov is a Russian politician and statesman who served as the Tsar's Foreign Minister from 1910 to 1916. Sazonov was the chief architect of a 1910 Russian-German Detente, and has been one of the primary contacts with the German government since the outbreak of war. Sazonov was dismissed as foreign minister and appointed ambassador to the United Kingdom due to his enmity with Tsarina Alexandra. A staunch opponent of Bolshevism and socialism, Sazonov represents one of the more right-wing members of the Octobrists and has pushed for the party to adopt support of constitutional monarchy. Sazonov has deep ties with various British aristocrats and is personally quite wealthy. Finally, he is quite pro-war and does not believe that Russia should sign a separate peace with Germany.

19. Alexander von Benckendorff

- a. Position: Ambassador to Denmark
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Alexander Philipp Konstantin Ludwig Graf von Benckendorff is a Baltic German diplomat and serves as the ambassador to Denmark and the United Kingdom. A key supporter of the Anglo-Russian Entente, he assisted in the creation of the Triple Entente. Von Benckendorff is a powerful aristocrat and is married to Countess Sophie

Shuvalova. Benckendorff is personal friends with members of the Danish royal family and the Prince of Wales, Edward.

20. Boris Bakhmeteff

- a. Position: Ambassador to the United States
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Boris Alexandrovich Bakhmeteff is the ambassador to the United States and an engineer. As an engineer, he worked with the Tsarist regime in the creation of the Trans-Siberian Railway and various other infrastructure projects in Imperial Russia. Moreover, due to his connections with American businessmen, Bakhmeteff was instrumental in increasing foreign direct investment within Russia and for assisting in cultivating Russo-American business ties. Additionally, Bakhmeteff has been attempting to get the American government to join the war and assist the Russian government.

21. Alexander Izvolsky

- a. Position: Ambassador to France
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Count Alexander Petrovich Izvolsky is a Russian diplomat and ambassador to the French Empire. Following the humiliating defeat of the Russo-Japanese war, Izvolsky became obsessed with the necessity of rebuilding Russian military might and preventing any further wars. Izvolsky was instrumental in the creation of the Triple Entente between Russia, France and the United Kingdom. Following the outbreak of war, Izvolsky became vehemently pro-war and has focused on ensuring that Russia wins by strengthening alliances and encouraging intense military rearmament.

22. Roman Rosen

- a. Position: Ambassador to Japan
- b. Party: Octobrist
- c. Baron Roman Romanovich Rosen is a Baltic German diplomat and ambassador to Japan. The Rosen family maintains strong military ties, with a history of powerful and

influential generals in a variety of different militaries. Rosen failed to prevent the Russo-Japanese War, but remained influential by brokering a favorable peace with the Japanese military in the Treaty of Portsmouth. Subsequently, Rosen served as a member of the State Council, as an advisor to the Tsar, and briefly as the ambassador to the United States.

Socialist Revolutionary Party: The Socialist Revolutionary Party (SRs) is an agrarian socialist party with the majority of its support mostly in the rural peasantry. Focused on empowering farmers and redistributing land to the peasants, the SRs dominate elections throughout the country in rural areas. Unlike the Mensheviks, Bolsheviks or Popular Socialists, the SRs do not believe that urban workers are the future of socialist revolution. Instead, they believe in the creation of empowered peasant landowners able to support themselves without heavy-handed state control. Furthermore, the SRs are split into two distinctive factions: the left SRs and right SRs. The left SRs are the most radical faction of the party, and engage in intense political violence. The faction was instrumental in the assassination of senior Tsarist officials such as Admiral Fyodor Dubasov, and the SRs maintained the SR Combat Organisation (SRCO) which specializing in conducting terrorism. Following the start of World War I, the SRs mostly supported the war effort rather than engage in additional actions of revolutionary violence.

23. Alexander Kerensky

- a. Position: Minister of Justice
- b. Party: Socialist Revolutionary
- c. Alexander Fyodorovich Kerensky is a Russian lawyer and politician, and a proponent of revolution. Kerensky is the leader of the Trudovik faction, a moderate branch of the SRs. Kerensky believes deeply in the necessity of establishing a very limited constitutional monarchy and the empowerment of the legislature. Kerensky additionally served as Secretary General of the Grand Orient of Russia's Peoples. A popular speaker, Kerensky has assisted in building up the various socialist parties into a more cohesive movement. Unlike other doctrinaires in the Bolshevik Party, Kerensky believes that a pan-leftist group of parties should work together in establishing a government.

24. Pavel Pereverzev

- a. Position: Minister of Justice
- b. Party: Socialist Revolutionary
- c. Pavel Pereverzev is a left-wing socialist politician primarily based in Moscow.

Following the outbreak of war, Pereverzev focused on increasing leftist support for the war effort. He attempted to simultaneously create opportunities for workers and increase rearmament by building factories in worker neighborhoods. Furthermore, Pereverzev maintains deep ties with various village elders throughout Russia. In his earlier days, Pereverzev engaged in political violence and assisted in conducting the assassination of various Tsarist officials. Unlike the Trudovik and right-SRs, Pereverzev believes in the necessity of abolishing the Tsardom and creating a true republic.

25. Victor Chernov

- a. Position: Minister of Agriculture
- b. Party: Socialist Revolutionary
- c. Viktor Mikhailovich Chernov is a Russian revolutionary politician and a co-founder of the SR party. Traditionally a prominent member of the left-wing branch of the party, he believed deeply in the necessity of land redistribution and increasing the political power of the rural peasantry. In his earlier days, Chernov engaged in a wide range of intense revolutionary activities, including the use of political violence against Tsarist officials. Eventually, following his election to the Second Duma, Chernov became the leader of the SR party and attempted to push the party in a more socialist direction.

26. Nikolai Avksentiev

- a. Position: Minister of Internal Affairs
- b. Party: Socialist Revolutionary
- c. Nikolai Dimitrovich Avksentiev is a prominent member of the SR party and a powerful aristocrat based in Moscow. Avksentiev leads the right-SRs, and is a prominent member of the Defensist wing of the SRs. Defensists believe that socialists should support their government's war efforts rather than engage in a broad coalition of

socialist parties. Avksentiev is also a member of the Grand Orient of Russia's Peoples, as well as a professor at the University of Heidelberg. Finally, Avksentiev served as a key link between the Russian Provisional Government and the rival Petrograd Soviet, attempting to link the two organizations into a single government of national unity.

Menshevik Party: The Menshevik faction began as the moderate wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP), which eventually morphed into the future Communist Party of Russia. The RSDLP served to merge the various socialist and revolutionary parties under a single umbrella, but eventually broke apart following irreconcilable differences between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. The Mensheviks are currently far more popular than the radical Bolsheviks, and have seen their support among the population jump significantly following the recent protests. The majority of Mensheviks do not support the war, and are instead far more focused on reforming Russian domestic politics rather than fighting a so-called "imperialist war."

The Mensheviks and SRs are both competing for the mantle of dominating the future of Russian left-wing politics. Unlike the SRs, which are dominant in rural politics, the Mensheviks have accumulated significant control over the emerging network of soviets and are the foremost controllers of the Petrograd Soviet. Furthermore, with their relative strength in the Duma, the Mensheviks are on the precipice of unifying the nation under its first socialist government.

27. Matvey Skobelev

- a. Position: Minister of Labour
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Matvey Ivanovich Skobelev is a Russian Marxist revolutionary and socialist politician. Despite his revolutionary views, Skobelev is incredibly wealthy and his family controls a vast majority of the Baku oil fields, some of the richest in Eastern Europe. Additionally, he maintains significant control over the *Pravda* newspaper, a socialist newspaper with significant readership across the population. He was elected to the 4th Duma and attempted to push for increased unity between the various socialist revolutionaries. Skobelev is one of the main leaders of the Petrograd Soviet, and

holds dual positions in both the Duma and the Soviet. As deputy chairman of the Petrograd Soviet's Executive Committee, Skobelev maintains significant control over the city guard and military personnel within the capital.

28. Irakli Tsereteli

- a. Position: Minister of Post and Telegraph
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Irakli Tsereteli is a Georgian politician and a prominent leader of the Menshevik faction. Tsereteli attempted to overthrow the Tsar various times in the early 1900s, and was arrested frequently due to his revolutionary politics. Tsereteli spent years in exile in Siberia and founded the Siberian Zimmerwaldists, a group of exiles that sought to end the war via a pan-socialist movement. As a result, Tsereteli maintains secretive contacts with socialists throughout Eastern and Western Europe.

29. Sergei Prokopovich

- a. Position: Minister of Trade and Industry
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Sergei Nikolaevich Prokopovich is a socialist politician and economic thinker. Unlike other Mensheviks, Prokopovich believes that the establishment of a socialist republic is far more important than creating a democratic republic. As a result, he is focusing more on increasing the power of bourgeois-democratic forces within Russia rather than strengthening the power of the peasantry. Furthermore, he is more inclined to favor policies that improve social and economic life for the peasantry rather than increasing the political power of the working class.

30. Alexei Nikitin

- a. Position: Minister of Post and Telegraph
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Alexei Nikitin is a Ukrainian socialist politician and the leader of the right-wing branch of the Mensheviks. Rather than support the creation of a socialist republic, Nikitin believes that the Tsar should be preserved as a figurehead for a future socialist

government. Thus, he prefers an extremely limited constitutional monarchy with the ability to rally the people under a unity government. Furthermore, Nikitin has engaged in talks with moderate constitutional monarchist parties to form a government following the recent abdication crisis. Finally, Nikitin has expressed great disapproval for the tactics of the Bolsheviks and left SRs, especially their use of political violence and terrorism.

31. Nikolay Chkheidze

- a. Position: Chairman of the Petrograd Soviet
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Nikolay Semyonovich Chkheidze, also known as Karlo Chkheidze, is a Georgian politician and aristocrat. A staunch opponent of Bolshevism, Chkheidze serves as the chairman of the Petrograd Soviet, and has significant control over soldiers garrisoned within the city and the city militias. Furthermore, Chkheidze has been engaged in high level discussions with members of the Provisional Government regarding the formation of a unity government. Like other Mensheviks, Chkheidze believes that a socialist republic must be created democratically.

32. Julius Martov

- a. Position: Leader of the Left-Mensheviks
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Julius Martov, also known as Yuliy Osipovich Tsederbaum, helped co-found the Mensheviks and assisted in the establishment of a separate party. At the same time, however, Martov has been focused on potentially reunifying the Bolshevik and Menshevik parties back into a single unified coalition. As the leader of the Left-Mensheviks, Martov has attempted to mobilize a significant coalition of left-wing Mensheviks in favor of reunification with the Bolsheviks. Similar to Lenin and Trotsky, Martov greatly opposed World War I, viewing it as a struggle between rival imperialist powers. Furthermore, he and Lenin have been lifelong allies and friends, regarding each other as kindred spirits.

33. Alexander Zarudny

- a. Position: Minister of Justice
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Alexander Sergeyevich Zarudny is a Russian lawyer and politician, and focused his efforts on creating a socialist republic. Zarudny previously assisted in the assassination of Tsar Alexander II and has been accused of participation in a wide variety of terrorist activities. Furthermore, Zarudny has focused his efforts on establishing a new code of laws for a future provisional government. Above all, Zarudny seeks the establishment of political freedom within Russia and the abolishment of the Tsardom. Furthermore, Zarudny devoted his law career towards attacking overreaches in executive power by the Tsar and protected the civil liberties of various minorities.

34. Alexey Peshekhonov

- a. Position: Minister of Food
- b. Party: Menshevik
- c. Alexey Vasilyevich Peshekhonov is a Russian politician and economist, focusing on increasing the rights and political liberties of poor and working class Russians. Following the failed 1905 revolution, Peshekhonov was arrested and sent into exile. Currently, Peshekhonov served as a delegate in the Petrograd Soviet, and assists in the formation of committees to provide famine and food relief to starving soldiers and peasants throughout Russia. Similarly, he has attempted to broker a power-sharing agreement between the Soviet and the Duma. Peshekhonov greatly opposed the Bolsheviks and their reluctance to compromise and instead seeks the establishment of a moderate socialist democratic republic.

Rightist: The Rightist political party is a loose association of right wing, absolute monarchist and far-right political parties all focused on the restoration of the Tsar and the combating of socialist influences. Historically, Rightists typically are concentrated within the inner circle of the Tsar's regime, the military and armed forces, and the nobility. Rightists tend to garner support amongst elite conservatives within Russia, and the rural peasantry. Above all, the Rightists are nationalist, monarchist and devoutly Orthodox. Additionally, the Rightists are concentrated within the Russian espionage organizations, especially the Ohkrana. The Ohkrana served as a tool of the Tsar to clamp down on left-wing and pro-democracy agitators. The Rightists engaged in political terrorism as well, especially forming the Black Hundreds, a proto-fascist terrorist group. The Union of the Russian People, the most prominent Rightist party, had the slogan "For the Tsar, Faith and the Fatherland," highlighting its highest allegiances.

35. Lavr Kornilov

- a. Position: Commander of the Petrograd Military District
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Lavr Georgiyevich Kornilov is a Cossack major general currently in control of the Petrograd Military District. Kornilov has served with distinction in the Russian Army for decades, and has accumulated a wide array of contacts throughout the world. Kornilov has served in Japan, China, Afghanistan, Persia, Galicia and the Carpathians. Finally, with his recent position in Petrograd, Kornilov is rapidly accumulating power and influence with the Petrograd garrison and its various soldiers. Kornilov is a staunch absolute monarchist and despises Bolshevism and socialism.

36. Sergei Witte

- a. Position: Chairman of the Council of Ministers
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Count Sergei Yulyevich Witte is a Russian politician and the Chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers. He began his career under the liberal Emperor Alexander III, and assisted in the creation of the Odessa Railways and an increasingly modern economy. Following the ascension of Tsar Nicholas II, Witte was increasingly sidelined and lost a majority of his political influence. Seen as the most capable and respected reformer of

the Tsarist regime, Witte remains incredibly popular across the political spectrum. He has retired recently, but continues to be a foremost supporter of the absolute monarchy and the power of the Tsar.

37. Ivan Logginovich Goremykin

- a. Position: Privy Councillor, 1st Class
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Ivan Logginovich Goremykin is a right-wing, absolute monarchist politician, serving as the Tsar's Active Privy Councillor, 1st class. He served as Minister of Interior for the Tsar and assisted him in cracking down on protestors and liberal politicians. Additionally, Goremykin served as Chairman of the Council of Ministers but failed to prevent the Tsar from personally leading the Russian Army. This failure proved catastrophic as the Tsar failed to improve the state of the war effort while Tsarina Alexandra lost the confidence of the Russian people due to her improper governance. Goremykin lost his position to Boris Sturmer and now desires a return to power.

38. Vladimir Kokovtsov

- a. Position: Minister of Finance
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Count Vladimir Nikolayevich Kokovtsov is a Russian politician who served as the Chairman of the Council of Ministers to Tsar Nicholas II from 1911 to 1914. Kokovtsov served as Assistant Minister of Finance to Sergei Witte and Minister of Finance in 1904. Kokovtsov desperately despises Rasputin, viewing him as a terrible influence on the Tsar and his government. Kokovtsov is a close friend of the Tsar and is a staunch absolute monarchist.

39. Grigori Rasputin

- a. Position: Special Advisor to the Russian Tsar
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin is a Russian priest and holy man, and is a close advisor to the Tsar. Rasputin did not officially hold any power or position within the Russian

Orthodox Church, but he claims to hold special powers including the ability to heal the Tsarevich Alexei. Tsar Nicholas and Tsarina Alexandra both believe in Rasputin's powers and have trusted his advice even to the point of affecting government policy. Rasputin has expanded his influence throughout the Russian court and has essentially formed a small cult of followers believing in his powers. A wide range of government officials and members of the Russian court have attempted to assassinate Rasputin.

40. Boris Sturmer

- a. Position: Former Prime Minister
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Baron Boris Vladimirovich Sturmer is a Russian lawyer and politician. Born to a powerful aristocratic family, Sturmer maintains considerable wealth and holds great influence over countless Russian landowners. Eventually, Sturmer would go on to hold the positions of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Prime Ministerships. As Prime Minister, Sturmer failed to gain the support of the Duma and was fired by the Tsar. Sturmer, despite his right-wing views, attempted to broker a separate peace to World War I, much to the chagrin of pro-war delegates.

41. Anatoly Savenko

- a. Position: Commissar of the Russian Provisional Government and Leader of the Black Hundreds
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Anatoly Ivanovich Savenko is a Russian nationalist politician, and a right-wing ideologue. Co-founder of the Kiev Club of Russian Nationalists and a member of the proto-fascist party Union of the Russian People, Savenko attempted to end Ukrainian separatism and promote the idea of an all Russian identity. Furthermore, Savenko believes the Tsar is divinely inspired and should maintain total control over state power.

42. Alexander Trepov

- a. Position: Minister of Transport

- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Alexander Fyodorovitch Trepov is a conservative, absolute monarchist politician, who served as Prime Minister of Russia in some of the last months of Tsar Nicholas' reign. Trepov previously served as the Minister of Transport and served to develop the Kirov railway and increase logistical connections between various areas in Russia. Following the resignation of Sturmer, Trepov attempted to regain the support of moderate Duma delegates by making certain basic reforms to the government. Trepov attempted to remove unpopular ministers from government, including Rasputin. In response, Tsarina Alexandra forced the Tsar to fire him, leading to Trepov losing a significant amount of his power and influence in government.

43. Prince Nikolai Golitsyn

- a. Position: Former Prime Minister
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Prince Nikolai Dmitriyevich Golitsyn is a Russian aristocrat and served as the Tsar's last Chairman of the Council of Ministers. He accumulated power quickly and served in a variety of key positions including member of the State Council, head of repatriation of prisoners and plenipotentiary of the Red Cross. In response to the recent protests, Golitsyn has attempted to suppress the riots by force, escalating the conflict into a full-blown revolution. In the new Duma session, Golitsyn lacks his former power and influence, but will attempt to continue strengthening the Tsar.

44. Vasily Shulgin

- a. Position: Army Logistical Organizer
- b. Party: Rightist
- c. Vasily Vitalyevich Shulgin is a right-wing and absolute monarchist politician. Shulgin is a long-time and frequent contributor to various right-wing newspapers. Furthermore, he is a practicing lawyer with a degree from Kiev University. Following the outbreak of World War I, Shulgin assisted in the creation of the Progressive Bloc in order to provide additional supplies and weapons for the ill-supplied Russian Army. Shulgin has advocated for Michael Alexandrovich, the younger brother of Tsar Nicholas II, to

become a constitutional monarch. At the same time, Shulgin desperately wants to preserve the absolute monarchy at all costs.

Bolshevik Party: The Bolsheviks are a radical revolutionary Marxist breakaway faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP). Following the publishing of Vladimir Lenin's *What is to be Done*, the Bolsheviks split off from the RSDLP in pursuit of a more radical form of socialist revolution. Before the start of the 1905 Revolution, nearly all of the Bolshevik leaders were arrested and sent into exile. Following the Menshevik-Bolshevik split, the Bolshevik party began conducting bank robberies and other criminal actions to finance its professional class of revolutionaries. Following the outbreak of World War I, the German Empire began providing weapons, funds and military support to the Bolsheviks in hopes of distracting the Russian Army. Unlike other socialist groups, the Bolsheviks nearly uniformly opposed the war and instead continued to engage in political violence following the outbreak of war.

45. Matvei Muranov

- a. Position: Member of the Secretariat of the Communist Party
- b. Party: Bolshevik
- c. Matvei Konstantinovich Muranov is a Ukrainian revolutionary and early member of the Bolshevik faction. As a Duma deputy, Muranov exploited his parliamentary immunity to prevent himself from being prosecuted for engaging in revolutionary activities. Muranov has gained a reputation within the Bolshevik party as a purist, and has refused to moderate his positions. Muranov additionally consolidated his power within the Bolshevik faction, and worked with Lev Kamenev to end the influence of Molotov and Shlyapnikov on the Bolshevik newspaper *Pravda*, taking it over for himself.

46. Vyacheslav Molotov

- a. Position: Editor of Bolshevik Newspaper Pravda
- b. Party: Bolshevik
- c. Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov is a Russian revolutionary and political thinker. Molotov became a professional revolutionary and worked with Joseph Stalin to create

Pravda, the foremost Bolshevik newspaper. A member of the Bolshevik standing committee, Molotov became Stalin's deputy and generally opposed Trotsky and Kamenev. Molotov views the Provisional Government as improperly revolutionary and instead supports the Petrograd Soviet as the official government of Russia.

47. Joseph Stalin

- a. Position: Acting Leader of the Bolshevik Party
- b. Party: Bolshevik
- c. Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, also known as Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili, is a Georgian revolutionary politician. As a young revolutionary, Stalin specialized in bank robbery and propaganda for the Bolshevik *Pravda* newspaper. Stalin was arrested and sent into exile, returning to Petrograd in March 1917. Along with Lev Kamenev, Stalin assumed total control over the *Pravda* and began using the newspaper to increase his influence over the party. Stalin additionally has raised and trained militias to assist in the defense of Bolsheviks from various right-wing militant groups.

48. Leon Trotsky

- a. Position: Member of the Petrograd Soviet
- b. Party: Bolshevik
- c. Leon Trotsky, also known as Lev Davidovich Bronstein, is a Russian revolutionary and political theorist. Trotsky began his revolutionary career by organizing Russian workers into unions and engaging in revolutionary propaganda within universities and factories. Trotsky and Lenin began fighting, culminating in Trotsky's decision to join the Menshevik faction following the Bolshevik-Menshevik split. During his time in exile and his subsequent revolutionary radicalization, Trotsky eventually began agreeing with the Bolsheviks and joined the party. Trotsky and Lenin are now nearly ideologically identical on a variety of different issues, especially with regard to Lenin's focus on creating a vanguard party, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the necessity for international cooperation amongst socialist parties.

49. Lev Kamenev

- a. Position: Chairman of the Moscow Soviet
- b. Party: Bolshevik
- c. Lev Borisovich Kamenev, also known as Leo Rosenfeld, is a Bolshevik leader and revolutionary politician. Kamenev is one of the seven members of the first Politburo, and a prominent member of the Bolshevik party. Kamenev, unlike other Bolshevik leaders, is in favor of reunifying the Bolshevik and Mensheviks into a single unified socialist party. Similarly, the Kamenev is less opposed to the possibility of keeping the constitutional monarchy and is more open to cooperating with moderate socialist parties to form a unity leftist government.

50. Vladimir Lenin

- a. Position: Leader of the Bolshevik Faction
- b. Party: Bolshevik
- c. Vladimir Lenin is a Russian revolutionary and leader of the Bolshevik faction. In response to the outbreak of war, the German Empire released Lenin to travel back to the country to sow discord amongst the Russian government. Additionally, the German Empire has provided Lenin with significant weapons, funds and military aid to support his desire for a Russian socialist revolution. Lenin believes in the necessity for a powerful vanguard party to undertake the necessary steps to pursue a socialist revolution, rather than have the working class to engage in these actions themselves. Unlike many other socialist thinkers, Lenin believes that the country is already sufficiently industrialized for a potential transition to socialism. Lenin additionally seeks to sign a peace deal with the Central powers, nationalize the majority of industry and banks, and redistribute land to the peasantry.

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