

WWI leading to WWII and Chaos

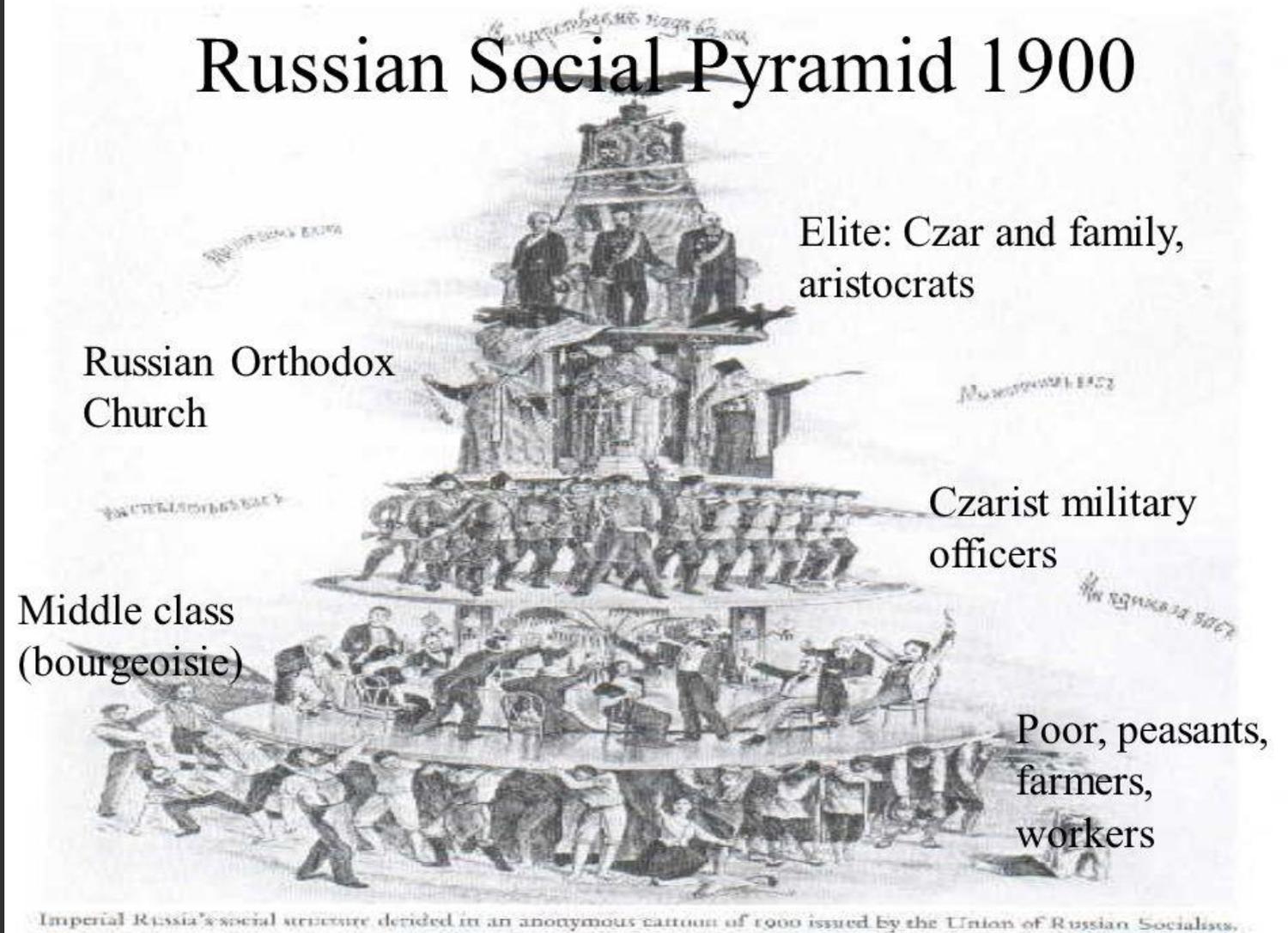
The chaos that WWI created sparked many issues/ conflicts worldwide!



Life in Russia For the peasant class



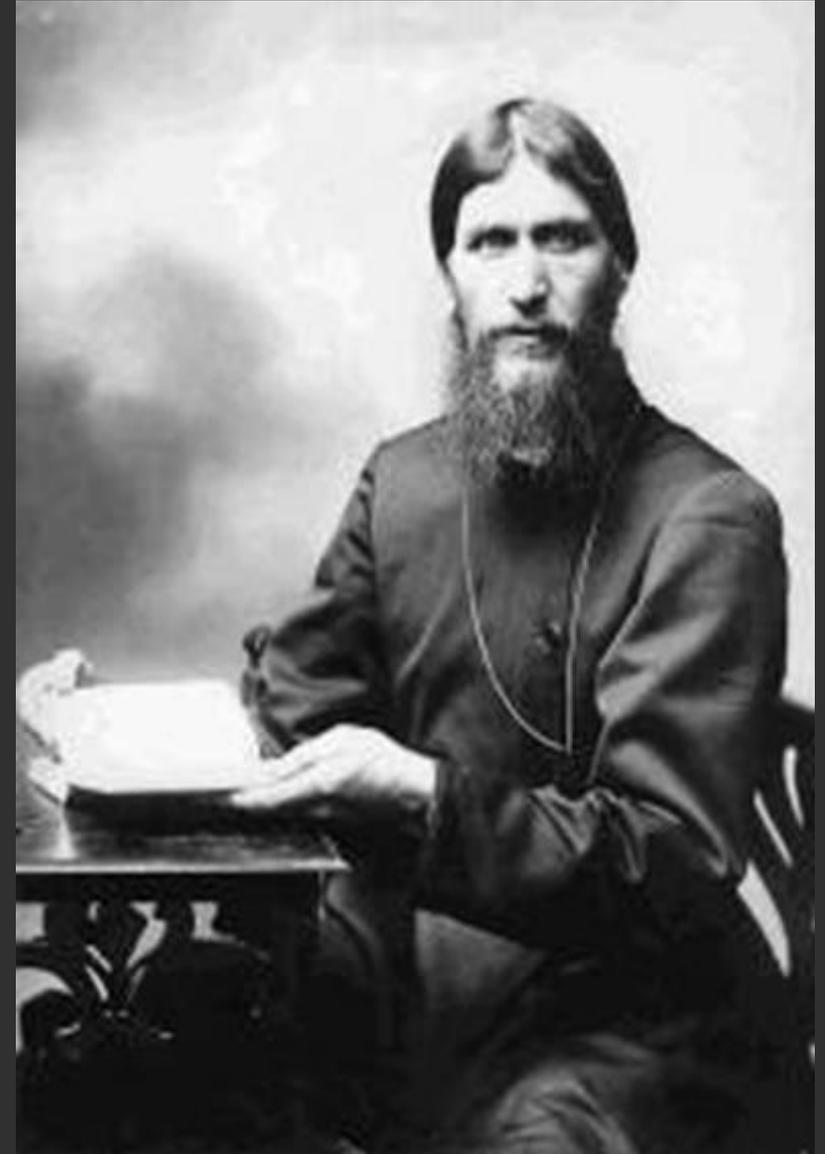
Russian Social Pyramid 1900



Causes of Russian Revolution-1917

- Mass Discontent: Low morale among the soldiers and the people.
- Dissident Elite: Elites siding with peasants in political opposition to the Czar.
- Unifying Motivations: Anti-war, Anti-Czar, and Socialism.
- Severe Political Crisis: Ineffective government.
- Contempt about WWI and divided country

- Czar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra became unpopular due to:
 - Czar was politically incompetent.
 - *The Czar and his wife's reliance on the mystic healer Grigori Rasputin.*
 - Food and fuel shortages; inflation.



Rasputin



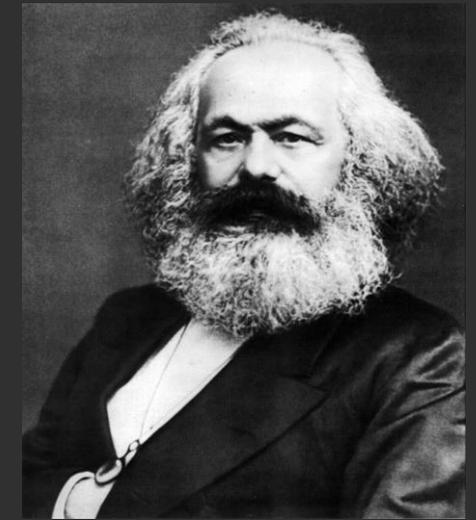
For the queen he
was no wheeler
dealer
Though she'd heard
the things he'd
done



March Revolution (1917)-

- The revolution began when a number of workers decided to strike. Many of these workers got together during the strike to discuss politics. They began to riot.
- Nicholas II, ordered the army to suppress the riot. However, many of the soldiers refused to fire on the Russian people and the army began to mutiny against the Tsar.
- After a few days of riots, the army turned against the Tsar. Abdicated.
- The government was run by two political parties: the Petrograd Soviet (representing the workers and soldiers) and the Provisional Government (the traditional government without the Tsar).
 - Factions within the Soviet party

Marx and Communism in Russia



- 1848- the communist manifesto was published (Germany)
- Many people gravitated towards these ideas to the social/civil issues that were present in an industrializing world

Marx argued- "The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society. . . .

The weapons with which the bourgeoisie felled feudalism to the ground are now turned against the bourgeoisie itself.

But not only has the bourgeoisie forged the weapons that bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield those weapons -- the modern working class -- the proletarians"

The October Revolution



- o Over the next several months the two sides ruled Russia.
- o One of the main factions of the Petrograd Soviet was a group called the Bolsheviks. They were led by Vladimir Lenin and believed that the new Russian government should be a Marxist (communist) government.
- o In October of 1917, Lenin took full control of the government in what is called the Bolshevik Revolution. Russia was now the first communist country in the world.

The Russian Civil War- Red v. White

- The October Revolutionary success did not extend across the entirety of the vast country of Russia.
- On the periphery of European Russia, various forces gathered, some to overthrow the revolution and some to establish different versions of revolutionary society than that proposed by the Bolshevik's.
- Former Czarist generals, officers, and soldiers organized into the White Army.
- The Bolshevik leaders organized the Red Army: 1st composed of volunteers, then a draft was instated.
- The Red Army was composed of 5 million men and was under the leadership of Leon Trotsky.

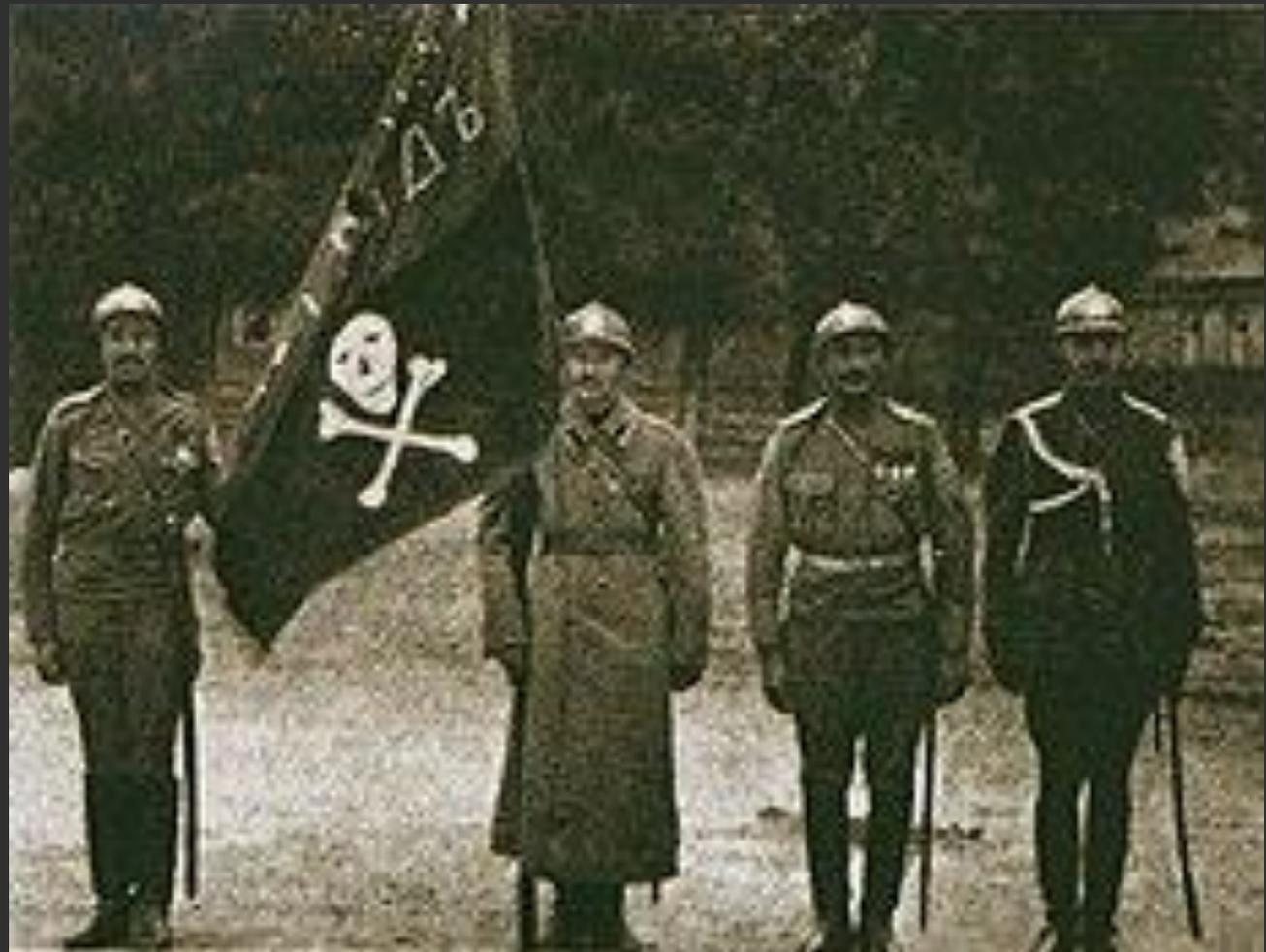
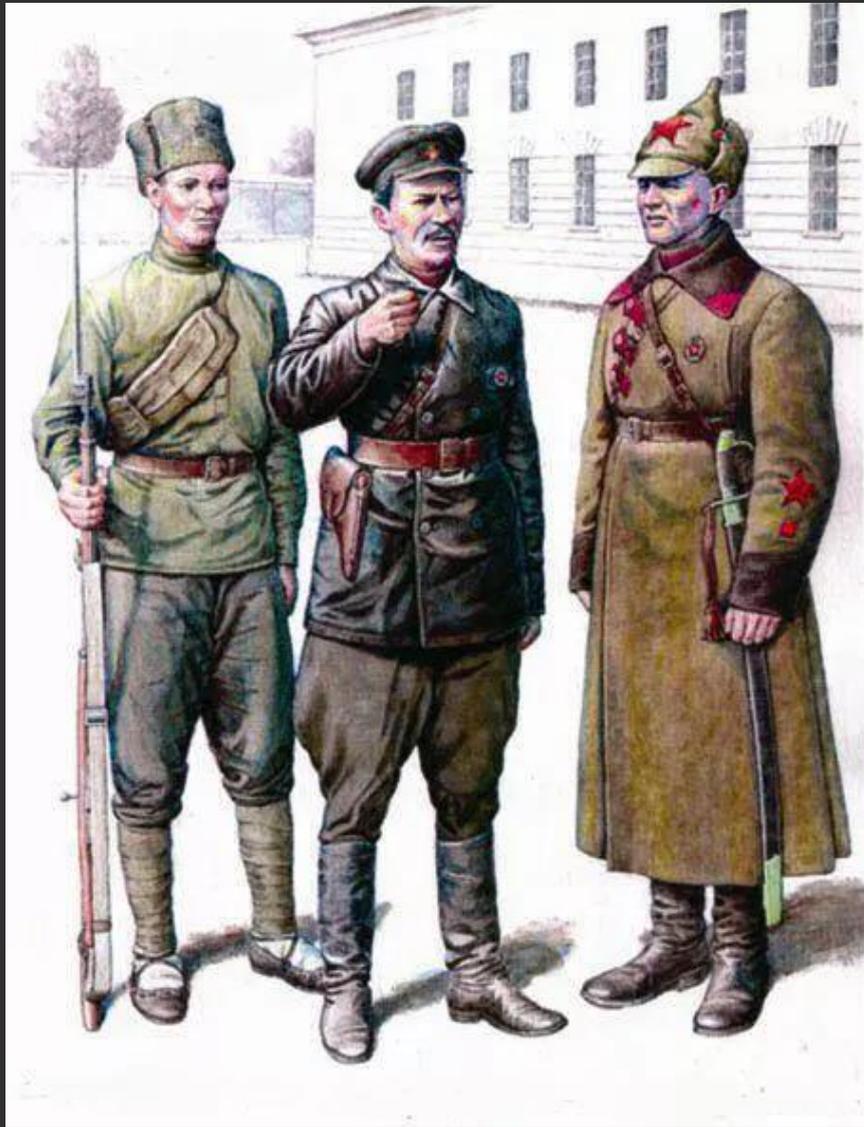




Russian Civil War- 1918-1921

- The Capitalist countries of U.S., Britain, and Japan sent military assistance to anti-Bolshevik armies (the White Army promised to reenter the war).
- The White Army's aid from the West backfired: it increased Russian nationalism, support for communism, and distrust of the West.
- By 1923, the Red Army had defeated all the White Armies and other anti-Bolshevik forces.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dqmIOBq_sQ

Red V. White



Life Under Lenin

- Policy of “war communism,” direct control of industry and peasants were forced to send food to the cities.
- 1918: Communist soldiers imprisoned and killed the royal family.
- The Cheka, secret police, arrested counter-revolutionaries.

