

# BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION & WW I

## NEIL CORE 5

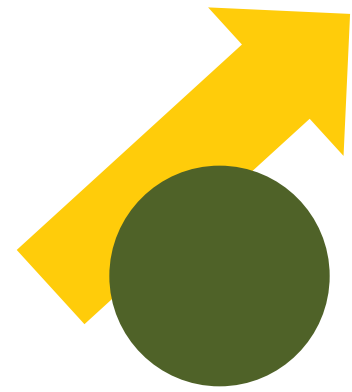
At the start of the war, Russia was a vast empire with a large army – but was politically and industrially backward.



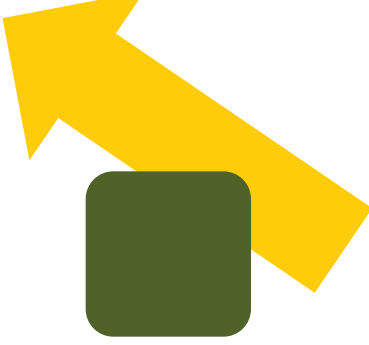
## NICHOLAS II TSAR OF RUSSIA

Its leader, Tsar Nicholas II, adhered to principles of autocracy but was not competent to govern autocratically.

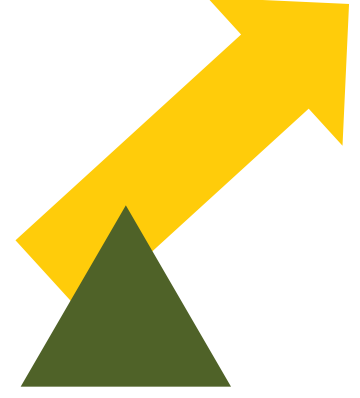
TSAR  
OR  
CZAR



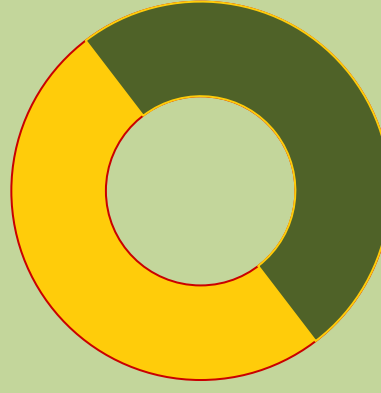
Russia's disastrous 1914 campaigns saw Nicholas take personal command of the army, a politically dangerous step.



The tsar and his wife were also discredited by their involvement with the meddling faith healer Grigori Rasputin.



By the start of 1917, Russia's domestic economy had collapsed and both food and fuel were critically scarce in Russian cities. This triggered the February Revolution, an uprising that led to the abdication of the tsar and, by the end of 1917, the rise of a socialist government in Russia.



## THE RUSSIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM WW I



The Bolsheviks commenced peace negotiations with Germany and, in March 1918, they signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, formally ending Russia's involvement in the war. It would prove a costly peace: Russia had to surrender large amounts of territory, people and fertile farmland. World War I had killed off one of Europe's oldest monarchies and gave birth to a new political phenomenon: socialist dictatorship – which later came to deliver its own share of death, deprivation and human suffering.

REFERENCE:  
<http://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/russian-revolution/>