

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ P. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Causes of the March 1917 Russian Revolution**

#### **Source A-Account of a Russian Industrial worker:**

“After our embarrassing defeat in the Russo-Japanese war, food was again available and although I was only making a little bit of money I could still feed my family. Then in 1915 we entered into WWI. At first we Russians were excited and nationalistic feelings were everywhere! As the war dragged on my hours in the factories were increased! All of our nation’s resources were being sent over to our soldiers. I would not have been angry about this if the resources were actually helping us, but we all knew we were being destroyed in the battle fields. Things were not much better here in Russia. Prices were inflated, resources were scarce, and food was very hard to come by. We Russians blamed Czar Nicholas for getting us involved in another disastrous war.

**#1-How would Russia’s involvement in WWI negatively affect those who were living in Russia during the war?**

**Source B-**In 1916 Czar Nicholas went to the front lines in WWI to boost Russian Moral. When he left his wife, Alexandra, ruled. Russian people already disliked her because she was German. She also followed the advice of the “mad monk”, Rasputin who helped cure her sick son. **This is an excerpt from a letter sent to Nicholas from his wife:**

*“Take no big steps without warning me...Russia loves to feel the whip...How I wish I could pour my will into your veins...I had no sleep, but listen to me...Be the emperor...crush them all under you. We have been placed by God on the throne, and we must keep it firm and give it over to our son untouched.”*

**#2-What advice does Alexandra give to her husband?**

**Source C-Account of St. Petersburg strike:**

“In St. Petersburg workers were going on strike. They walk through the streets demanding an ending to the oppressive monarchy, an end to Russian involvement in WWI, and cried out for bread. The rioting mobs showed extreme defiance toward the military patrols. When they were told to disperse they threw stones and lumps of ice from the streets. The troops were ordered to fire upon the mobs but even they refused. Finally, on the advice of military and political leaders, the czar abdicated.”

**#3-Why do you think the czar finally agreed to give up his power?**

**Source D-**“When the czar abdicated the Duma set up a provisional (temporary gov’t). Middle class liberals in the government began preparing a constitution for a new Russian republic. The government also decided to keep Russian involvement in WWI.”

**#4-With the Czar gone from power one would think the Russian revolution was over. How do you think Russian people felt about the government’s decision to keep Russia in WWI?**

**#5-What problems still existed after the March 1917 revolution?**