Nicholas was not there
Soldiers were ordered to fire
Result
  i. Between 500-1,000 were killed = Bloody Sunday
  ii. Creation of the Duma (Parliament)
    o Nicholas II dissolved it within months (perhaps if he had worked with them closely, history would be very different)

Nicholas II’s Costly Mistakes
2. Revolution of 1905
   - About 200,000 workers approached the Czar’s winter palace to petition for better working conditions, more freedom, and an elected national legislature.

3. Russo Japanese War
   - Fought over Manchuria in the early 1900s
   - Huge humiliating defeat
   - First country to be defeated by a non-Western power

4. Bloody Sunday
   - Duma was created, but soon dissolved.
   - Nicholas II continued his autocratic powers.

5. Familial Priorities
   - Czarina Alexandra was his closest advisor and she firmly believed in autocracy
   - Nicholas II was madly in love with his wife and this was a weakness of his
   - Alexei, the heir to the throne was born with hemophilia = Nicholas’s top priority

6. Grigori Rasputin
   - Siberian monk, who Alexandra trusted and was mysteriously influence by.
     i. She believed that he had magical powers to cure Alexei
     ii. Gave bad advice
   - Was a drunk, a womanizer
   - Resented by most nobles
     1916 ➔ aristocrats poisoned, shot him, and threw him in the freezing river

7. World War I
   - Mistake to enter the war and an even bigger mistake to stay in the war
   - Huge losses on the Eastern front = low morale
   - Nicholas chose to lead the troops = terrible mistake
   - Food supply was short, lacked good weapons, and there were many casualties

Abdication of Nicholas II and the Provisional Government under Alexander Kerensky
- Nicholas was forced to abdicate in 1917
- Provisional Government under the leadership of Alexander Kerensky from the Duma take over for 6 months (most democratic Russia had ever been since present day)
- Romanovs hide out in Siberia
- Freedom of speech allowed to everyone (even enemies)
- Russia remains involved in the war
- Failure to fix crises = Bolshevik support

Russia in Revolution (1917)
- Marked by Lenin’s return to Russia ➔Germans launch their own “secret weapon” by arranging Lenin’s return after years of exile; believed that Lenin and the Bolsheviks would stir unrest in Russia and hurt the Russian war effort.
- Lenin returned in April 1917 (March Revolution)
- Promises the people what they want — “PEACE, LAND, AND BREAD”
  "The people need peace, the people need bread..."