years but it had not turned into defeatism and during the initial risings in Petrograd in February 1917, the crowds in the streets objected to the banners proclaiming “down with the war.”

March 13th 1881 - St Petersburg.

Tsar Alexander II was on his way to a military role call. He was travelling in a bulletproof carriage gifted to him by Napoleon 3rd. This was necessary, as he had faced many assassination attempts in his life.
At this time, weapons that were more advanced to them were being built such as a small revolver and TNT. This meant that amateur people could organize an assassination.

At one point, attempts were made to blow up his carriage which nearly killed Alexander II.

A man who was posing as a carpenter in the Winter palace planted a body of explosives in a room. This nearly killed Alexander II, but he was lucky. It was a case of he was in the wrong room at the right time. During this attack, 11 people were killed and 56 injured.

This time, he was not as fortunate. He was assassinated by a group known as Narodnaya Volya. A bomb was let of and his legs were shredded. His stomach was cut open by shrapnel.

His dying body was carried back to the Winter Palace where his family (the romanovs) looked upon him with terror.

He lasted 90 minutes and the bomber also lasted 90 minutes as he was hanged upon the death of the Tsar.

The group was Narodnaya Volya - People’s will.

The assassination of the Tsar attracted the attention of Aleksandr Ulyanov - older brother to Lenin. The revolution aspect attracted him.

To his family he was known as Sasha.

There was no ‘Great Revolution’ followed by the death of Alexander II.

Autocratic rule continued as his son, Alexander III, took over the job of Tsar.

**Alexander II**

**Brief timeline**

He was also the Kind of Poland and Grand Duke of finland.

1841:

On 16 April 1841, aged 23, Tsarevitch Alexander married Marie in St. Petersburg; the bride had previously been received into the Russian Orthodox Church, taking the new name of Maria Alexandrovna.

1863:

In 1863, Alexander II re-convened the Diet of Finland and initiated several reforms increasing Finland's autonomy within the Russian Empire, including establishment of its own currency, the markka.

1864:

In 1864, Alexander II found Nicholas a bride, Princess Dagmar of Denmark, second daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark and younger sister to Alexandra, Princess of Wales and King George I of Greece.

1877:
May 26th 1896

May 26th 1896 was the day of Nicholas's coronation - the day where he would take over all of Russia, controlling the massive empire and carrying on autocratic rule. It happened in Moscow.

During his coronation, it was arranged that celebratory mugs and little bags of goodies were to be given out. There was no system to this and when everybody went forward to receive their goods, there was a terrible crash which left some 1500 dead.

Later that night, there was a party being held at the French embassy which he didn’t want to go to. However, he was persuaded to attend and it was always held against him as being deeply insensitive due to the events that had already happened that day.

He was never good with making decisions and accepting responsibility. He mostly relied on his ministers to advise him rather than taking the leadership and making them for himself.

Ever since his coronation, the job of ruling Russia was pretty much agreed and dictated by his wife who loved the thought of autocracy and their divine right.
Rasputin

Tsar Nicholas’s only son Alexei, the heir to the throne, had been diagnosed with Haemophilia. The Tsar and Tsarina were searching for anyone who could help their ailing son and Rasputin seemed like the only one who was capable to do so.
up when general Anatoly Pepelyayev capitulated in 1923. Several revolts were initiated against the Bolsheviks and their army near the end of the war, the Kronstadt rebellion. This was a naval mutiny engineered by Soviet Baltic sailors, former red army soldiers, and the people of Kronstadt. During the civil war, Nestor Makho led a Ukrainian anarchist movement, the black army allied to the Bolsheviks thrice, one of the powers ending the alliance each time. However, a Bolshevik force under Mikhail Frunze destroyed the Makhnovist movement, when the Makhnovists refused to merge into the Red army. In addition, the so-called “Green army” (peasants defending their property against the opposing forces) played a secondary role in the war, mainly in Ukraine.
he joined the Bolsheviks just before the 1917 October Revolution, immediately becoming a leader within the Communist Party. He would go on to become one of the seven members of the first Politburo, founded in 1917 to manage the Bolshevik revolution.

During the early days of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and the Soviet Union, he served first as People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and later as the founder and commander of the Red Army, with the title of People's Commissar of Military and Naval Affairs. He became a major figure in the Bolshevik victory in the Russian Civil War (1918–1922).

After leading a failed struggle of the Left Opposition against the policies and rise of Joseph Stalin in the 1920s and against the increasing role of bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, Trotsky was removed as Commissar for Military and Naval Affairs (January 1925), removed from the Politburo (October 1926), removed from the Central Committee (October 1927), expelled from the Communist Party (November 1927), exiled to Alma–Ata (January 1928), and exiled from the Soviet Union (February 1929). As the head of the Fourth International, Trotsky continued to oppose the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union while in exile.

Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico City by Ramón Mercader, a Spanish-born NKVD agent. On 20 August 1940, Mercader attacked Trotsky with an ice axe and Trotsky died the next day in a hospital. Mercader was beaten to death by Trotsky's bodyguards, and spent the next 20 years in a Mexican prison for the murder of Trotsky. Stalin presented Mercader with an Order of Lenin in absentia.

Leon Trotsky was born Lev Bronstein in 1879 in the village of Yanovka in the southern part of what is today Ukraine. His parents were Jewish landowners who lived a quiet life in the village, but young Lev embraced revolutionary ideas from an early age. When he was just 17, he joined an underground organization and was imprisoned two years later. He spent two years moving between prisons in Nikolaev, Kherson, Odessa and Moscow before being sentenced to four years of exile in Siberia in 1900.

In 1902, Bronstein fled to Europe from Siberia on a forged passport bearing the name Trotsky. He participated in Marxist groups in Europe and returned to Russia to take part in the 1905 revolution. He was imprisoned again, fled to Europe, worked as a war reporter in the Balkans, and during World War I, he left for the United States. He was living in New York when Nicholas II abdicated in February 1917. He decided it was time to return to Russia.

When the Russian Civil War broke out between the Bolsheviks and the pro-monarchist “white” forces in 1918, Trotsky effectively created the Red Army from scratch. He traveled extensively around Russia on a train, forming and managing military units.
Rasputin (this song can be used to infer how others perceived Rasputin’s behaviour throughout his lifetime. All credits to original producer)