Rasputin
- People perceived him as being possessed and battling with the devil; population believed in healing & psychic powers. (liked ritualised religion)
- Born in Siberia (isolated)
- Wandered Russia & presumably joined ‘anti-church’ (unorthodox)-eclissee
- Wanted to be the source of divine power (nothing was ever enough)
- Impressed aristocrats
- Went to St Petersbourg (home of much power); healed the heir from bleeding to death. (Alexander was very superstitious) Rasputin said without him he would die. (arrogance)
- Ambiguous sexual affairs with royal family
- Developed own religious doctrine of sin (‘hunting the devil’) - took mental toll on him.
- Church took action against him because they found out about his debauchary
- Intimate with Tsar and Tsarina (He became a regular counsellor to the tsarina because of his ability to ease the suffering of her haemophiliac son. In time Rasputin won the tsarina’s trust, while acquiring a reputation as a notorious drunk and philanderer. From late 1915 he provided Alexandra with political advice, leading to the sacking and turnover of ministers. Rasputin was also the focus point of tsarist propaganda and his presence threatened to bring down the dynasty.)
- Due to Rasputin’s help with their son, he had become very close and trusted by the Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra of Russia. For this reason, historians believe that he would have been the only person that could have persuaded the Tsar to not mobilise and therefore, join World War I. Rasputin, however, was incapacitated at the time and so his message did not reach Nicholas in time, meaning that Russia joined the war, which was disastrous and ended the Romanovs rule.
- As a result he was assassinated by a conservative clique in December 1916.

When Tsar went to fight, Rasputin was trusted heavily by Alexander (almost acted as Tsar; created circles of power)

The execution of the Romanovs
How and Why were the Royal Family killed?
After years of weak leadership and autocratic rule, the Romanov family had grown increasingly unpopular with both the Russian population and parliament. Therefore, after Tsar Nicholas II abdicated and the Revolutionaries took power of Russia, the Romanovs were put under house arrest and kept in captivity. Their executions were then ordered by the Revolutionaries.