

## Impact of WW1 on Russia

	Impact at the Front	Impact at Home
<b>The Top</b>	<p><b>The Tsar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As trouble in Russia mounted the Tsar unwisely decided to take over Supreme Command of the army in 1915.</li> <li>• He had no military training and he was now blamed personally for the poor showing of the army – in particular, after the initial successes of the Brusilov Offensive.</li> <li>• The support of the army ebbed away and even the peasants, who made up the majority of the soldiers turned against their Tsar.</li> <li>• The Tsar compounded the problem by ignoring all requests from the Duma to form a '<u>Ministry of National Confidence</u>' and restrict the influence of the Tsarina and Rasputin in the decision-making process.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tsarina, Rasputin and the Duma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the Tsar left for the front he left the running of the country to his wife Alexandra. She was to be his "<u>eyes and ears</u>".</li> <li>• Alexandra was German by birth and in the climate of the war the people hated all things German. To make things worse she turned to the disreputable monk, Rasputin for advice.</li> <li>• The rumours of an affair between the Tsar's wife and the mad monk again began to circulate and other rumours that they were both German spies.</li> <li>• Even when members of the Duma condemned Rasputin's scandalous behaviour the Tsarina continued to support him. Eventually in 1916 Rasputin was murdered by a group of noblemen.</li> </ul>
<b>The Bottom</b>	<p><b>The soldiers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The railway system in the western provinces and Poland proved to be inadequate and Russia had only a limited railway link with the interior.</li> <li>• The low level of technical and economic development produced an army suffering from the shortage of equipment – even boots - and trained personnel. Many soldiers often had no weapons at all; they were expected to arm themselves from the discarded weapons of the killed and wounded.</li> <li>• The offensive of 1914 and 1915 produced staggering casualties, <u>2 million deaths in 1915 alone</u>. As the army retreated, a refugee problem was created, for 3 million civilians retreated with the <u>soldiers</u>.</li> <li>• Inadequate equipment and shortage of materials gradually undermined the morale of the army and caused many soldiers to desert.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The workers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout much of the war the people in the cities faced severe food shortages. This was due to a number of factors, including bad harvests, poor transport systems and the <u>loss of large areas of fertile farming land to the Germans</u>.</li> <li>• The food shortages meant that prices for food prices got higher and higher but workers wages did not keep pace with these rises. At the start of 1917 many workers and their families were facing starvation.</li> <li>• The government tried to alleviate the situation by printing more money but this merely produced an inflationary spiral which merely encouraged peasants to resort to subsistence farming rather than waste time trying to make a profit; this in turn exacerbated the food shortages in the cities.</li> </ul>

**Task:**

Produce a flow chart showing how the following factors link together:

- Army failings
- Transport problems
- Incompetence of Tsarina and Rasputin
- Inflation
- Incompetence of the Tsar
- Food shortages