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| Effects of the war | What did it cause? | Why were these significant for the Tsar and Russia? |
| Millitary defeats and poor equipment | * Soldiers’ morale was low, they lost respect of their officers. * Soldiers were dying without weapons or ammunition, some did not even have boots during the bitterly cold winter. * News of the high number of casualties alarmed people back home. * Soldiers started deserting in their millions. |  |
| Food production | * The war added a strain on the economy. * Inflation increased. * Less food was being produced because of the shortage of labour and horses. * Between 1914 and 1917, 14 million had been called up. * The demand for men and horses at the front made life harder for the peasants left behind. * The lack of food drove food prices higher, causing more problems in cities. |  |
| Industry | * A shortage of workers, lack of essential supplies and fuel hit industry hard. * Russia’s transport system could not cope with the demands of war. * There were shortages of coal, iron and steel. * Factories closed, workers were made unemployed, leading to increased poverty. * Workers were asked to work longer hours. |  |
| Mass discontent | * Start of 1917 Russia was close to defeat on the Eastern Front. * There was mass discontent in the armed forces and among the people. * Petrograd (the name given to St Petersburg during the war) suffered its worst winter in living memory. |  |
| Politics | * The Tsar took command of the war from the Eastern front from August 1915. This was a mistake as he was being blamed for the military defeats, also it took him away from Petrograd, leaving the Tsarina in charge. * The Tsarina refused to take the advice of the duma, instead listening to the advice of Rasputin. She dismissed ministers and replaced them with Rasputin’s friends. Amid the changes, food, fuel and essential supplies to the cities were not being organised. * The Tsarina was also German, rumours said she was a spy trying to destroy Russia’s war effort. Support for the Tsar decreased. |  |
| Rasputin | * The Tsarina refused to dismiss Rasputin. Growing more desperate to protect the Tsar, members of the royal family assassinated Rasputin in 1916, but the problems for the Tsar did not go away with his death. |  |