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Comment: Alexei - "I ought to report that Port Arthur has fallen." "Yes, Czar - "Thank." "That's quite the story."

Political cartoon, by John Tinney McCutcheon, from his book entitled The Mysterious Stranger and Other Cartoons (1905). It depicts a father - Nicholas II - concerned about his hemophiliac son but seemingly unconcerned about the disastrous loss of Port Arthur (a key battle during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904). Online, Google Books.

He was only ten when the serious trouble started. Serious trouble in the realm, that is.

But Alexei, the fifth child and only son of Nicholas II ("Tsar of all the Russias") and Alexandra ("the Tsarina" and "the Empress") had his own source of trouble long before he was ten. He was born with hemophilia.

Known by his nickname, Alexei was a hemophiliac in the days when the disease was fatal. Known by his title, the tsarevich was a hemophiliac in the days when the monarchy did not reveal its secrets.

How would Russians have reacted if they knew their next Tsar had a serious illness? As it happens ... probably a lot better had they known the truth.

At least the Russian people would have understood why their Tsar seemed to pay more attention to the needs of his wealthy family than he paid to the needs of his impoverished people. At least they would not have viewed a father's love as a ruler's indifference.

By the time average Russians knew Alexei had a serious illness, however, they were well beyond the point of caring. Their country was at war and people were starving. Many soldiers were fighting in their bare feet.

Russia needed to change, but the man at the helm seemed not to hear the cries of his people. Alexei's father was losing his grip on the power he thought was divinely ordained.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/GIVE-US-BREAD-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/GIVE-US-BREAD-Death-of-a-Tsar-Romanov-Execution>

Nicholas II - Lack of Attention to Military Affairs

For years, the Russian people were unaware that Alexei - the son of Nicholas and Alexandra - had a serious illness. The child had hemophilia, a very serious bleeding disorder.

People wondered why the Tsar paid more attention to the needs of his family - including his young son - than to the needs of the country. Had they known the truth, perhaps they would not have considered a Father's anguish to be a ruler's indifference.

But ... the royal family kept the child's condition a secret for many years. Not until it was too late did the country realize why Nicholas was always so focused on his son.

In this political cartoon - by John Tinney McCutcheon - we see the Tsar with his infant son. He seems completely indifferent to the words of his aide (who is delivering the results of a key battle - Port Arthur - during the Russo-Japanese War).

Political cartoon, by John Tinney McCutcheon, from his book entitled *The Mysterious Stranger and Other Cartoons* (1905), online Google Books.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-II-Lack-of-Attention-to-Military-Affairs>



Comrade Alexei—'I want to report that Port Arthur has fallen.'
The Czar—'Thank you, I don't want the help.'



Alexandra Romanov

Image, described above, online courtesy Spartacus.

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Alexei Romanov

Image online, courtesy the National Portrait Gallery, London.

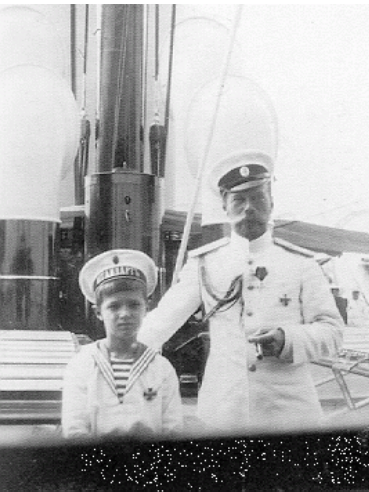
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Nicholas II

Image online, courtesy the pravmir.com website.

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Nicholas II and his son Alexis

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Romanov Family

Image online, courtesy the findagrave.com website.

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