GIVE US BREAD



0. GIVE US BREAD - Story Preface

1. GIVE US BREAD

- 2. WORLDS APART
- 3. NICHOLAS OUT-OF-TOUCH
- 4. BAD DECISIONS
- 5. RASPUTIN THE HEALER...THE DECEIVER
- 6. THE MURDER of RASPUTIN
- 7. NICHOLAS II ABDICATES
- 8. HOUSE ARREST
- 9. EXECUTION of the ROMANOVS
- 10. ROMANOV FAMILY DEATH SCENE
- 11. DEATH and DIAMONDS
- 12. EXECUTIONERS HIDE the ROMANOV BODIES
- 13. WHO REALLY DIED at IPATIEV HOUSE?
- 14. ARE THESE ROMANOV-FAMILY BONES?
- 15. ROMANOV FAMILY BURIAL
- 16. MORE ON THE ROMANOV FAMILY



Angry Russian women, unable to buy ingredients to bake bread for their families, are upset in the town of Bogorodsk. On October 1, 1915, they've had enough and throw stones into shop windows. When the police force them away from the shops, they (and thousands of others) gather in the town square to protest a lack of basic provisions.

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

Alexei, the <u>fifth child</u> and only son of <u>Nicholas II</u> ("Tsar of all the Russias") and <u>Alexandra</u> ("the Tsarina" and "the Empress") had his own source of trouble. He had hemophilia.

Known by his nickname, <u>Alexei</u> was a hemophiliac in the days when the disease was fatal. Known by his title, the <u>tsarevich</u> 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? Turns out, probably a lot better had they known the truth. At least the Russian people would have understood why their Tsar seemed to pay much more attention to the needs of his <u>wealthy family</u> than he paid to the needs of his impoverished people.

At least ... they would not have viewed a <u>father's love</u> 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 <u>man at the helm</u> did not hear the cries of his people.

<u>Alexei's father</u> 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-Nicholas-and-Alexandra

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/GIVE-US-BREAD-Nicholas-and-Alexandra

Media Stream



<u>Alexis - The Family's Fifth Child</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>alexeinicholaevichromanov.4t.com</u> website.

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Nicholas II

Image online, courtesy the pravmir.com website.

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Alexandra, Grand Daughter of Queen Victoria, in 1892

Image, described above, online courtesy Alexander Palace Time Machine.

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Romanov Family

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Nicholas II and Alexei Image online, courtesy the Angel Fire website.

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Tsar Nicholas II

Image online, courtesy the $\underline{\mathsf{Hermitage}\ \mathsf{Museum}}$ website.

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