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After Tsar Nicholas II abdicated, the Bolsheviks placed him and his family under house arrest. This image, from the Romanov Collection at Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, depicts Tsarevich Alexei (the former heir) and his father (the former Tsar) cutting wood at their exiled residence in Tobolsk (during 1917). Online via Wikimedia Commons.

Once he gave up the throne, Nicholas was no longer Tsar. When he was no longer Tsar, his family was under house arrest in their own home.

Nicholas, as prisoner, was a beleaguered man. The strain of defeat, humiliation and concern for his family began to show on his face.

It wasn't long before the Romanov family was forced to leave their beloved palace at Tsarskoe Selo. They were no longer free to go to PeterhofPeterhof (the stunning summer palace with dozens of gold fountains and a canal to the sea), where most of the children had been born.

Instead, they were exiled: first to Tobolsk; (where they lived in the Governor's home and Nicholas and Alexei cut their own wood); then to Yekaterinburg (also spelled Ekaterinburg), a Siberian town near the Ural Mountains, 850 miles east of Moscow.

The Tsar was supposed to stand trial in Moscow. He never arrived.

Life for the children in exile was much different from the life they had led as youngsters at the imperial court. Gone were the spacious rooms for rest and leisure. Long gone were the carefree days of being young.

Nicholas no longer wore the trappings of royalty. Alexandra had no further need of her beautiful court dresses and imperial jewels.

The family no longer had access to their beloved Russian icons and no longer sent invitations to other royals for costume balls. Costume balls, of course, were now a thing of the past.

The pace of life had slowed, considerably, for the Romanovs as they settled into the double-pallisade-guarded Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg. It would be their last home.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HOUSE-ARREST-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/HOUSE-ARREST-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>



Nicholas II - Under House Arrest

Image online, courtesy the [inspectorpekkala.com](http://www.inspectorpekkala.com) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-II-Under-House-Arrest>



Palace at Tsarskoe Selo

Image online, courtesy the [russiantourguide.org](http://www.russiantourguide.org) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Palace-at-Tsarskoe-Selo0>



Peterhof

Image online, courtesy the [Hermitage Museum Foundation](http://www.HermitageMuseumFoundation.com) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof1>



Peterhof - Stunning Summer Palace

Image online, courtesy the [tristarmedia.com](http://www.tristarmedia.com) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Stunning-Summer-Palace>



Peterhof - Aerial View of the Palace and Grounds

Image online, courtesy the [St. Petersburg With Anna](http://www.St.PetersburgWithAnna.com) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Aerial-View-of-the-Palace-and-Grounds0>



Peterhof - Dozens of Fountains

Image online, courtesy the [Tickets of Russia](http://www.TicketsOfRussia.com) website.

View this asset at:

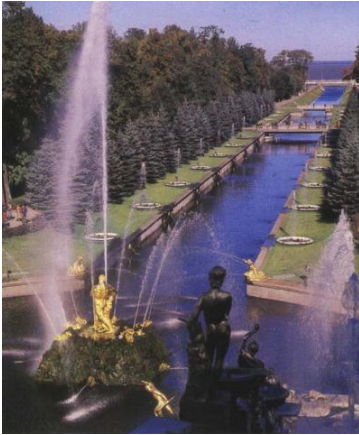
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Dozens-of-Fountains0>



Peterhof - Gold Fountains

Image online, courtesy the [Tickets of Russia](#) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Gold-Fountains0>



Peterhof - Canal to the Sea

Image online, courtesy the [Tickets of Russia](#) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peterhof-Canal-to-the-Sea0>



Tobolsk - View of the City

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tobolsk-View-of-the-City>



Tobolsk - Governor's Home

Image online, courtesy the [alexanderpalace.org](#) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tobolsk-Governor-s-Home0>



Alexei

Image online, courtesy the [alexanderpalace.org](#) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Alexei>



Nicholas and Alexei - Cutting Wood

Image online, courtesy the alexanderpalace.org website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-and-Alexei-Cutting-Wood>



Romanov Children in Exile

Image, online, courtesy Alexander Palace via Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Romanov-Children-in-Exile0>



Romanov Children - When They Were Younger

Image, described above, from the Romanov Collection. General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Romanov-Children-When-They-Were-Younger>



Nicholas Romanov

Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives via a Russian-language website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-Romanov>



Nicholas and Alexandra - Trappings of Royalty

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nicholas-and-Alexandra-Trappings-of-Royalty>



Ipatiev House

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ipatiev-House->



Ipatiev House - Double-Palisade

Image from the Russian State Archives, online via Russian-language Wikipedia.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ipatiev-House-Double-Palisade>



HOUSE ARREST

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/HOUSE-ARREST0>



Ipatiev House - Scene of Romanov Execution

Video clip online via the Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ipatiev-House-Scene-of-Romanov-Execution>