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On July 17, 1998, the remains of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife, three of their five children and four of their helpers were laid to rest following a Russian-Orthodox funeral. This image depicts a scene from that funeral. Online via Russia Today.

The Romanov family was brutally executed (scroll down 60% to view rare pictures) without a trial:

- What crimes did the Tsar's children commit?
- With what crimes had the Tsar been charged?
- The Empress Alexandra?
- Their staff?

None of these individuals had been charged with any crime. Contemporary headlines in the local newspapers summed-up the murders:

...Shot without bourgeois formalities...

Eighty years later, on the anniversary of their brutal execution, the Russian people laid the Tsar and Tsarina to rest, with most of their children, at the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg. A Russian Orthodox funeral for the family, with a speech by President Boris Yeltsin, finally closed-out this segment of Russian history.

What happened during the midnight hours of July 17, 1918, is an example of what occurs when those in power disregard the law. Yurovsky's suggestion that the Tsar's trial was "prevented" because the White Army was advancing, leaves little doubt that justice for the family was never a concern. Expediency was the only thing which mattered that night.

The "Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia" claims the Tsar and his family are still at work today. Believing the family has helped to bring about miracles since their execution, the Church has designated each member of the family a saint and a holy royal martyr.

As the body of the murdered Tsar was laid to rest with honors, Russians debated whether the body of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin should be removed from its place of honor in Red Square. Where he will ultimately end-up is not

known.

In a final ironic twist, the Tsar's memory (at century's end) was generally held in higher esteem than the memory of Lenin, who may (or may not) have ordered the royal family's execution (at the century's start).

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ROMANOV-FAMILY-BURIAL-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ROMANOV-FAMILY-BURIAL-Nicholas-and-Alexandra>

Media Stream

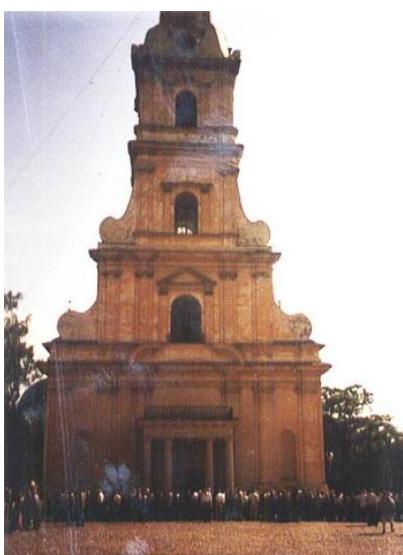


Romanov's Final Burial

Image online, courtesy Russian-language news website.

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Peter and Paul Fortress

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Romanov Funeral

Image online via Russian-language website.

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Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

Image online, courtesy Dutch-language news site.

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Red Square - Place of Honor

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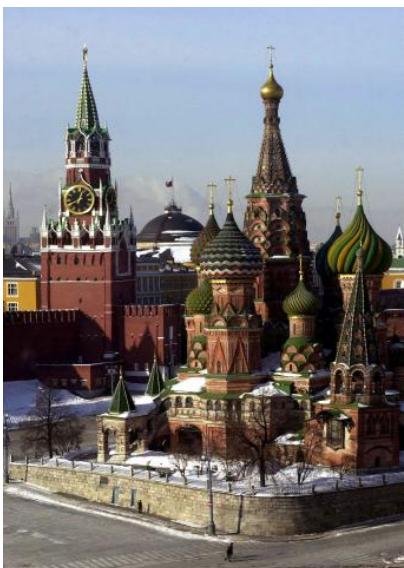
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Red Square

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Red Square - Saint Basil Cathedral

Image online, courtesy [NATO](#).

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