

## Mobilizing the Russian Nation

Despite the enormous literature that exists on the Russian revolution and its origins, very little is known about the ways in which ordinary Russians thought about and experienced the First World War. Melissa Kirschke Stockdale presents the first comprehensive study of the ways in which the Great War affected Russian notions of national identity and citizenship. The book examines the patriotic and nationalist organizations that emerged during the war, the role of the Russian Orthodox Church, the press, and the intelligentsia in mobilizing Russian society, the war's impact on conceptions of citizenship, and the new, democratized ideas of Russian nationhood that appeared as a result both of the war and of the 1917 revolution. Russia's war experience is revealed as a process that helped consolidate in the Russian population a sense of membership in a great national community, rather than being a test of patriotism that they failed.

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# Mobilizing the Russian Nation: Patriotism and Citizenship in the First World War

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Melissa Kirschke Stockdale  
*University of Oklahoma*



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## Note on Usage and Translation

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I have used the Library of Congress transliteration system in this book, without diacritical marks. Proper names are also rendered according to this system, though not consistently: familiar names such as Nicholas II appear in their usual English form. Non-Russian names of citizens of the Russian empire are given in Russianized form – thus General Ianushkevich, not Januszkewicz – except in citations and bibliography, where the author's name is rendered as it was published. Place names are especially tricky, since some have changed – sometimes multiple times – since 1914. For the most part, I use today's place names – Helsinki, for example, instead of Helsingfors – for the convenience of nonspecialists.

Until February 1, 1918 (when the Soviet regime changed the Russian calendar), Russia used the Julian calendar, which lagged behind the Western, Gregorian calendar by thirteen days in the twentieth century; this means that the outbreak of the First World War in Russia was on July 19, 1914, rather than August 1. Because my texts often invoke these, I have given dates prior to 1918 in the “old style.”

All translations, unless otherwise noted, are my own.

# Chronology

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## 1914

July 4–13	Massive political strikes in St. Petersburg.
July 16/17	General mobilization declared.
July 19	Germany declares war on Russia.
July 20	Nicholas issues manifesto on war, greets crowd on Senate Square.
July 26	One-day special session of the legislative chambers.
August	Formation of Union of Zemstvos and Union of Cities.
August 1	Manifesto promising autonomy to Poland.
August 19	St. Petersburg renamed Petrograd.
September 16	Prohibition extended for duration of war.
November 5	Bolshevik Duma deputies arrested on treason charges.

## 1915

January 27–29	Three-day special session of legislative chambers.
February–December	Decrees limiting property ownership in Russia by enemy aliens.
March 18	Miasoedev espionage scandal breaks.
April 18	Germans begin breakthrough of Russian lines at Gorlice, which will become the “Great Retreat.”
May 27–29	Anti-German riots in Moscow.
July 19	Legislative chambers reconvene (first anniversary of war).
August 4	De facto abolition of Jewish Pale of Settlement.

## Chronology

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- August 22                      Creation and program of Duma's Progressive Bloc announced; Nicholas II decides to assume supreme command of army.
- September 3                Unexpected prorogation of legislative chambers; more moderate ministers are replaced with conservatives in Council of Ministers.

**1916**

- January 20                      Goremykin removed as premier; replaced by Shturmer.
- February 9                    Legislative chambers reconvened, remain in session until summer recess.
- March 5                        Announcement of fifth internal war loan, launch of massive publicity campaign.
- Spring                        Provisioning problems and inflation becoming dominant topic in press.
- May 22                        Brusilov offensive opens, enjoys initial success.
- June 19                        State Duma passes "peasant bill."
- Summer                        Massive uprisings over labor requisitions in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.
- October–January 1917      Isolated mutinies in some frontline units.
- November 1                    Legislative chambers reconvene;
- December 16/17              Miliukov's "stupidity or treason" speech. Murder of Rasputin.

**1917**

- February 23                    Beginning of massive bread riots, protests, and strikes in Petrograd.
- February 26                    Closure of Duma announced; troops ordered to fire on crowds.
- February 27                    Troops of Petrograd garrison go over to strikers; ministers arrested; Soviet of Soldiers' and Workers' Deputies and Temporary Committee of Duma formed.
- March 2/3                      Nicholas II abdicates.

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March 3	Announcement of creation of Provisional Government, to govern until a constituent assembly can be elected and convened; Duma is not reconvened.
May 5	Formation of coalition Provisional Government, following antigovernment protests concerning war aims; socialists join government.
June 10	Ukrainian Rada declares autonomy of Ukraine.
June 18	Opening of Kerenskii offensive; by early July, Russian army is retreating.
July 3–5	“July Crisis”: uprising against Provisional Government in Petrograd subdued by force; Bolshevik leaders arrested, flee.
July 10	Women’s Battalion of Death enters combat.
July 24	Second coalition Provisional Government formed, headed by Kerenskii.
August 25–30	Kornilov rebellion.
October 25/26	Provisional Government is overthrown; formation of new temporary Soviet government by Bolsheviks.
October 26	Decree on Peace, announcing intention to seek negotiated end to war.
October 27	Decree on Press authorizes closure of oppositional (“counterrevolutionary”) press.
November 10	Demobilization of part of Russian army begins.
November 23	Finland declares independence from Russia.
December 10	Armistice signed between Soviet and German governments.
December	Formation of anti-Bolshevik Volunteer Army begins in southern Russia.
<b>1918</b>	
January 5	Constituent Assembly opens, is disbanded by Soviet authorities after one day.



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January 14	Ukrainian Rada declares independence of Ukraine.
January 15	Decree on “Formation of Worker–Peasant Red Army.”
January 25/February 9	Representatives of Ukraine conclude separate peace with Central Powers.
January 28/February 11, February 21	Peace negotiations break down; Soviet government issues decree “The Socialist Fatherland Is in Danger.”
March 3	Peace treaty concluded with Central Powers at Brest-Litovsk; Russia exits war.