

Source Question on Rasputin:

What can you learn from Sources I, J and K about Rasputin's influence on the government?

Source I I Letter from Tsarina to Tsar, 28 November 1915.

I must give you over a message from our friend Rasputin prompted by what he saw in the night. He begs you to order an advance near Riga . . . otherwise the Germans will settle down through all the winter . . . he says we can and we must and I was to write it to you at once.

Source J J The Tsar replies to another request of the Tsarina; (c.Oct.1916) this time to changes in the government, that is to appoint Protopopov to be in charge of food supplies.

Thank you for your long letter in which you pass on our friend's (Rasputin's) instructions. It seems to me that this Protopopov is a good man but he has much to do with factories. I must consider this question as it has taken me completely by surprise. Our friend's opinions of people are very strange as you yourself know – therefore one must be very careful, especially to appointments in high office. . . . All the changes make my head spin. In my opinion they are too frequent. In any case they are not good for the internal situation of the country as each new man brings with him alterations to the administration.

Source K
(c.Mid-1916)

K Contemporary cartoon of Rasputin

