

Primary Source: Russia in WWI

Directions: Read the following Letter to Russian War Minister Alexander Kerensky from soldiers fighting in WWI, August 18th, 1917. and fill in the chart at the bottom of the page.

Mr. War Minister!

We, soldiers from various regiments[...]ask you to end the war and its bloodshed at any cost. If this is not done, then believe us when we say that we will take our weapons and head out for our own hearths [homes] to save our fathers, mothers, wives, and children from death by starvation (which is nigh [near]). And if we cannot save them, then we'd rather die with them in our native lands than be killed, poisoned, or frozen to death somewhere and cast into the earth like a dog.

Remember that all your threats about the death penalty and discipline and the eloquent words of orators will cease to have any effect on us then-- it will be too late. You know we are all tired, both at the front and in the rear, and we cannot endure another autumn and winter, nor do we have any wish to.

For a second time we ask you, Mr. War Minister, put an end to the slaughter. Only by doing this can you keep the enemy from penetrating deep inside Russia and save us both from this invasion and from starvation.

- Soldiers

Source: *Voices of Revolution, 1917*. Mark D. Steinberg. p. 218. <https://books.google.com/books?id=aExJqbOSd7MC&pg=PP1&dq=voices%20of%20revolution&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=voices%20of%20revolution&f=false>

Who Wrote This	Who was the audience	When was this letter written? What was happening at the time?	Why was this letter written?

Based on the letter above, what problems existed in Russia in 1917?