



‘A revolution is not a dinner party. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.’



The role of individuals is central to an understanding of revolutions. Charles I, regarded by some as the worst monarch since Henry VI, was a king who firmly believed in his divine right to rule and, even after his defeat in the civil wars, refused to compromise with his opponents. His son, James II, lacked most political skills and was forced from the throne after just three years.

On his accession to the Russian throne Nicholas II declared that a constitutional monarchy was a ‘senseless dream’ and that he intended to maintain ‘the principle of absolute autocracy’. Alexander Kerensky possessed neither the support nor the vision to establish a popular government in Russia. However, these weaknesses among rulers would not have been fatal without determined opponents. Cromwell, Lenin and Trotsky were all powerful personalities who drove the process of change within their respective countries.

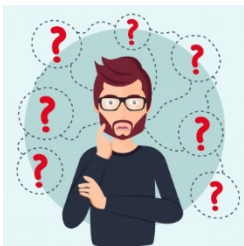
Revolutions are the **great turning points of history**. A revolution is a **tumultuous and transformative** event that attempts to change a nation, a region or society – and, in some cases, even the world. Revolutions **vary** in their motives and their aims. Some, like the American Revolution, seek to overthrow and replace the **political** order. Others, like the Russian and Chinese revolutions, also seek **radical social and economic change**. A common factor in all revolutions is that they are **fast moving**. In a short time, often just a few years, a revolution can bring about **significant change and upheaval**. Most revolutions are driven by people and groups inspired by hope, idealism and dreams of a better society. These revolutionaries attempt to change or overthrow the old order, while the old order strives to maintain its power. The outcomes are **confrontation, conflict, disruption and division, which can lead to war, violence and human suffering**. Eventually, the revolutionaries emerge victorious and set about trying to create a better society. In most cases, this proves much more difficult than they had anticipated.

Your Summer Task is to research a revolution from history. This can be ANY revolution, from any time period and ANY country.

Make sure you identify; when and where the revolution happened; who was involved; why it happened and what happened as a result of the revolution.

You can present this research in ANY way you feel appropriate...

It MUST be handed to Mrs. Lane or Mr. Golding at the end of the first week back in September.



Need some more ideas? Have a look at the following revolutions in history...

Polabian Slavs Revolution AD982; Prayerbook Rebellion 1549; American Revolution 1775-1783; French Revolution 1789-1799; Haitian Revolution 1791-1804; United Irishmen Revolution 1798; Serbian Revolution 1804-1835; Eureka Rebellion 1854; Taiping Revolution 1850-1864; Mexican Revolution 1910-20; German Revolution 1918; March on Rome 1922; Singing Revolution 1988-91