

# History of Western Civilization

Cluster 4: The Age of Reason and  
the Political, Agricultural, and  
Industrial Revolutions

# Revolution

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- To consider in groups:

1. What is a revolution? Are there different types?
2. What are some examples of revolutions?
3. Why do revolutions occur?
4. What are the possible outcomes of revolutions?

# Definition

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## ● Revolution:

- An abrupt alteration in any system, political, economic, or social.

## ● Note:

- Coup d'état:
  - A group overthrows the government

# Reasons for Revolution

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- ◉ Discontent with existing system accompanied by a feeling that the system cannot be changed by any other means
- ◉ Economic discontent
- ◉ Nationalism
- ◉ Government incompetence

# Impact of Revolutions

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- ◉ As a solution to problems:
  - Removing government
  - Public attitudes

# Impact of Revolutions

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- ◉ As a cause of further problems:
  - Division between radicals and moderates (replacement system)
  - Disagreement between leaders and followers (positions of authority)
  - Retention of old ways, original ideas not achieved
  - Lead to war with other countries
  - Justification by people and other countries

# Questions

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1. What did John F. Kennedy mean when he said, “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.”?
2. With reference to the present system of government in Canada, explain why violent political revolution is unlikely in this country.
3. Aristotle Argued that a revolution requires an alternative program in place of the existing structure. What problem would be created if a revolution overthrew a government but the revolutionaries had no alternative program ready?
4. Is it possible for a colony to achieve independence without a revolution against the external power that controls it?
5. Is the changing role of women in Canadian society during the past century revolutionary? Why or why not?