

Rebels And Revolutionaries

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REBELS AND REVOLUTIONARIES

? Revolutions are often defined as sudden, major changes. Revolutions can be political, social, or even technological and can happen anywhere, although they are most common in the modern era.

? The “Neolithic Revolution” describes the transition humans made from a hunter and gatherer existence to domestic agriculture and a sedentary existence after 10,000 BCE.

? Political revolutions in the modern sense were quite rare in the ancient and medieval eras, although coup d'états, assassinations, and palace revolts were common in some cultures.

? The term guerilla is derived from the French or the Spanish word for war, guerre/guerra. It began to be used to describe those who engaged in asymmetrical or irregular warfare during the Napoleonic Wars in the early 1800s.

? A civil war generally involves factions fighting within a country for control, or to separate and form their own countries. Political revolutions generally aim to overthrow the existing political establishment.

? The American Revolution (1775-1783) is viewed by some historians as more of a civil war than a revolution because the government in London was never threatened with replacement.

? Mao Zedong came to power after winning the Chinese Civil War in 1949. He then initiated revolutionary political and social changes during the Great Leap Forward of 1958.

? Thomas Paine was a true revolutionary among the more conservative American Founding Fathers. His 1776 pamphlet, *Common Sense*, called for American colonists to revolt against British rule.

? The French Revolution (1789-1799) was a true revolution that overthrew France's monarchy and instituted several social changes. The revolution also led to Napoleon coming to power.

? The Industrial Revolution was a technological and social revolution

that began in England in the mid-1700s and continued through the 1800s throughout the world. Steam power was the hallmark of this revolution.

? Ernesto “Che” Guevara was a middle-class Argentine who became a full-time communist guerilla. He helped lead the successful Cuban Revolution in 1958 but was less successful later, dying in Bolivia in 1967.

? The Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979 is also often known as the “Islamic Revolution.” It differed from most other modern revolutions because it was theologically based.

? The exact time when the Digital Revolution began is open to debate, but many point to the creation of Apple Incorporated in 1976 as the start.

? Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was South America’s George Washington. Bolivar drove the Spanish from northern South America to become the father of the nations of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Bolivia.

? “Johnny Reb” was the personification of the average Confederate soldier during the American Civil War. It could be both a slur and a term of affection.

? The “Sexual Revolution” often refers to the period in the late 1960s and 1970s when promiscuity, homosexuality, pornography, contraception, and abortion were all legalized or normalized in the West.

? Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794) was a radical leader of the French Revolution who ruled France from July 27, 1793, to July 28, 1794. He sent many people to the guillotine until he too finally lost his head!

? In 1848 several revolutions swept across Europe that ended absolute monarchy in many countries. These were very middle-class, or as Marx said, “bourgeois revolutions.”

? On March 16, 1917, the Russian royal family was overthrown in a revolution. Then on November 7, 1917, the Bolsheviks overthrew the government. Finally, the Bolsheviks won the Russian Civil War on June 16, 1923.

? Texas became an independent country under the leadership of Sam Houston in 1836. The Texan's victory over the Mexican Army at San Jacinto guaranteed their independence.

? Agustin de Iturbide led Mexico in its war of independence against Spain. He marched into Mexico City on September 27, 1821 and established an independent government the next day.

? Polish dissident Lech Wałęsa led the Solidarity Movement in the 1980s, which influenced non-violent dissent throughout communist East Europe. The dissent eventually led to the overthrow of communism in parts of Eastern Europe.

? The Russian revolutions are often referred to as the “February Revolution” and the “October Revolution.” This is because Russia was still on the Julian Calendar at the time.

? Pancho Villa (1878-1923) was a leading figure in the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920). He is best known north of the border for his raid on Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916.