

Section Discussion Questions: Social Revolution Week Two

I. Theories of revolution - review (7 minutes)

II. Applying Theories of revolution to cases

-Russia (~8 minutes)

-Iran (~8 minutes)

III. Activity (last 20 minutes)

IV. Logistics

I. Review - major theories and key phrases

Marx (absolute deprivation, classes)

Davies (relative deprivation, expectations, J-curve)

Skocpol (state weakness, military defeat, peasant solidarity & autonomy, urban rev class)

Selbin (leadership, political symbols, agency)

Goodwin & Skocpol (revolutionary coalitions, exclusionary regimes, hard to reform)

HAND OUTS- REVOLUTIONS

II. Applying theories to cases:

Russia: try to start with which theories do people think are most convincing

-roles of classes?

-nature of the russian economy in run up to revolution

-nature of russian state

-creating a revolutionary coalition - peasants, but what about urban folks?

-brittle exclusionary regime?

Iran

roles of classes?

state of the economy - relative deprivation

leadership of the shah - exclusionary & made difficult to reform

leadership of the Ayatollah

creating the revolutionary coalition: role of Islam as cross class ideology?

III. Activity - hand out absolutists vs. revolutionary activity

Order:

Absolutist - Political strategy

Revolutionary - Political strategy

Revolutionary- Ideological

Absolutist -Ideology

Absolutist- tactical

Revolutionary -tactical

*Sending out section evaluations
- Be on the lookout*

IV. Reading next week - all very important

Horowitz - move of review

Geertz, Bates, Nagel and Porter - diff app. to identity

Wilkinson, Brown - shift DV from identity to ethnic violence

REVOLUTION!

The setting: It is the mid-1990s; the US is enjoying its unipolar moment and espousing rhetorical commitments to democracy and human rights. Your country is multiethnic former colony, which has experienced intermittent economic growth since independence. About half the population lives in cities and is employed informally or in light industry. The other half of the population is engaged either in unmechanized freeholder¹ agriculture or as agricultural laborers. Among the elites, about half have been educated abroad. Most elites own or direct factories or large plantations focused on export. Your middle class is small, but its members act as important middlemen between urban and rural producers and consumers. Natural resource exports are an important source of revenue for the incumbent authoritarian regime. The authoritarian incumbent has succeeded his father and been in power for about 10 years.

Group A: Authoritarians – your goal is to prevent a revolution. Consider the following when formulating your strategy:

- Where will you deploy your financial resources? (Political/ Tactical)
- What alliances (at home and abroad) will be the most important to your regime's continuation? (Political)
- How will you decide what amount of force to use? What circumstances will you use it in? (Tactical)
- What reforms are you willing to make? What reforms can you safely make? (Political/Ideological)
- What ideology will you espouse? (Ideological)

Group B: Revolutionaries – your goal is to both overthrow the government and create a new sociopolitical order in its place. Consider the following when formulating your strategies:

- How will you gain financial resources? (Political/Tactical)
- How will you construct a revolutionary coalition? Who will be in the coalition? (Political/Ideological)
- What tactics will you use? (Protests, violence etc.) (Tactical)
- Which state institutions will you target? (Tactical)
- What ideology will you espouse? (Ideological)
- Are there any reforms that you would be willing to accept? (Political/Ideological)
- How will you decide what the post-state collapse government will look like? (Ideological)

Presentations: Chose **THREE** people from each group to present the following

- Your group's political strategy (2 minutes per group)
- Your group's ideological strategy (2 minutes per group)
- Your group's military/tactical strategy (2 minutes per group)

Good luck, Comrades/Democrats/Chosen ones!

¹ By this I just mean that most peasants own their own land.

