

Week 7: Revolutions cont: Review key components of last week's theories; analyze the causes of revolution in Russia and Iran in the context of these theories; discuss the likelihood of future revolutions

First, review broad components of theories of revolution on the board:

	Previous Political Insts.	Economic Factors	Social Organization	Leadership	Ideology
Marx	Mirror class structures	Absolute deprivation; class outgrows mode of production	In socialist revolution: the factory	X	(Class consciousness)?
Davies	X	Relative deprivation; the J-curve	X	X	(expectations of growth?)
Skocpol	Weak state	Fiscal problems (wars, inability to tax)	Peasant Solidarity	(Urban revolutionary class?)	X
Goodwin/Skocp	Exclusionary; organizationally weak; (Neo-patrimonial, directly-ruled colonies)	X	Broad-based coalition (possible b/c exclusionary)	X	Unifying ideology; (nationalism)
Selbin	X	X	X	Leaders exploit aspects of collective memory; pick collective action method	Culture; symbols

When discussing the cases, let's break down social revolution into its various parts: Mass upheaval from below, transformation of the state, and transformation of class structure. Which variables from above were necessary and/or sufficient to lead to each part of social revolution in the cases?

What factors were most important in leading to the Russian revolution? Which theories (or parts of theories) do the best job in explaining it?

(some notes from Fitzpatrick)

- Late to industrialize; had to play catch up; rapid change, relatively high industrialization by WWI
- Increases in national wealth leading up to 1917. Peasantry did not see an improvement in living conditions over this time, but did not see deterioration either
- Upper-level positions of state bureaucracy held by nobility
- Peasant solidarity in the mir; work/live close together, collective debt; peasant tradition of violent rebellion against landowners and officials
- Urban workers still typically had close ties to peasantry (typically only a generation out); militant working class; economic strikes likely to turn political since govt. stake in native industry would lead it to send troops

- Intelligencia sees self not as elite but concerned with betterment of society; saw socialism (at least pre-Marx version) as ideal, but didn't see this as incompatible with liberalism
- Legal Marxists, Mensheviks in favor of liberal revolution as this was a necessary step in Marx theory. Bolsheviks favor immediate socialist revolution. Bolsheviks had a single strong leader in Lenin who saw role of the party and full-time revolutionaries in creating and organizing the revolution
- 1905 liberal revolution; along with peasant uprisings; Duma has limited powers and perception that crazy Rasputin is driving decision-making through aristocracy; WWI drained resources further
- Aristocracy collapsed in 1917 and initially replaced with provisional government augmented by soviets (supposed to be "dual power"); more of a power vacuum with 'peoples' side becoming more radical; class antagonism in army; worker militancy but organization/theory oftentimes more for direct worker democracy through soviets and worker councils rather than party-led 'dictatorship of the proletariat
- Peasants most interested in issues of land seizures than particular political ideology; provisional government procrastinated on this issue; also tension between government and military leaders; seemed likely that provisional government would fall, but not initially clear what way
- Role of Lenin; civil war
- Consolidation, tensions

What factors were most important in leading to the Iranian revolution? Which theories (or parts of theories) do the best job in explaining it?

What are the prospects for social revolutions in the future? In what countries would they be most likely to occur?