

## What is Revolution, Anyway?

Before I can ask you if an event we study is a revolution you need to find out for yourself what a true revolution is. *Before you start reading, answer the questions below.*

1. Put a check by any of the following examples you think would be a revolution.

<input type="checkbox"/> The poor of Germany get together and kill all the rich. They take over the government.	<input type="checkbox"/> The rich rulers in China make new laws that say poor people cannot look at them.
<input type="checkbox"/> New technology makes smaller computers possible and people are implanted with them in their heads. Within a few weeks, the entire planet is linked via a global communication system never before seen.	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers in the town of Johnsonville, MI rise up against the Wal-Mart in its town and destroy it because it is hurting their business. They never allow another Wal-Mart to be built there again.
<input type="checkbox"/> The untouchables in India band together and take down the caste system by using violent riots to force the government to make laws saying it is illegal.	<input type="checkbox"/> The poor in France take over the government and set up a new one that favors them. Within months, the government is retaken over by the wealthy.
<input type="checkbox"/> Women gain the right to vote through peaceful protesting. Over time, men come to see women as equals.	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor workers take over the government of Russia. After a few years, these new leaders establish laws that benefit only them and keep them in power.

2. Come up with at least two criteria for what defines a revolution to you.

### Revolution Quotes

1. "Every generation needs a new revolution." Thomas Jefferson
2. "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." Mao Tse-Tung (leader of Chinese Communist Revolution)
3. "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible, make violent revolution inevitable." John F. Kennedy
4. "Revolutions have never lightened the burden of tyranny: they have only shifted it to another shoulder" George Bernard Shaw

## What is Revolution, Anyway?

Read the four quotes and then explain what each one is really saying below in your own words.

#1

#2

#3

#4

Which quote do you agree with most? Why?

Which quote do you disagree with most? Why?

Once you have done this, go back and look at the examples of revolutions on the other side of this page. Have your opinions changed? Would you mark any of the examples differently? Why or why not?