

HI 341—Political and Cultural Revolutions

Fall 2015, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2:00

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:30 and by appointment
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Course Outline

This course examines and compares cases where a central political power was removed against its will and replaced with a different form of government; what we now call a revolution. Our world looks the way it does today in no small part due to the political revolutions that dramatically upended the society and governing structure of countries that would become powerful global powers—for example England, France, the United States, Russia, and China—and much of global diplomacy today is focused on countries that still see themselves embodying certain revolutionary principles, such as Cuba and Iran. Finally, the idea of revolution (and, for that matter, counter-revolution) persists as a powerful model for change, as we can see in recent years in the Middle East and Latin America.

To better understand what factors can propel a revolution we will look at several major theories of revolution, including social-psychological theories, economic theories, and state-centered theories, and consider the influence of Enlightenment thought, nationalism, imperialism, liberalism, socialism, violence, leadership, and religion on revolutionaries and revolutionary movements. By paying close attention to common themes from a comparative historical perspective we will seek to understand the importance of political and social revolution as a key idea and model propelling change in the modern world.



Fresco in the Sardinian village of Orgosolo.

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm examination, 30%. To be held October 15.

Analytical essay, 30%. Due Friday, November 20 at 3:00 PM. Students are required to write a 5-7 page analytical essay comparing Mao's *On Guerrilla Warfare* to Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare*. The essay should compare each leader's approach to revolution and the use of violence. Your analysis should integrate material covered in assigned readings, lectures, and discussion. No outside research is necessary but students are encouraged to consult the texts listed in the supplementary bibliography. Students should read my writing guide in advance. All papers should use proper citation method in Chicago.

Final examination, 40%. The final examination is open-book and you will be given a preparation guide in advance.

Attendance, class preparation (reading in advance), and informed participation in class discussion are required. Where grades are borderline these factors will be taken into consideration. Prolonged absence is grounds for failure.

All assignments should be completed independently and plagiarism from any source is unacceptable. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office. If they have not already, students should familiarize themselves with Boston University's Academic Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

Texts

The following books are required and available for purchase at the BU Barnes and Noble:

- James De Fronzo, *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements* 5th ed. (Westview, 2015).
- Stephen K. Sanderson, *Revolutions: A Worldwide Introduction to Political and Social Change* 2nd ed. (Paradigm, 2010).
- Mao Tse-tung, *On Guerilla Warfare*, Samuel Griffith trans. (University of Illinois, 2000). Also available through Amazon in many other editions.
- Ernesto "Che" Guevara, *Guerilla Warfare* (BN Publishing, 2012). Also available through Amazon in many other editions.

All supplementary texts are available on Blackboard and indicated by *.

Supplementary Bibliography

Students who would like to read further beyond the textbooks and other assigned readings can find below a list of helpful books for understanding the key themes of our course.

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism* 2nd ed. (Verso, 1991)
- Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution* (Penguin, 1991; first published 1963).
- Crane Brinton, *The Anatomy of Revolution* (Vintage, 1965; first published 1938).
- Brian M. Downing, *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe* (Princeton UP, 1992).
- Francois Furet, *Interpreting the French Revolution*, Elborg Forster trans. (Cambridge UP, 1981).
- Jack A. Goldstone, *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World* (UC Press, 1991).
- _____ ed., *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies* 3rd ed. (Wadsworth, 2002).
- _____. *Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford UP, 2014).
- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution: 1789-1848* (Vintage, 1996; first published 1962).
- Hank Johnston, *What is a Social Movement?* (Polity, 2014).
- Steve Pincus, *1688: The First Modern Revolution* (Yale UP, 2009).
- Michael D. Richards, *Revolutions in World History* (Routledge, 2004).
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China* (Cambridge UP, 1979).
- _____, *Social Revolutions in the Modern World* (Cambridge UP, 1994).
- Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions, 1848-1851* (Cambridge UP, 1994).
- Charles Tilly, *European Revolutions: 1492-1992* (Wiley-Blackwell, 1996).

- _____, *The Politics of Collective Violence* (Cambridge UP, 2003).
- _____, *Social Movements, 1769-2004* (Paradigm, 2004).
- Michael Walzer, *The Paradox of Liberation: Secular Revolutions and Religious Counterrevolutions* (Yale UP, 2015).
- _____. *The Revolution of the Saints: A Study in the Origins of Radical Politics* (Harvard UP, 1965).

Course Schedule

September 3—First day of class

- Introduction

September 8—Theories of Revolution

- Jack Goldstone, “The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions,” introduction to Goldstone ed. *Revolutions*.*
- DeFronzo, intro/chapter 1, pp. 1-31.

September 10—Theories of Revolution continued

- Sanderson, chapter. 1, pp. 1-16; chapters 4-5, pp. 61-106.

September 15—no class (Rosh Hashana)

September 17—the British Revolutions of the 17th Century

- Steven Pincus, *England’s Glorious Revolution, 1688-1689: A Brief History with Documents* (Beford, 2006); introduction and selected documents.*

September 22—Two Revolutions?

- Hobsbawm, *Age of Revolution*, chapters 1-3, pp. 7-76; chapter 6, pp. 109-131.*

September 24—Interpreting the French Revolution

- Sanderson, chapter 2, pp. 17-26; chapter 7, pp. 141-143.
- Hobsbawm, chapter 7, pp. 132-147; chapter 16, pp. 297-307.

September 29—the Revolutions of 1848

- John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe, from the Renaissance to the Present* 3rd ed. (Norton, 2010) chapter 16, pp. 613-643.*

October 1—Zionism as a Revolution

- Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State* (Basic, 1981), introduction, pp. 3-13, chapter 3, pp. 33-36.
- Moses Hess, “Rome and Jerusalem” in *The Zionist Idea*, Arthur Hertzberg ed. (JPS, 1997), pp. 116-140.

October 6—the Russian Revolution

- DeFronzo, chapter 2, pp. 33-54.
- Sanderson, chapter 2, pp. 26-33; chapter 7, pp. 143-145.

October 8—the Revolution of Soviet Communism

- Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States* (Oxford UP, 2011), pp. 213-266.*

October 13—no class (substitute Monday)

October 15—Midterm Examination

October 20—the Chinese Revolution

- DeFronzo, chapter 3, pp. 79-125.
- Sanderson, chapter 2, pp. 33-43; chapter 7, pp. 145-148.

October 22 and 27—case study: Mao

- Mao Tse-tung, *On Guerilla Warfare* (entire book).

October 29—the Cuban Revolution

- DeFronzo, chapter 5, pp. 169-211.
- Sanderson, chapter 3, pp. 45-48; chapter 7, pp. 148-151.

November 3 and 5—case study: Che

- Che Guevara, *Guerrilla Warfare* (entire book).

November 10—the Vietnamese Revolution

- DeFronzo, chapter 4, pp. 127-167.

November 12—the Algerian Revolution

- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth and Toward the African Revolution*, selections.*

November 17—the Nicaraguan Revolution

- DeFronzo, chapter 6, pp. 213-245.
- Sanderson, chapter 3, pp. 48-52, 151-154.

November 19—the Iranian Revolution

- DeFronzo, chapter 7, pp. 247-296.
- Snaders, chapter 3, pp. 52-56; chapter 7, pp. 154-156.

November 24—the Anti-Communist Revolutions of Central and Eastern Europe

- DeFronzo, chapter 2, pp. 54-77.
- Sanderson, chapter 6, pp. 107-36; chapter 7, pp. 156-164.

November 26—no class (Thanksgiving)

December 1—Democratic Revolutions in Comparison: the Philippines and Latin America

- DeFronzo, chapter 10, pp. 377-415.
- Sanderson, chapter 3, pp. 45-60.

December 3—The Revolution against Apartheid in South Africa

- DeFronzo, chapter 9, pp. 331-376.

December 8—The Arab Revolutions of 2011

- DeFronzo, chapter 11, 417-452.

December 10—last day of class, summing up

- Sanderson, Epilogue, “The Future of Revolutions,” pp. 165-166.

Final examination December 15, 12:30-2:30 (as scheduled by the Registrar)