

Recipe for Revolution

In each instance of political revolution there are certain consistent elements or ingredients. These ingredients, when properly mixed result in a revolution. As you study the examples below and other revolutions around the world and throughout history compare them against this recipe and determine what measures of each ingredient were utilized for each revolution.

- ✓ Dissatisfaction with the current government.
- ✓ Key mistakes by the current leader that allows him to be seen by the masses as evil.
- ✓ Identifiable leaders of the opposition
- ✓ Growing middle class.
- ✓ Money to finance the revolution.
- ✓ Weapons of force that can match the current group in power.
- ✓ A significant number of people hungry enough to sacrifice even their lives to the cause of revolution.
- ✓ The masses have ideals that are not shared by the current rulers. (for example, Enlightenment)
- ✓ There is an organized plan to achieve power.
- ✓ Trigger incident - the last straw that pushes the people to revolt.

WHY A MODERATE AMERICAN REVOLUTION?

- more realistic goals
- not the same amount of political and economic instability
- geographic separation from "rulers"

WHY A VIOLENT FRENCH REVOLUTION?

- utopian goals unrealistic, especially when willing to use extraordinary methods (terror)