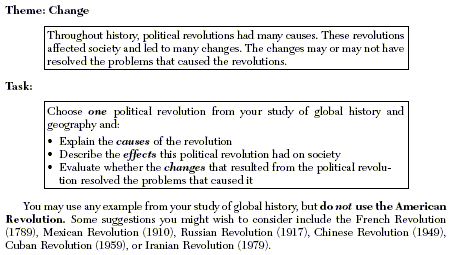
**[](http://www.greececsd.org/files/filesystem/GHG_Thematic_Essays/GHG_Thematic_01.03.pdf)Thematic Essay Three: Theme: Political Revolution: Conflict: Political Turing Points, fall of Government, Turning Point in History.**

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| **Introduction**: A revolution is a big change in society, politics, and economy. Political revolutions are instrumental in shaping the development of human rights across the world. Even though the changes may or may not be successful, the French, Haitian, and Russian revolutions are examples of how the oppressed will always strive to rise above the tyrant. All three revolutions brought tremendous changes into their respective nation. |

**Revolution One: French Revolution**

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| **Causes of the French Revolution** | **Effects of the French Revolution** |
| * There are several causes of the French revolution. **First**, King Louis XVI was an absolute monarch. He believed in the divine right rule meaning he received power from god to rule. He placed hundreds of people in jail and killed others for challenging his authority. He built large palaces, hosted parties for the nobles, and lived a life of luxury and spending. There was no democracy and peasants had to pay for the kings spending habits. The practice of the poor paying to benefit the wealthy was common in the 1700s in France. For example, the government taxed the poor to pay for debts Louis XIV ran up while fighting foreign wars during his reign (1643-1715). In addition, expensive court life and money spent on palaces and parties by France’s monarchs during the 1700s further increased this debt. By Louis XVI’s reign (1774-1792), the French monarchy was nearly bankrupt. * **Second,** In the 1789 the people of France were divided into three large social classes, or Estates. The First estate was the catholic church and the 2nd estates were the wealthy nobles. The 1st and the 2nd estates had privileges, including access to high offices and exemptions from paying taxes that were not granted to the members of the third estates who were peasants. The Roman Catholic Church, whose clergy formed the First Estate, owned 10 percent of the land in France. It provided education and relief services to the poor and contributed about 2 percent of its income to the government. The Second Estate was made up of rich nobles. Although they accounted for just 2 percent of the population, the nobles owned 20 percent of the land and paid almost no taxes. The majority of the clergy and the nobility did not support the Enlightenment ideas of equal rights for everyone that threatened their status and power as privileged persons. Peasants formed the largest group within the Third Estate, more than 80 percent of France’s 26 million people. Peasants paid about half their income in dues to nobles, tithes to the Church, and taxes to the king’s agents. They even paid taxes on such basic staples as salt and bread. Peasants and the urban poor resented the clergy and the nobles for their privileges and special treatment. The heavily taxed and discontented Third Estate was eager for change. * **Third,** New views about power and authority grounded during the Enlightenment were spreading among the Third Estate. Members of the Third Estate were inspired by the writings of the enlightenment philosophers such as John Locke, Jean Rousseau, and Voltaire. They began questioning long-standing concepts about the structure of society and absolute power of Louis XVI. Quoting Locke, Rousseau, and Voltaire, they began to demand equality, liberty, and democracy. For example, many French working classes quoted Locke’s idea that all man should be equal and they must have natural rights to life, liberty, and property. They also supported Locke’s argument that people should choose the government and people had the right to over throw an abusive government. While other quoted Voltaire and Rousseau arguing that all people should have freedom of speech and religion. All third estate wanted an equal society where tax should be fair. These ideas inspired the French people to revolt against the absolute monarchy. | Effect# 1   * With France on the verge of financial collapse, Louis XVI was forced to call a meeting of representatives of the Estates-General, or all three Estates meeting together, to raise new taxes. The Third Estate reacted quickly. On June 17, 1789, it boldly declared that it was the National Assembly and would draft a constitution. Three days later, on June 20, its deputies arrived at their meeting place, only to find the doors had been locked. They then moved to a nearby indoor tennis court and swore that they would continue meeting until they had a new constitution. The oath they swore is known as the Tennis Court Oath. Louis XVI prepared to use force against the Third Estate. The actions of Parisians, however, saved the situation. On July 14, Parisian workers stormed the Bastille (ba•STEEL), an armory and prison in Paris, and dismantled it, brick by brick. Paris was abandoned to the rebels.   Effect # 2   * **Declaration of the Rights of Man** On August 26, the National Assembly adopted the Declaration of them Rights of Man and the Citizen. Inspired by the English Bill of Rights of 1689 and by the American Declaration of Independence and Constitution, this charter of basic liberties began with a ringing affirmation of “the natural and imprescriptible rights of man” to “liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.” The declaration proclaimed that all men were free and equal before the law, that appointment to public office should be based on talent, and that no group should be exempt from taxation. All citizens had the right to make laws. Freedom of speech and the press were affirmed. The declaration of rights of man also inspired declaration of rights of women.     Effect # 3   * **Church Reforms** Under the old regime, the Catholic Church had been an important pillar of the social and political system. The revolutionaries felt they had to reform it too. The new revolutionary government was also motivated by the need for money. By seizing and selling off Church lands, the National Assembly was able to increase the state’s revenues. Finally, the Church was brought under the control of the state formally. A law was passed called the Civil Constitution of the Clergy. It said that bishops and priests were to be elected by the people, not appointed by the pope and the church hierarchy. The state would also pay the salaries of the bishops and priests. This legislation affecting the Church upset many Catholics in France. They felt that state control was wrong. Many of them became permanent enemies of the revolution, and of all radical ideas in politics.   Effect # 4   * **A New Constitution and New Fears** The new Constitution of 1791 set up a limited monarchy. There was still a king, but the Legislative Assembly would make the laws. The new body was designed to be conservative. First, only men over 25 who paid a certain amount of taxes could vote. Second, the method of choosing its 745 representatives meant that only relatively wealthy people would serve. By 1791, the old order had been destroyed, but the new government did not have enough support. On one hand were political radicals and economically disadvantaged people who wanted greater reform. On the other hand were the king and his court who resisted the new government. In June 1791, the king attempted to flee France. He almost succeeded but was captured and brought back to Paris. In this unsettled situation, the new Legislative Assembly met for the first time in October 1791. Soon, France’s rocky relations with the rest of Europe led to the downfall of the king. |

**Revolution Two: Haitian Revolution**

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| **Causes of the Haitian Revolution** | **Effects of the Haitian Revolution** |
| Cause One : Social Class Systems:   * Before the Haitian Revolution there were three very clear cut class systems on Hispaniola. The largest class and lowest class was the slaves. The slaves were treated harshly as the sugarcane needed to be processed in a grueling way. The slaves had a significant minority rate meaning they were constantly being replaced. The other two class systems were significantly smaller making up fewer than ten percent of the total population. The men on the island with the most power and money were the white colonists known as blancs or planters. The blancs owned slaves and controlled the economy of the island. The middle class was the mulattoes and meztizoes. The men of color were normally mixed race. Often times they were the product of a slave mother with a plantation owner blanc father. The free mulattoes often received education and worked as supervisors of the plantations or served in the army. However, they were also involved in slave trading to keep their social class to rich and strong.   Cause Two: Sugar Plantation :   * By 1740 almost all of European sugar came from two small Caribbean islands, Haiti and Jaimaica. Sugarcane is one of the most difficult plants to harvest thus the work is extremely difficult to do. Haiti and the sugar produced there were so important to France that it traded all of its colonies in Canada to Britain (which had control of many of the French Caribbean possessions) to keep their sugar crops in Haiti. This one crop is one of the main reasons for the Haitian Revolution. Slaves were a main component of Caribbean culture. They were a third of the materials in the Triangular Trade ( A trade route between Europe, America, and Africa in which Europeans traded slaves to from Africa to America and manufacturing goods from Europe to America) with European goods and American raw materials. Slave culture on the island of Haiti made a few white men very rich. These white men did fear a slave rebellion. For every one white plantation owner there were ten slaves under them. The fear of slave rebellion scared many of these planters into using harsh treatments to deal with their slaves. On a statistical scale, around forty percent of the world’s sugar supply came from Haiti.   Cause Three: French Revolution   * Many slaves in Haiti believed that since France abolished slavery, the French colony of Haiti should also abolish slavery. Some slaved and educated whites also believed in the ideas of enlightenment. They were inspired by the writings of John Locke, Jean Rousseau, and Voltaire. Quoting Locke, Rousseau, and Voltaire, they began to demand equality, liberty, and democracy. For example, they quoted Locke’s idea that all man should be equal and they must have natural rights to life, liberty, and property. They also supported Locke’s argument that people should choose the government and people had the right to over throw an abusive government. While other quoted Voltaire and Rousseau arguing that all people should have freedom of speech and religion. The slaves wanted an equal society. | Effect One:   * White colonists and black slaves frequently had violent conflicts. Gangs of runaway slaves, known as [maroons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maroon_%28people%29), lived in the woods away from control. They often conducted violent raids on the island's sugar and coffee plantations. The success of these attacks established a black Haitian martial tradition of violence and brutality to effect political ends. Although the numbers in these bands grew large (sometimes into the thousands), they generally lacked the leadership and strategy to accomplish large-scale objectives. The first effective maroon leader to emerge was the charismatic [François Mackandal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Mackandal), who succeeded in unifying the black resistance. A Vodou priest, Mackandal inspired his people by drawing on African traditions and [religions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa). He united the maroon bands and also established a network of secret organizations among plantation slaves, leading a rebellion from 1751 through 1757. Although Mackandal was captured by the French and burned at the stake in 1758, large armed maroon bands persisted in raids and harassment after his death.   Effect Two:   * One of the most successful black commanders of the Haitian Revolution was [Toussaint L'Ouverture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toussaint_L%27Ouverture" \o "Toussaint L'Ouverture), a self-educated former domestic slave. He made strong army only made up by the slaves. After the Spanish had invaded Saint-Domingue, he decided to support the French with his slave military if France would agree to free all the slaves. Under the military leadership of Toussaint, the forces made up mostly of former slaves succeeded in winning and expelling the Spanish forces. Knowing the brutality of the slave system, particularly on the sugar plantations in the Caribbean, L’Ouverture understood that slave labor made it possible for French colonists to live in wealth and luxury. Of course, he also understood the cost of that wealthy and luxury. Slaves were abused, exhausted, and mistreated in order to increase colonial profits. In 1791, Toussaint led an uprising of slaves against the colonists and was successful. In the end, he essentially restored control of Saint-Domingue to France. Having made himself master of the island, however, Toussaint did not wish to surrender too much power to France and called himself the governor of Hiati. Toussaint declared a New Haiti where there would be no slavery.   Effect # 3   * In 1801 he conquered Santo Domingo. He created a central assembly led by slaves to make laws. He banned slavery and discrimination based on color and proclaimed himself Governor for life. When Napoleon sent an army to defeat Toussaint; he formed a highly trained guerilla army to defeat napoleon’s military. He instituted the fermage system. It was a labour system designed to continue the production of the colony's exports crops which had been disrupted due to the war. In a bid to encourage this production and export, he decreased the taxes and custom duties. He made treaties with foreign Governments. He built roads, schools and other public buildings. He allowed all blacks and native children and adult to receive primary education. * **The success of Haitian blacks played a part in the movement for independence in the Spanish colonies of South America. One such colony was Venezuela where Haiti played a major role in its gaining independence. The colored people of Venezuela were suppressed and wanted liberty and independence, as many colonies during the revolutionary period desired. Learning of the Haitian Revolution inspired the Venezuelans to fight for liberty, It also inspired nationalist like Jose San Martin and Hidalgo to fight for freedom in Latin America.** |

**Revolution Three: Russian Revolution**

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| **Causes of the Russian Revolution** | **Effects of the Russian Revolution** |
| Cause # 1: Political Problems: The Harsh Rule of Czars: Political Problem  All power in Russia rested with the czar. The czar was an *absolute* monarch. He controlled the government and was the head of the armyand the Church. They did very little to improve the lives of the people. Russia’s political system was also dominated by nobles. They were wealthy and owned huge farms. They lived off of the work done by *serfs* or peasants. During his reign, a revolutionary mood spread throughout Russia. The czar faced problems from all parts of the society. Unhappy peasants worked for the rich, landowning aristocracy. Non-Russians were ruled and controlled by the Russian army. Liberals, those who demanded reform, were put in prison. And the *intelligentsia*—those who understood the country’s problems—were ignored, imprisoned, or murdered.  Cause # 2: Economic Problems: The Pains of Industrializing Russia  In 1900 Russia was far behind the countries of Europe in economic development. Russian agricultural and industrial methods had barely improved in hundreds of years. While many European countries were using technology to industrialize, Russia remained undeveloped. Consequently, there was not enough food and other goods to feed and satisfy the Russian people. Unlike countries such as Great Britain, Russia lacked people with enough money to invest in industry. When the Russian government finally decided to turn Russia into an industrialized nation, they faced the same problems that other industrial nations did. Masses of peasants were uprooted from their farms to become factory workers. Working conditions in the factories were horrible. Towns rapidly became large cities filled with workers living in slum-like conditions. These unhappy workers would later become the *core* or central part of the revolution.  Cause # 3: Social Problem: Russia’s Social Problem: Many Nationalities under One Government  One of the many problems the Russian government faced in 1900 was the many different nationalities of its people. Only about 10 percent of the people who lived on Russian territory were actually Russian.  Non-Russians were treated terribly by the Russian government. Jewish people were treated worst of all. Jews were forced to live in certain areas. The number of Jews allowed to study in the universities and to practice professions such as law and medicine was limited. If Jews wanted to travel outside of their villages, they needed special permits. Jews had to wear special clothing. Every so often, the Russian government allowed the Cossacks (government police) to attack Jewish villages. The Cossacks would beat, rob, and sometimes massacre the Jews and then burn their villages. These attacks were called pogroms. | Effect One: Bloody Sunday  On a cold, snowy Sunday in January 1905, a large group of workers and their families peacefully marched towards the Winter Palace of the czar in St. Petersburg. Marchers carried petitions for political reforms. Without warning, the czar’s soldiers opened fire on the crowd. When it was over, the snow was stained with the marchers’ blood. Known as *Bloody Sunday.* this murderous act by the czar’s soldiers led to mass demonstrations, mutinies in the military, strikes, and riots in cities throughout the Russian Empire.  Effect Two: Fall of Czar  Frightened by the people’s demonstrations, Czar Nicholas II agreed to a constitution in October of 1905. The events of October forced Nicholas to give in to the demands of the people. The Czar issued the *October* *Manifesto*, which guaranteed civil rights to citizens. A parliament, or elected national legislature known as the *Duma*, was set up. Many believed that Russia had become a *constitutional monarchy*, a government that limited the power of the monarch  Effect Three: Vladimir Lenin Establish Communist government.  Under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin Russian fought a long revolution. Upon taking power, Lenin set up a strong, centralized government. His plan was to introduce *socialism* only where it was possible—for example, in the factories. Lenin figured that eventually he would introduce socialism to all of Russia. He believed that once the people of Western Europe saw how successful socialism was in Russia, they would also overthrow their own governments.  In 1921 Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP). Lenin felt that the NEP was a necessary step backwards for the Communists. It called for a temporary compromise with capitalism. Farmers were allowed to sell any surplus instead of having it taken by the government. Individuals were permitted to buy and sell goods for profit. The government allowed small, privately owned businesses to operate. Lenin even tried to encourage foreign investment. During the period of the New Economic Policy, the Communists were able to stabilize the Revolution.  The Communist leadership divided the many diverse nationalities in Russia into several self-governing republics under the central government. Each republic was controlled from the new capital, Moscow. In 1922 the Bolsheviks gave Russia a new name—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union— in honor of the councils that helped start the Bolshevik Revolution. This new name represented the shift in power from the czar and the aristocrats to the *soviets*, or the working people. After a decade of turmoil, life seemed to have returned to normal for most people in the Soviet Union. By 1928, the country’s farms and factories were producing as much as they had before World War I. |