

5 Revolution: causes and the problem of order – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

fiscal crisis

Recall

- You know a government can fall because it cannot pay its debts.
- You have seen a demand for reform become a demand for replacement.
- You know a revolution has to govern after it wins.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Fiscal crisis

Revolutions in this period often began with a **fiscal crisis** - a state unable to fund itself without consent it did not previously need.

Worked example. Calling an assembly to approve taxes gives that assembly a power it did not have before.

■ 2 From reform to replacement

A demand for reform becomes a demand for replacement when the existing institutions prove unable to deliver it. The escalation is usually a response to refusal.

Worked example. Delegates who arrive wanting tax reform and are refused begin asking who has the right to refuse.

■ 3 The problem of order

A revolution that removes an authority must supply another. Periods of instability follow not from bad intentions but from the difficulty of building legitimacy quickly.

Worked example. A new government has to be obeyed before it has had time to be trusted.

Watch out: Revolutions are not explained by ideas alone. The CED's account joins ideas to fiscal, social and political conditions, and an answer with only one is thinner than the source.

Practice

2.1 Define a fiscal crisis in this context. [2]

2.2 Explain how calling an assembly changes the balance of power. [2]

2.3 Explain how a demand for reform becomes a demand for replacement. [2]

2.4 State why instability follows a revolution. [2]

2.5 State why ideas alone do not explain a revolution. [2]
