

Crane Brinton's "The Anatomy of A Revolution"

Case Study – The French Revolution

The Anatomy of a Revolution – Crane Brinton studied the revolutions of the past and discovered that most revolutions follow the same pattern. This means that people can predict how a revolution will happen, and what will happen during the revolution, if they understand his theory. In this work, Brinton compares revolutions to the steps of a sickness as it takes over the body.

Assignment: Read the handout "French Revolution Notes", Chapters 14 and 15 of the textbook (focusing on Sections 14.2 pages 181-182, and 15.3 pages 202-105), notes from the Anatomy of A Revolution Presentation, and additional research. As you read and research, trace the stages of the French Revolution in the chart below. Find events that match Briton's patterns, summarize them, and explain how they led to or contributed to the revolution. *The events have been started for you. Complete the remaining events and summarize them. In the final column, explain how these events led to and contributed towards the French Revolution.

Brinton's "Anatomy of A Revolution"	Event of the French Revolution Summarize the event, include the title and date of the event	Explanation How did this event contribute to the Revolution?
Phase One - Incubation Stage		
1. Economically weak – the government has debts and must tax. What are the reasons for the taxes?	Wars (Which wars?)- Reckless Spending (Give examples)	
2. Politically weak – the government is ineffective, the ruler is inept. How is the ruler a bad leader?	Louis XIV Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette	(What did these leaders do that contributed to the Revolution? Explain.)
3. Intellectuals desert – Reformers speak out against the government. What ideas promoted a change in government?	Enlightenment	
4. Class antagonism – There is a conflict between the old regime and new forces. How did social class issues contribute to feelings of revolutions?	Old Regime Third Estate	

Phase Two – Symptomatic Stage	Event of the French Revolution	Explanation
<p>1. Financial breakdown</p> <p>What are the specific money problems that hurt the people?</p>	<p>Poverty</p>	
<p>2. Symbolic Actions/ Dramatic Events – rallying point against the old government, protests against the government</p> <p>What are specific acts of protests against the government?</p>		
<p>3. Role of Force – the government cannot stop the rebellion</p> <p>What is the government unable to stop the issues? How does the rebellion continue after the first acts?</p>		
<p>4. Dual Sovereignty – There is a better organized and obeyed government</p> <p>What other forms of government were started during the rebellion? What new branches of government emerged?</p>	<p>National Assembly</p>	
<p>5. Moderates Attain Power- they make a new constitution or fight a war</p> <p>How did the people gain power from the old leader? What new constitutions or declarations were written?</p>		

Phase Three – Crisis Stage	Event of the French Revolution	Explanation
<p>1. Radicals Take Control (coup d’etat) – Small number of devoted disciplined radicals govern</p> <p>How is the ruler removed from power? Who takes control after the leader is killed/removed?</p>	<p>Jacobins</p> <p>San Coulotte’s</p>	
<p>2. War (Civil or foreign)</p> <p>How is the country politically unstable after the ruler is removed?</p>		
<p>3. Centralization of Power in a Revolutionary Council controlled by a Strong Man</p> <p>Who becomes the figurehead of power in the new government or political group?</p>		
<p>4. Terror and Virtue – forced conformity or punishment; supporting the revolution</p> <p>What happens to those who don’t support the revolution?</p>		
Phase Four – Incubation Stage	Event of the French Revolution	Explanation
<p>1. Slow, uneven return to quieter times – first convalescence from the fever of revolution</p> <p>How does the terror end? What happens when things calm down after stage three?</p>		
<p>2. Rule by a tyrant</p> <p>Who takes control after peace is restored?</p>	<p>Napoleon Bonaparte</p>	

<p>3. Radicals Repressed; moderates gain amnesty</p> <p>How are the revolutionaries treated by a new leader/tyrant?</p>		
<p>4. Aggressive Nationalism</p> <p>How does the new leader/tyrant try to make the country better? What changes do they make? How much power do they have?</p>		