

Revolutions

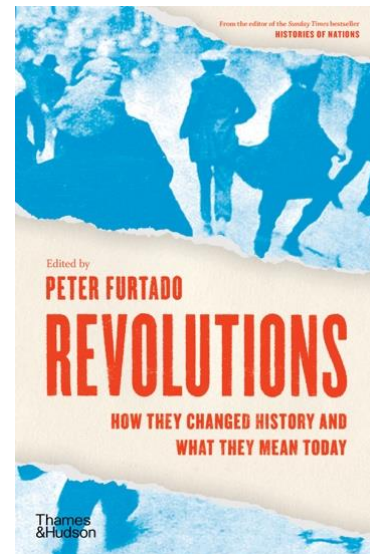
How they changed history and what they mean today

Edited by Peter Furtado

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Published to coincide with the anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, leading historians from around the globe revisit the great revolutions of modern history and explore their meaning today. Edited by the renowned author of *Histories of Nations*.



Are revolutionary pasts remembered critically in national history, mythologized, or even hidden? If so, why? *Revolutions*, through 24 essays with their own timelines and introductions, confronts these important questions. Revolutions hold a distinct place in the popular imagination. This may be because their rhetoric, such as 'liberty, fraternity, equality', articulates aspirations with which we identify; or because we are shocked by the destructive forces unleashed when social conventions break down. Yet each revolution is unique – a product of its time, its society, its people – and the outcomes vary dramatically, from liberal reform to cruel dictatorship.

Twenty-four leading writers and historians, including Simon Jenkins and Mihir Bose, each writing about their country of origin, consider revolutions from England's Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the Arab Spring of 2011, reflecting not only on their causes, crises and outcomes, but also their long-term legacies and their changing, sometimes contested, meanings today. They reflect on key questions, such as: What were the reasons for the revolution? What were the main events and dominant ideologies, and who were the leading protagonists? How is it considered today and what is its ideological legacy? Whether as inspiration or warning, the legacies of these revolutions are not only important to those interested in protest, political change and the power of the people but also impact on virtually every one of us today.

Peter Furtado is the former editor of *History Today*. His publications include the *Sunday Times* bestselling *Histories of Nations* and *Great Cities Through Travellers' Eyes*, both published by Thames & Hudson.