

## Causes of the Revolutions

Each of the revolutions you studied in this unit had political, economic, and social causes, as shown in the chart below. Some of the causes mentioned on the chart are the subjects of the primary sources located on the next page. Use the chart and the primary sources together to understand the causes of revolution more fully.

	England	North America	France	Latin America
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King claimed divine right.</li> <li>King dissolved Parliament.</li> <li>Parliament sought guarantee of freedoms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonists accused British leaders of tyranny.</li> <li>Colonists demanded the same rights as English citizens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Estate wanted greater representation.</li> <li>Louis XVI was a weak ruler; his wife was unpopular.</li> <li>American Revolution inspired political ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French Revolution inspired political ideas.</li> <li>Royal officials committed injustices and repression.</li> <li>Napoleon's conquest of Spain triggered revolts.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King wanted money for wars.</li> <li>King levied taxes and fines without Parliament's approval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Britain imposed mercantilism.</li> <li>Britain expected colonies to pay for defense.</li> <li>Colonists opposed taxation without representation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wars and royal extravagance created debt.</li> <li>Inflation and famine caused problems.</li> <li>Peasants made little money but paid high taxes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peninsulares and creoles controlled wealth.</li> <li>Lower classes toiled as peasants with little income or as slaves.</li> </ul>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Stuart kings refused to make Puritan reforms.</li> <li>Parliament feared James II would restore Catholicism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonists began to identify as Americans.</li> <li>Colonists were used to some independence.</li> <li>Enlightenment ideas of equality and liberty spread.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Estate resented the First and Second estates' privileges.</li> <li>Enlightenment ideas of equality and liberty spread.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only peninsulares and creoles had power.</li> <li>Mestizos, mulattos, Africans, and Indians had little status.</li> <li>Educated creoles spread Enlightenment ideas.</li> </ul>

### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts

- Analyzing Causes** What was the most frequent political cause of revolution? economic cause? social cause?
- Contrasting** How did the causes of the revolutions in Latin America differ from those of the other three revolutions?



◀ In the 1780s, many French peasants could not afford bread to feed their families. At the same time, Marie Antoinette spent so much money on clothes that her enemies called her Madame Deficit. The harsh contrast between starvation and luxury sparked the anger that led to the Revolution.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

#### Political Cartoon, 1789

This French political cartoon portrayed the way the privileges of the First and Second estates affected the Third Estate.



#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

Do you think a member of the First, Second, or Third Estate created this cartoon? Interpret the cartoon and explain who was most likely to hold the viewpoint conveyed.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

#### Political Cartoon, 1765

This political cartoon expressed an opinion about the Stamp Act. The act was a British law that required all legal and commercial documents in the American colonies to carry a stamp showing that a tax had been paid.

#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What opinion does this cartoon express about the effect of the Stamp Act on the American economy?



### PRIMARY SOURCE

INTERACTIVE

#### The English Bill of Rights, 1689

This excerpt from the English Bill of Rights attempted to justify the Glorious Revolution by describing the injustices King James II committed.

The late King James the Second, by the assistance of diverse evil counselors, judges and ministers employed by him, did endeavor to subvert and extirpate [destroy] the Protestant religion and the laws and liberties of this kingdom;

By assuming and exercising a power of dispensing with and suspending of laws and the execution of laws without consent of Parliament; . . .

By levying money for and to the use of the Crown by pretense of prerogative [privilege] for other time and in other manner than the same was granted by Parliament;

By raising and keeping a standing army within this kingdom in time of peace without consent of Parliament; . . .

By violating the freedom of election of members to serve in Parliament; . . .

And excessive bail hath been required of persons committed in criminal cases to elude the benefit of the laws made for the liberty of the subjects;

And excessive fines have been imposed;  
And illegal and cruel punishments inflicted.

#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

According to this document, how did King James II take away power from Parliament? How did he violate the rights of citizens?

## Comparing & Contrasting

- How are the opinions expressed by the three primary sources similar?
- Reread the excerpt from the English Bill of Rights. Based on this document, what causes could you add to the chart on page 708?

