

Harkness Revolutions Discussion Questions

1. What is a revolution?
2. Do revolutions follow a pattern or is each one unique? (Do they all start for the same reasons? Do they have to involve violence?)
3. When is it justified to actively try to overthrow your own government?
4. How much violence is okay when trying to overthrow your own government?
5. If the government responds to the revolution with violence, do the revolutionaries have to respond with violence? Is there another alternative?
6. Should there be room for compromise between opposing sides during a revolution?
7. How do you judge whether a revolution is successful?
8. How much time has to pass before we can judge the success of a revolution? (5 years, 10 years, 50 years?) Justify your choice.
9. Should outside countries interfere in another country's revolution? (For example, France in the American Revolution, Prussia and Austria in the French Revolution, and the U.S. and others in the Russian Revolution)
10. What is the difference between a revolution and a civil war?
11. Are the Industrial Revolution and the Digital Revolution actually revolutions? Why or why not?