



Revolution and World Politics: The Rise and Fall of the Sixth Great Power

By Fred Halliday

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Revolutions, as much as international war or nationalism, have shaped the development of world politics. In cause, ideology, and consequence they have merited description as a “sixth great power” alongside the dominant nations. In *Revolution and World Politics* Fred Halliday reassesses the role of revolution from the French Revolution to the Iranian Revolution and the collapse of communism.

Halliday begins by tracing the origins and evolution of the modern concept of “revolution” and placing it in historical context. Arguing that revolution is central to any understanding of international relations, he examines the internationalist ideology of revolutionaries who are committed to promoting change elsewhere by exposing revolution. In contrast with the claims of revolutionaries and counterrevolutionaries alike, he sees revolutions both as part of an internationalist social conflict and as a challenge to the system of states. Chapters on the distinct foreign policies of revolutionary states are followed by discussions of war, counterrevolution, and postrevolutionary transformation. The study concludes with a reassessment of the place of revolution within international relations theory and in modern history, drawing out implications for their incidence and character in the twenty-first century.

Students and scholars of international relations, political science, sociology, and history will value this major contribution to understanding worldwide developments in government and society.

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Review

“Fred Halliday is a lifetime student of revolutions. Here he offers a thoughtful, well-informed review of interactions between revolutions and international politics from the sixteenth century to the collapse of European communism. He also provides a number of side benefits in the form of fresh thoughts on international responses to revolutionary regimes, reports of his own observations in Havana, Tehran, and other revolutionary hot spots, insights drawn from interviews with pundits and world leaders, critiques of current theories of international relations, and more.”—Charles Tilly, Columbia University

Review

'[A] thoughtful, well-informed review of interactions between revolutions and international politics from the sixteenth century to the collapse of European communism.' - Charles Tilly, Columbia University

'[D]azzling in scope and brimming with historical insights...' - Robert S. Snyder, *The Review of Politics*

'...this book will be read with profit by students and scholars, and perhaps - one hopes - the occasional policymaker as well.' - Brendan Simms, *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

'Fred Halliday's *Revolution and World Politics* is a must for anyone who wants to understand what internationalism meant in this century, and how revolutions affected the world situation.' - Eric Hobsbawm, *New Statesman & Society*

'Fred Halliday's book is to be welcomed as one of the few studies that take revolution as in essence an international phenomenon...This is a splendid book, superbly executed and full of insights into every aspect of revolution from every period of revolutionary history from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries...whatever the future of revolution, Halliday's book makes out as strong a case as can be imagined for its importance in shaping the world in which we now live.' - Krishan Kumar, University of Virginia, *International Relations and Organizations*

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'[A] major original work...Halliday's book is impressive not just as a work of analytical scholarship, but because it is written...with an ear for [revolutions'] voices of aspiration and hope...and with a feeling for their constraints and contradictions...without being in the least apologetic or uncritical. He goes back and forth between different centuries and different continents with the sureness of someone familiar with all the rooms of the vast, and rather ruined, house of revolutions.' - Göran Therborn, *New Left Review*

'Revolution is an overused political term, and one of the great merits of this major new study is Halliday's ability to cut through the forest and provide some light...Halliday writes dispassionately and with great insight and knowledge about the theory and practice of revolution.' - Andrew Gamble,

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'[T]his excellent and highly readable book makes a cogent case. [T]he best book yet to show how revolutions and world politics are deeply intertwined, and that to a far greater degree than has generally been granted, the conflicts, energies and ideas released in revolutions have shaped world politics over several centuries.' - Jack Goldstone, *Millennium*

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From the Publisher

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