Stages of Revolution - Crane Brinton

**STAGE ONE: WRITERS** - "The initial indication of impending upheaval is the activity of writers in denouncing existent conditions, pointing out the worst maladjustments, satirizing and rendering ridiculous certain common practices and ideas, and destroying faith in existent institutions. These men provide new goals for humanity, coin popular slogans, and paint pictures of future utopias if suggested reforms were to occur."
- Translation: Writers poke fun at social institutions such as the government, Church, leaders, manners, etc

**STAGE TWO- RIOTS-** "In the second stage, widespread public dissatisfaction manifests itself and culminates in riots, assassinations, and other acts of violence."
- Translation: People get ticked off and riot.

**STAGE THREE-REFORMERS-** "The ruling group is intimidated into making repeated concessions until a real transfer of power occurs."
- Translation: The moderates come to power.
- What does this term mean? Who are reformers? Where do they fit in the political spectrum?

**STAGE FOUR-FORMER RULERS-** "In this, the fourth stage, the former ruling group, now out of power, and experiencing the disabilities of this position, attempts to regain control of the machinery of government: civil war follows."
- Translation: The bad boys from the Old Regime want their stuff back. Does this make sense to you?

**STAGE FIVE- RADICALS-** "The radicals attempt to bring into realization their utopian dreams".
- Translation: The real fanatics get power.

**STAGE SIX- RETURN TO NORMALCY:** "When their (the Radicals) tenure of power has run its course, the drift to normalcy occurs, which is called the Thermidorian Reaction in the French Revolution."
- Translation: People get tired of having their heads cut off and want to go back to the past.

Stage 7- RISE of Imperialism- the new regime embarks upon a policy of conquest under the guise of liberating other countries. Translation the nation-stat gets its act together and flexes its muscles

Overview: The French Revolution became the most momentous upheaval of the revolutionary age.