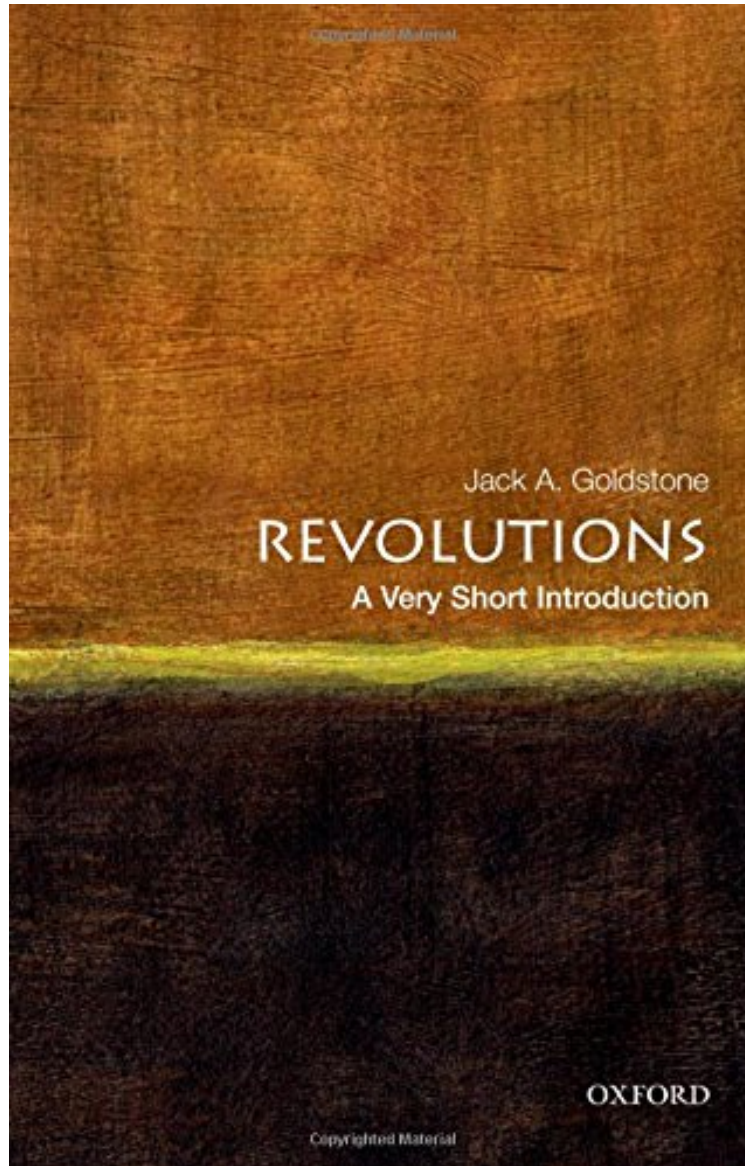


[Library ebook] Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

## Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Jack A. Goldstone

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**Jack A. Goldstone : Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

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revolutions, including the recent 2011 revolutionary activity in the Middle East and North Africa. Because it is supposed to be a very short introduction, much of what is discussed is way too general and superficial. But the book offers useful guides to further readings about specific revolutions and the theories propounded in various fields about their origins. Altogether, it is a good book that does exactly what the author and publishers intended - provide a primer from which to launch further study and reading.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. A precise and concise guide to revolutions  
By Koo Tat Kee  
Being an expert in revolutions, Goldstone was able to offer a very accessible, informative and updated introduction on the topic. Indeed, he was the initiator of the fourth-generation theory of revolution. Some of the basic ideas of the fourth-generation theory are introduced in the book.  
Lucid and easy to read and understand, I really learn from it.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. You say you want a Revolution?  
By Phyllis Hill  
Concise and clear introduction to a complex topic - a useful guide for studying revolutions past and present, addressing questions such as: If the primary cause of revolution is suffering and injustice then why have there not been more of them? Why do some revolutions advance the cause of human liberty and dignity, whereas others revert to that which they meant to replace, or worse.

From 1789 in France to 2011 in Cairo, revolutions have shaken the world. In their pursuit of social justice, revolutionaries have taken on the assembled might of monarchies, empires, and dictatorships. They have often, though not always, sparked cataclysmic violence, and have at times won miraculous victories, though at other times suffered devastating defeat. This Very Short Introduction illuminates the revolutionaries, their strategies, their successes and failures, and the ways in which revolutions continue to dominate world events and the popular imagination. Starting with the city-states of ancient Greece and Rome, Jack Goldstone traces the development of revolutions through the Renaissance and Reformation, the Enlightenment and liberal constitutional revolutions such as in America, and their opposite--the communist revolutions of the 20th century. He shows how revolutions overturned dictators in Nicaragua and Iran and brought the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and examines the new wave of non-violent "color" revolutions--the Philippines' Yellow Revolution, Ukraine's Orange Revolution--and the Arab Uprisings of 2011-12 that rocked the Middle East. Goldstone also sheds light on the major theories of revolution, exploring the causes of revolutionary waves, the role of revolutionary leaders, the strategies and processes of revolutionary change, and the intersection between revolutions and shifting patterns of global power. Finally, the author examines the reasons for diverse revolutionary outcomes, from democracy to civil war and authoritarian rule, and the likely future of revolution in years to come.  
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Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects--from Islam to Sociology, Politics to Classics, Literary Theory to History, and Archaeology to the Bible. Not simply a textbook of definitions, each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative--yet always balanced and complete--discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field. Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question, demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society. Eventually, the series will encompass every major academic discipline, offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library. Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing, whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader, the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable.

"Although written for a general audience, *Revolutions* is an excellent overview of the topic and as such deserves a wide reading." -CHOICE  
About the Author  
Jack Goldstone is Virginia E. and John T. Hazel, Jr. Professor of Public Policy and Eminent Scholar, School of Public Policy, at George Mason University. He is the author of *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*.