

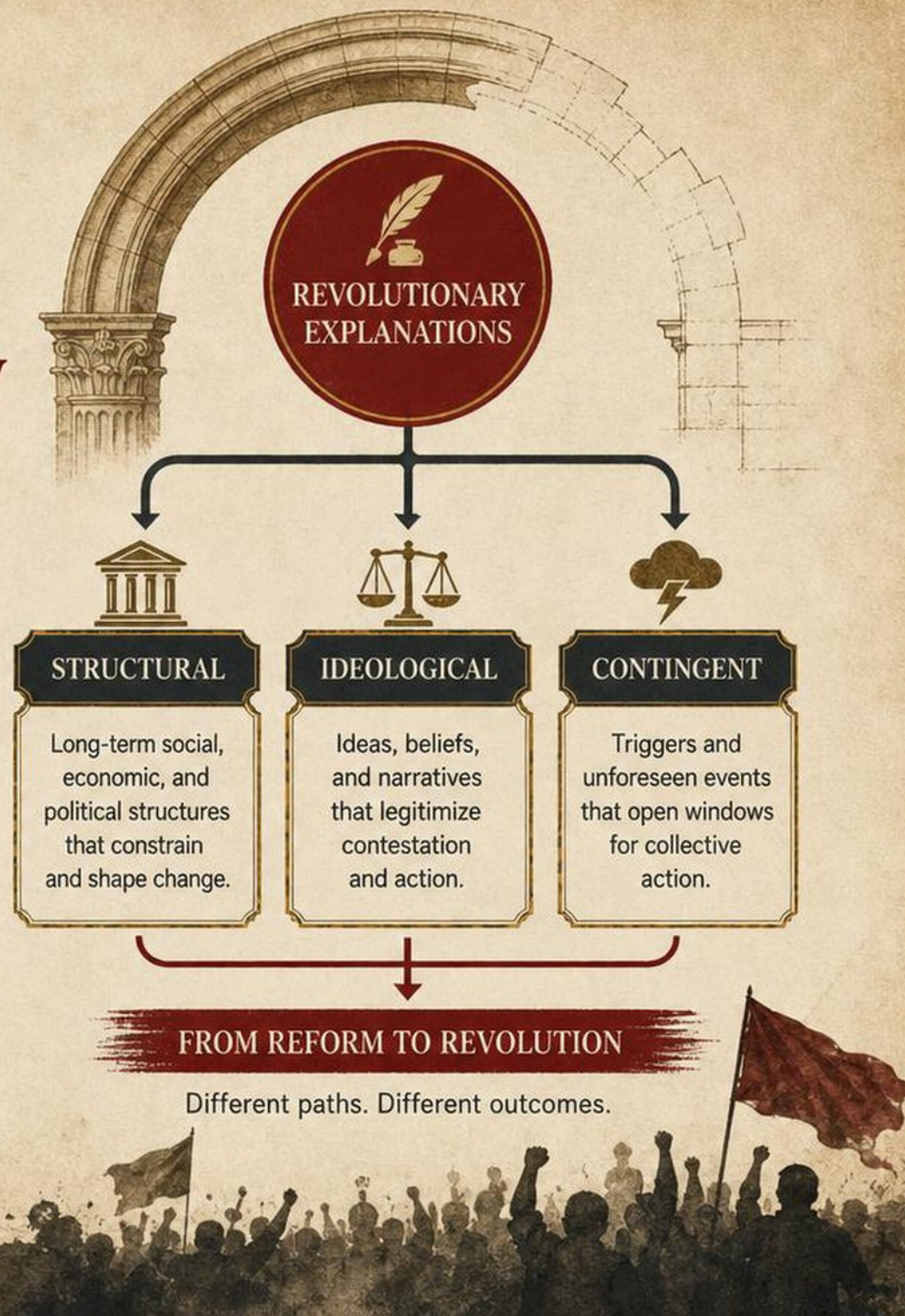
# Revolutions That Reshaped the Modern World

- ✦ - Revolution spans political, economic, social, scientific, and technological change
- ✦ - Course arc: 1600 to present, shaping today's global order
- ✦ - Analytical framework: causes, key actors, turning points, long-term consequences
- ✦ - Four types: political, social, economic, and knowledge revolutions



# A Working Vocabulary for Comparative Study

- ◆ Structural, ideological, and contingent explanations contrasted
- ◆ Triggers vs. underlying conditions; rebellion vs. revolution
- ◆ Brinton: recurring stages, from moderate reform to terror and dictatorship
- ◆ Skocpol: states in crisis, elite defection, popular mobilization
- ◆ Key terms: state crisis, elite defection, popular mobilization, outcome



# The English Civil War *and the* Glorious Revolution, 1642–1689

- ✿ Shift from divine-right monarchy to constitutional limits
- ✿ Parliament, religion, and taxation as triggers of conflict
- ✿ Bill of Rights: foundation of parliamentary sovereignty
- ✿ Financial Revolution bolstered government credibility
- ✿ Long-term impact on modern constitutional government



# The American Revolution and the Birth of Republicanism

- Colonial grievances: taxation without representation, perceived tyranny
- Shift to popular sovereignty: consent of the governed
- Enlightenment ideas: rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- First successful declaration of independence became a global model
- Inspired revolutions in France, Haiti, and Spanish America
- Limits: slavery, exclusion from citizenship, unfinished promise

## IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

*John Hancock*

Samuel Adams

Thomas Jefferson

Roger Sherman

John Adams

Benjamin Franklin

Robert R. Livingston

Robert Treat Paine

John Morton

William Floyd

Elbridge Gerry

George Clymer

Philip Livingston

Roger Sherman

William Whipple

Lewis Morris

Benjamin Rush

# The French Revolution: Ideology, Radicalization, and the Napoleonic Aftermath



- Radicalized from constitutional reform to the Reign of Terror



- New concepts: nation, citizenship, left and right



- Napoleonic Code exported revolutionary institutions across Europe



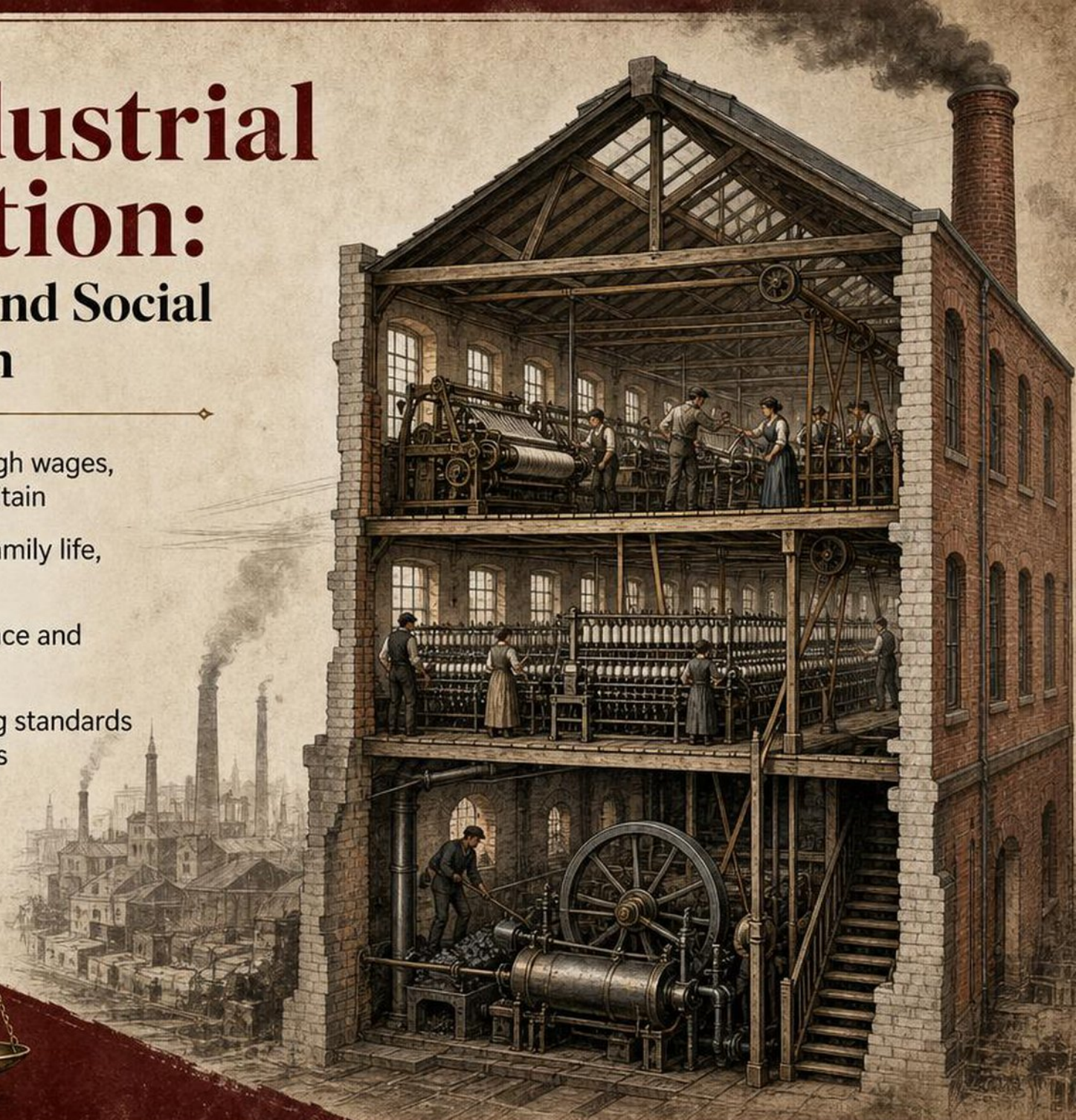
- Legacy: equality under law alongside authoritarian rule



# The Industrial Revolution:

## An Economic and Social Transformation

- Driven by cheap energy, high wages, and new technologies in Britain
- Transformed work, cities, family life, and class structure
- Created the Great Divergence and modern global inequality
- Debated legacy: rising living standards vs. harsh working conditions



# The Haitian Revolution and the Contest Over Universal Rights, 1791–1804

---

- Enslaved people transformed colonial revolt into abolition and independence
- Intersection of race, empire, and Enlightenment rights in the Atlantic world
- Economic and geopolitical consequences, including international isolation
- Reshaped debates about slavery, emancipation, and human rights



# The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Revolutionary Socialism

---

- February 1917: mass strikes and army mutiny force Tsar's abdication
- October 1917: Bolsheviks seize power promising peace, land, bread
- War, inflation, and food shortages fuel revolutionary unrest
- Soviet state emerges after civil war; one-party rule institutionalized



# Decolonization as a Wave of National Revolutions, 1945–1975

- Revolutionary transfer of sovereignty, 1945–1975
- Paths: armed struggle, nonviolent resistance, negotiated transitions
- Nationalism plus Cold War rivalries shaped state building
- UN and nonaligned movement expanded postcolonial influence
- Debate: formal independence vs. continued economic dependency (neocolonialism)



# The Scientific Revolution and the Birth of Modern Knowledge

- Transforming authority, method, and understanding of nature
- Kuhn's paradigm shifts: how scientific revolutions differ from political ones
- Intellectual preconditions for later political and economic transformations
- Scientific institutions and societies produce reliable knowledge

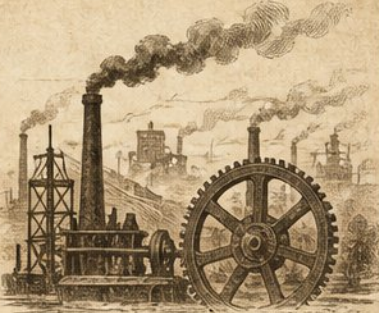


# From the Digital Revolution to Artificial Intelligence

- ✦ Digital revolution as a general-purpose technology, like steam, electricity, and printing
- ✦ Reshapes power, economy, work, and daily life globally
- ✦ AI as a potential revolution in cognition, labor, and institutions
- ✦ Futures: digital democracy, oligarchy, authoritarianism, and localism



# Comparing Revolutionary Causes, Processes, and Outcomes

| POLITICAL<br>REVOLUTIONS                                                          | SOCIAL<br>REVOLUTIONS                                                              | ECONOMIC<br>REVOLUTIONS                                                             | KNOWLEDGE<br>REVOLUTIONS                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Power, legitimacy, and authority in the struggle for governance.                  | Identity, culture, and social relations transformed through collective action.     | Production, property, and distribution restructured to reshape material life.       | Ideas, beliefs, and information systems redefined to unlock new possibilities.      |

- ✦ Compare causes and outcomes across political, social, economic, and knowledge revolutions
- ✦ Institutional costs and unintended consequences shape judgments of success and failure
- ✦ Nonviolent movements generally yield more positive institutional outcomes than violent ones
- ✦ Recurring patterns: state crisis, elite defection, popular mobilization, terror, authoritarian consolidation

# Contemporary Movements and the Question of the Next Revolution

- Digital networks and globalization reshape protest and revolutionary possibility
- AI as a general-purpose technology may drive the next transformation
- Digital authoritarianism, oligarchy, democracy, and localism are possible futures
- Historical patterns inform evaluation of today's movements
- Risks include automation, surveillance, and inequality



# Key Takeaways and Discussion Prompts

- ✦ - Revolutions reshape institutions, economies, and identities across political, social, and knowledge domains
- ✦ - Recurring patterns: state crisis, elite defection, popular mobilization, and consolidation
- ✦ - Nonviolent revolutions often yield more positive institutional outcomes than violent ones
- ✦ - Revolutionary change carries developmental costs and mixed legacies
- ✦ - Apply the comparative framework to evaluate current and future revolutionary movements



# PersonWise.

PersonWise • AI digital-human course platform



Scan the code or click anywhere to watch this course live, with voice Q&A

[personwise.ai/t/5dfab426/public](https://personwise.ai/t/5dfab426/public)