

## 1. Revolution is like Saturn, it devours its own children – Georges Danton

“Law is the expression of the general will”, enshrined in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, the ultimate document that serves to protect the unalienable rights of all, and yet, hardly ever respected. The French Revolution showed the true nature of the horrors of false promise, the removal and suspension of the Constitution and the Great Terror or the September Massacres, prove to show that revolutionaries themselves perish, at the hands of their comrades. The stand would be that indeed, revolution does devour its own creators, and in this case, children can refer to both the revolutionaries as people, and also the ideas of the Revolution, figuratively characterized as “children”.

For:

- The French Revolution resulted in the deaths of those who proposed it. This can refer to the execution of the Girondins, the masses and the people that the Constitution swore to protect, especially the life, liberty and rights of the population
- The ideologies of the French Revolution crumbled as it progressed to descend into anarchy and a frenzy. The original noble intentions of the Revolution gave way to needless murders and brutal massacres, organized by the Committee of Public Safety, supported by the Revolutionary Tribunal, a clear removal of the rights of the citizens

Against:

- Some historians may argue that the Revolution did not devour its own children, it only sought to weed out counter-revolutionaries that threatened its “children”. This essentially means that the people who were sent to the guillotine had to be exterminated in order to ensure the continued success of the Revolution, and the establishment of a Republic of Virtue that would ultimately triumph amidst insecurities and immorality
- The counter argument is that when the Revolution began in France, it promised to treat all as its own “children”, which means that the unalienable rights of the freedom of speech had to be granted to all. Simply because a more vocal crowd decided to question the instincts of the Government does not warrant their deaths

## 2. Revolutions are knee-jerk reactions, not long term solutions

“Do you hear the people sing, singing the song of angry men...” the famous line from Les Misérables encompasses the entire nature of revolutions, angry, violent, rash. Revolutions are meant to bring about change, to alleviate the grievances of the people, to radically alter the existing system. Knee-jerk reactions are not necessarily detrimental, but mean that revolutions are sudden responses to changes in their society, implying that it is a short-term solution. The stand would be that revolutions are knee-jerk reactions, but with long term planning in mind. Revolutions are generally carried out, a cascading response that leads to the tipping point, where change is enacted. Short term end goals lie in mind, but an ultimate principle of change spurs and governs the revolution.

For (knee jerk reactions):

- Revolutions occur based on recent bouts of disapproval of the administration. The Third Estate quit to form their own National Assembly since they were locked out of Estates General meeting, the storming of the Bastille occurred to counter threats that troops were deployed to quell uprisings in Paris.

Long-term solutions:

- There is always a long term solution in mind. The final outcome of the French Revolution was to attain rights and liberties of all citizens, remove the ancien régime to implement one that would be equal and unbiased. The Scientific Revolution aimed to change the treatment of knowledge, from one based on dogma and superstition to one based on empiricism and observations, facts backed by supporting evidence.
- The long term solution would eventually surface, regardless of the intermediate events. The French Revolution ultimately ended up with successive Republics, despite the return of the Bourbon Monarchy and the Napoleon Rulers for a brief period of time