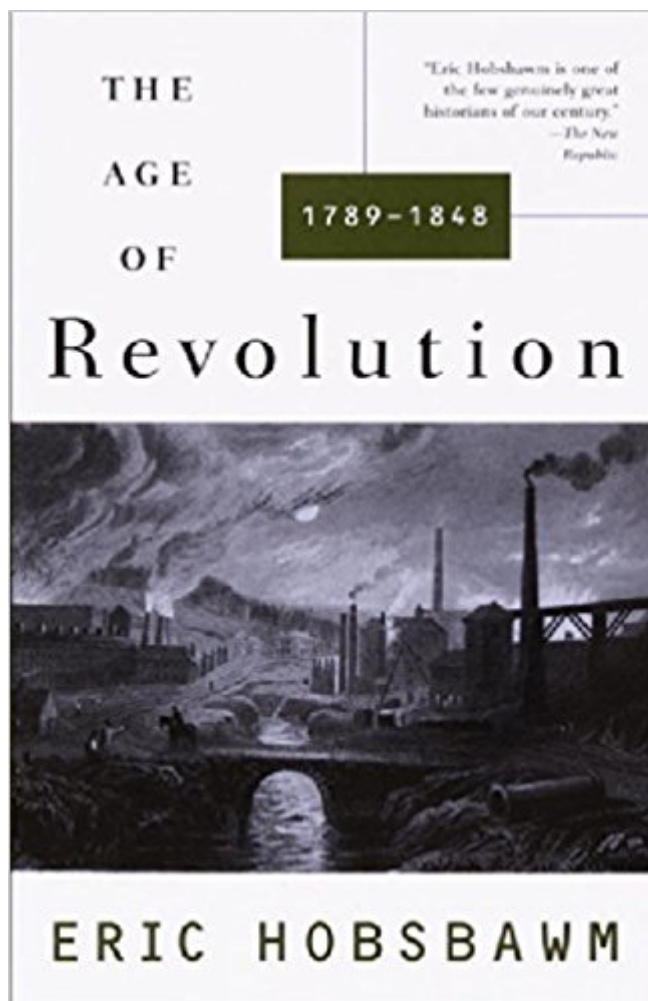


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# The Age Of Revolution: 1789-1848



## Synopsis

This magisterial volume follows the death of ancient traditions, the triumph of new classes, and the emergence of new technologies, sciences, and ideologies, with vast intellectual daring and aphoristic elegance. Part of Eric Hobsbawm's epic four-volume history of the modern world, along with *The Age of Capitalism*, *The Age of Empire*, and *The Age of Extremes*.

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## Customer Reviews

Brilliant. \* TLS \* The work is challenging, learned, brilliant in its analytical power, wide-ranging in its lucid exposition of literary, aesthetic and scientific achievements and packed with novel insight. \* ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW \* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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A powerful weaving together of the history of the industrial and political revolutions in their respective epicenters of Britain and France and the way their shockwaves impact on other global regions such as other European states and empires, India, coastal Africa and Latin America. Detailed analysis is provided of changes in the political economy through these revolutions,

including changes in the relation with the land, emergence of an urban proletariat and a middle class and their territorial interdependence through nations and nationalism. With polyglot mastery of an enormous diversity of sources, Hobsbawm also explores the cultural dimensions of the revolutions, in religion and the arts. The book is a tour de force alone, but when read together with the following two books in the historical trilogy, *Age of Capital* and *Age of Empire*, you have access to a brilliant synthesis of the history of the "long 19th Century" as Hobsbawm calls it, essential to understanding what has and is happening in the 20th and 21st centuries.

I'm a casual history reader, and I read this book while reading Phillip Dwyer's Napoleon saga, and it really helped me to understand the social, economic, and political context of the time. It is very clear and interesting.

What I like best about this book is the attitude of the author, the type of explanations he gives for different events in history. He comes down firmly on the side of the poor, and he says that some revolutions are necessary, perhaps even inevitable, because of the greed of the "haves" and their cruelty to the "have nots". Sad but true. What I don't like about this book is that it can get boring in spots. The author is good but not great. Some of his pages have to be skimmed because they simply don't hold your interest. Whenever I see certain words in a book, I cross them out heavily. "Moreover" is one of those words. This author, like so many other scholastic types, over-uses the word "moreover". Moreover, he uses the word "moreover" at the beginning of far too many sentences. It is a common fault of professors. Listen to an audio tape from the Teaching Company, and all the "moreovers" will drive you nuts. After the 12th moreover you want to strangle the speaker. Moreover, it gets on your nerves to keep reading or hearing "moreover", which, when you stop to think of it, adds nothing at all to the course or book. Moreover, Hobsbawm needs to stop writing "moreover" so often. Anyone who says or writes the word "moreover" even once deserves to be drawn and quartered, killed and beheaded, and his severed head needs to be placed on a couch in front of a tv and forced to watch clips of the Backstreet Boys or some other boy band prancing around like idiots. I think, moreover, that this would be a suitable punishment for these speakers and authors.

The *Age of Revolution* is an excellent way of taking your understanding of history to a higher level. Absolutely recommended

First off, I should say that this book is a good overview of western European history for the time period it covers. I liked it and enjoyed it and learned a lot from it. However, I can't help thinking about what the book is not, and that frustrates me. Hobsbawm wrote several books in the same vein as his career advanced and he did get better as a historian and as a writer. I read those books before reading this one so I felt a little let down stylistically. I'm torn on a further critique. The book is either too narrow in focus (ie, the wonderful and timeless charge of 'eurocentricism'), or oddly enough not focused enough. On this charge I think that perhaps companion volumes should have been made - revolution in France and Revolution in factories. I say this because it was not too long ago that I read E. P. Thompson's fine, exhaustive and brick-like 'Making of the English Working Class' which is a great book and a great point of comparison because it covers roughly equal time periods (Thompson goes earlier than 1789 and stops before 1848) and it was written around the same time as this book. Overall the text was perfect, yet it was wanting.

Excelent

A little bit expensive.

Great!

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