



# Challenge and Change in Society

**An Introduction**

# Society



- Society is a grouping of individuals characterized by common interests and may have distinctive cultures and institutions.
- The word society may also refer to an organized voluntary association of people.
- Members of a society may be from different ethnic groups. A society may be a particular people, a nation state, or a broader cultural group, such as a Western society.
- Can be for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes.



**“The only thing that is constant is change.”**

~ The Ionian School of Pre-Socratic philosophy




***What does this quote mean to you?***



let's talk.



change



**Society is never static.** Rather, it is always in a state of flux. People and their actions are affected by many factors and challenges – political landscapes, environmental and technological discoveries, new trends, and even shifts in popular opinion. The resulting social changes range from small-scale events in communities to larger scale events that have global impacts. In both of these cases, however, the lives of individuals can be altered.



**Banksy** is a pseudonymous (alias) England-based street artist, political activist, and film director.

Active since the 1990s, Banksy's works of political and social commentary have appeared on streets, walls, and bridges throughout the world. Much of the graffiti by Banksy deals with themes of social change.

It inspires viewers to think critically and ask questions.



<https://www.canvasartrocks.com/blogs/posts/70529347-121-amazing-banksy-graffiti-artworks-with-locations>





***Consider the events that have taken place in your life.***



- What has happened in your neighbourhood or city that has altered the lives of the people who live there?
- What have you witnessed that has had global implications?

# The Study of Change

This course is centred on the study of social change. Many people feel that the world is changing more quickly than ever before, and while some people embrace this change, some struggle with it.

Regardless of a person's outlook, change is a reality.

**What do you predict will change in the future?**

*View the following video to hear the predictions of others (2013).*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1eIYZjzO7A>



# Social Change is a general term which refers to:

- a change in the social institutions and its structures, the social behaviour or the social relations of a society, community of people, or other social structures.
- Any event or action that affects a group of individuals that have shared values or characteristics.
- Acts of advocacy for the cause of changing society in a normative way (subjective).
- Refers to changes in the way society is organized, and in the beliefs and practices of the people who live it in

***any way in which social organizations are altered or transformed.***



# Examples of Social Change

- Changing gender roles (jobs, parenting, equality, etc.)
- Canadian dollar value vs. US
- Majority liberal government to majority conservative government
- Legalization of same-sex marriage
- Global pandemic?

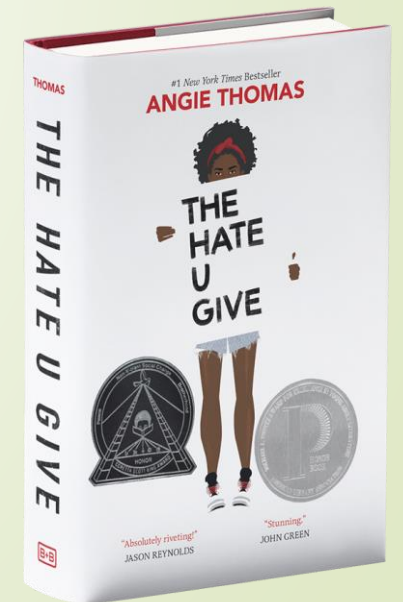


There are many different ways to create social change. The most common forms include...

# Theatre for Social Change



➡ Movies, television programs, and music can all spread a message of social change.



# Protesting

Protesters may organize a protest as a way of publicly & forcefully making their opinions heard in an attempt to influence public opinion or government policy.



New York 1963



New York 2020

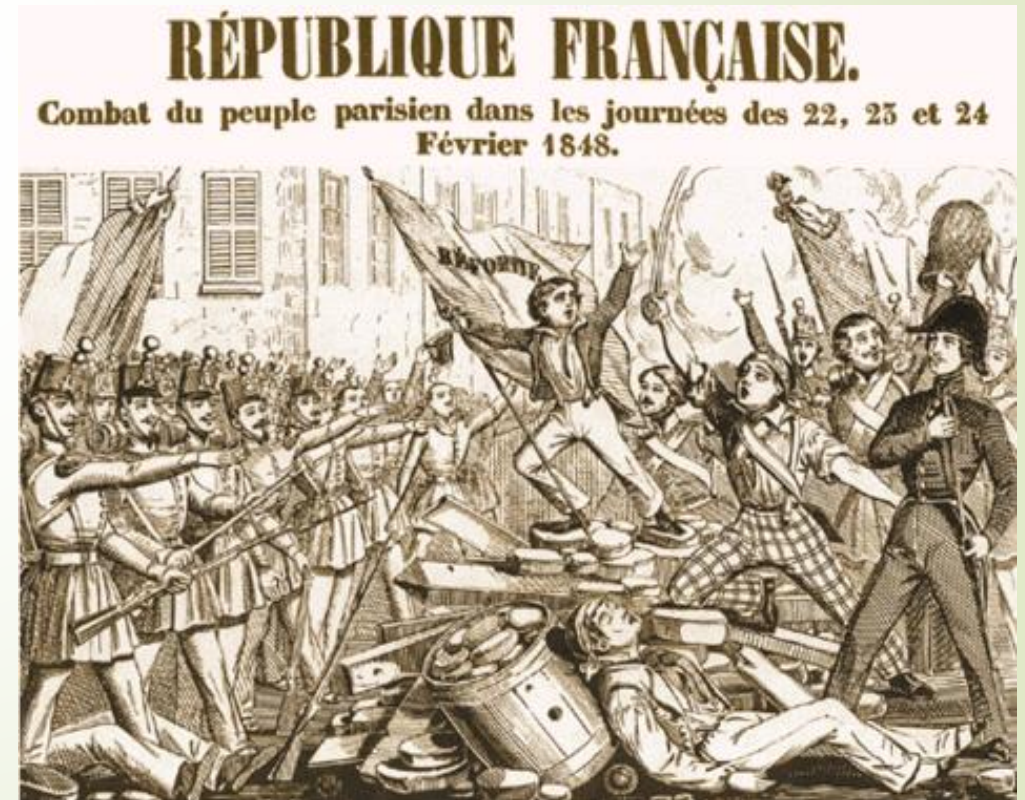
# Direct Action

Political activism which seeks immediate remedy for perceived ills

Nonviolent activities include strikes, workplace occupations, sit-ins, demonstrations, sabotage, graffiti.



More violent actions include revolutionary or guerrilla warfare.



# Community Organizing

A process by which people are brought together to act in common self-interest.

*While organizing describes any activity involving people interacting with one another in a formal manner, much community organizing is in the pursuit of a common agenda.*



# Advocacy

The act of arguing on behalf of a particular issue, idea, person or animal.



*Can you recall any celebrity advocating for social change?*



# Revolution

From the Latin “*revolutio*,”- a turn-around.

- a fundamental and relatively sudden change in political power and political organization.

# Political Activism

In a general sense, Political Activism can be described as intentional action to bring about social or political change.

This action is in support of, or opposition to, one side of an often controversial argument.



**“LEARN TO BE OPEN  
MINDED AND  
RESPECTFUL TO PEOPLE'S  
OPINION, EVEN WHEN  
YOU DON'T AGREE”**



# TALKING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE

The content of this course will look at the different causes of change, the theories that help us to explain social change, and the results of change on society.

## **Something to Keep in Mind**

Many of the topics in this course challenge the personal beliefs held by individuals. They may deal with topics of religion, ethnicity, gender, morals, and legality. While you are always encouraged to have your own viewpoint, it is crucial to be able to articulate your thoughts and opinions in a way that is respectful of others. It is also important to remain open-minded to the possibility that your opinions may be influenced and may perhaps change.



# Remembering Social Change

Many people identify with events of social change as timeline markers in their lives. You will hear people say, "Do you remember where you were when you heard about..." The specific events are obviously dependent upon the age and personal sphere of the speaker. While some might remember political events, others might have more connection to things that happened in pop culture.

**Write a paragraph about an event of social change that you remember. You might recall seeing it on television or in social media, or perhaps you remember a teacher or parent discussing it with you. Post your paragraph to the discussion forum!**

***Your discussion post should include the following:***

- details of the event (5 W's: Who, What, Where, When, Why)
- your memory of the event – where were you, how you learned about it
- why this event is memorable to you.
- the social change that was caused as a result of this event;
- the impact, if any, that you personally experienced as a result of this event

**Reply to at least one classmate!**

Your reply should engage in conversation. Do not simply write "I remember that" or "that is cool".

Instead, comment on something you found interesting, any similarities or differences you share, or ask a question to further the discussion.