Anatomy of a Revolution

Crane Brinton was a scholar who specialized in studying political revolutions. In his studies, he discovered patterns within revolutions: the causes, course, and effectiveness. He published his findings in a famous book entitled Anatomy of a Revolution. Fill in the blanks on this handout as you learn about his ideas. Work carefully: we will be referring to this information often.

Conditions present BEFORE a revolution:
1. People from all _____________________________ are unhappy.
2. People feel restricted or held down by their ___________, often in issues of religion, the economy, or social issues.
3. People are ____________ for the future, but they feel the current government wants them to accept _____________ what they hoped for.
4. There is _________________ between the rich, poor and other social classes.
5. The social classes closest to one another are the most ____________.
6. The _______________ and _______________ are critical of the society and give up on the government.
7. The government does not _______________ to ______________________________.
8. Government leaders _____________ themselves and some _______________.
9. More people _____________ the government than _______________ it. The government can’t save itself.
10. The government has money issues and is either _______________ or _______________ unfairly.

Steps of a Revolution
1. _______________ make demands of the government that the government cannot meet without destroying itself.
2. Government tries to _______________ revolutionaries, but cannot and the government ________.
3. Revolutionaries gain _______ and seem _______________. Honeymoon period.
4. Revolutionaries have ___________ amongst themselves. _______________ and _________ form groups.
5. Moderates have ________________ power, but many people are __________________ by the limited changes.
6. _______________ gain power
7. A “strong man” from the ______________ group takes power. Radicals try to achieve their goals by __________ their opponents.
8. A period of terror occurs. _________________ are violated in the name of the revolution.
9. _________________ phase begins. People try to restore the state of being before the revolution.
10. _________________ regain power. The revolution is _________.

Evaluating a Revolution
☐ Did the ______________ of the revolution ______________ as its leadership changed?
☐ Were the original ______________ of the revolution achieved? At what point? Were these achievements conserved, or did they go away?
☐ Which ________________ gained most from the revolution? Which lost? Did the original ruling group or individuals from this group _________________?
☐ How was the old political, social, and economic order of society ______________ as a result of the revolution?