

## **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS**

- Assign Timur Kuran's article "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989."
- Make sure to carefully explain the roles that "preference falsification" and 'revolutionary thresholds' play in revolutionary cascades.
- Cut out the profile strips and distribute among the class. There are 15 profiles here but you can adapt for different class sizes.
- Give the students a minute to read and inhabit their profile.

## **SCRIPT FOR CLASS**

*I will take the role of the Utrilian security forces. You each have an identity explained by your slips of paper. If the circumstances and your role instructions demand that you "take to the streets" as the game progresses, come forward to the front of the class.*

*When I make the following signal (make punching movement), that means I'm beating someone.*

*I'm now going to read a very short narrative.*

*Utril is a personalist authoritarian regime run by the brutal dictator Drita Agim. Freedom House scores Utril as "Not Free." On the Spinal Tap authoritarian scale, Utril goes to 11.*

*In March 2018, a rumor spreads throughout Utril that, Kostadin Agnesa, a leader of the opposition group The Brotherhood has been tortured to death by security forces. You assume this rumor is true.*

[A student will come to the front of the class shouting loudly. Ask their name and then 'beat them.']

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*There will now be a gap—Express your anger at how ungrateful your subjects are and kick a dog [The purpose here is to show that something that seems relatively innocuous—not to diminish animal cruelty—can trigger a revolutionary cascade. Thus, Kuran's 'element of surprise.']*

## STUDENT PROFILES

You are a citizen of Utril. You are part of the regime's patronage network. You support the regime and don't want change. Change could mean you lose everything.

**Preference falsification:** You are not engaged in preference falsification.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will never revolt against the current regime.



You are a citizen of Utril. You are part of the regime's inner circle. You like the regime and don't want change. Change means you lose everything.

**Preference falsification:** You are not engaged in preference falsification.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will never revolt against the current regime.



You are a citizen of Utril. Your name is Kine Saniyya (I will ask you what your name is!). You are a member of the highly secretive underground opposition group *The Brotherhood*.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** With no regard for your personal safety, you will take to the streets shouting loudly only when your friend Kostadin Agnesa a leader of *The Brotherhood* is killed.



You are a citizen of Utril. You are Kine Saniyya's neighbor.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will take to the streets if your neighbor Kine Saniyya is brutalized by the regime.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if two people are beaten.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if three people are beaten.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if you see a dog being kicked.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if five people are beaten.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if six people are beaten.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if six people are beaten.



You are a citizen of Utril.

**Preference falsification:** You are engaged in preference falsification. If asked, you publicly pretend to support the regime but, in private, you hate it.

**Revolutionary Threshold:** You will only take to the streets if six people are beaten.  
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