

Varieties of revolution

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When Maria Stephan and Erica Chenoweth studied revolutions that had occurred over a period of more than 100 years and across the globe, they found that nonviolent revolutions are twice as likely as violent ones to succeed.

Chenoweth [explains](#)

that nonviolent revolutions attract a greater range of the population and create a higher likelihood of defection among supporters of a particular regime.

Researchers will be studying the dynamics and outcomes of the revolutions in the Middle East for a long time to come. They will have the stark contrast between the choices of Egyptian and Tunisian protestors and those of Libyan protestors to use as a case study. If Chenoweth is right, Libyan protestors greatly reduced their chances of succeeding when they turned to armed insurrection.

Protestors in Egypt and Tunisia pored over Gene Sharp's *From Dictatorship to Democracy: A Conceptual Framework for Democracy* to generate ideas and hone their skills. An excellent profile of Sharp can be found [here](#).