**What is a coup?**

A military coup is an attempted overthrow of a government, with the help of armed forces. Another definition states that a coup is the sudden overthrow of a government, usually done by a small group. It is different from a revolution, which is staged by a larger group and radically changes the political system.

**The most significant coups in history:**

1. *The Iranian Revolution* (mostly known as the Islamic Revolution) refers to events involving the overthrow of Iran’s monarchy under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and its replacement with an Islamic republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the revolution.
2. *The Egyptian Revolution of 1952*, also known as *the July 23 Revolution*, began with a military coup d’état that took place on July 23, 1952 by a group of young army officers. The revolution was initially aimed at overthrowing King Farouk I. However, the movement had more political ambitions and soon moved to abolish the constitutional monarchy and establish a republic.
3. *The 1960 coup* was the first coup in Turkey's history, at a time when tensions between the government and the opposition were high and the ruling Democrat Party led by Prime Minister Menderes was losing power. On May 27, the military toppled the government and the prime minister and president were tried for treason. Menderes was executed.