



# CHAPTER ONE



**Preach the need for change,  
but never reform too much at  
once**





# Chapter Summary

In Law 45, Robert Greene explores the delicate balance between change and tradition. While change is essential for growth, excessive reform can provoke anxiety and resentment among those who cling to familiar routines. Historical examples, such as Thomas Cromwell's drastic reforms in England, illustrate how rapid changes can lead to unrest and backlash. Greene highlights the importance of cloaking change in the comfort of the past to ease transitions. The chapter serves as a reminder that while progress is necessary, it should be implemented thoughtfully to avoid chaos.





# THE NEED FOR CHANGE IS UNIVERSAL

Everyone acknowledges the necessity for change, yet in their daily lives, people are deeply resistant to it. While innovations are often seen as positive, too much disruption can lead to emotional upheaval. Acknowledging this duality is essential for effective leadership.

"Change is necessary, but too much can shatter comfort."



# RESPECTING THE OLD WAYS

When attempting to establish a new power base, it's essential to show respect for established traditions. Gradual improvements to the old ways are often more acceptable to those who are hesitant about change.

"Honoring the past is a strategy for a smoother transition."





# A HARSH EXAMPLE FROM HISTORY

Thomas Cromwell's reforms drastically altered the religious landscape of England, triggering fear and resentment. His ambition turned a simple divorce into a sweeping overhaul that stripped the old order of its power, leading to chaos.

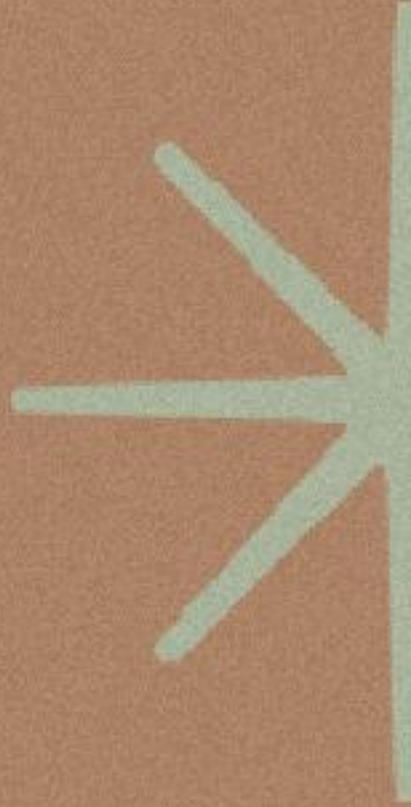


# THE IMPORTANCE OF SENSITIVE REFORM

Implementing reform too swiftly can create a backlash that jeopardizes the very order you aim to establish. Understanding human psychology about change can help in crafting more effective strategies.



# CLOAKING CHANGE IN FAMILIARITY



One effective strategy is to disguise change within familiar frameworks. By linking new ideas with established traditions, leaders can help ease the transition for their followers, creating a sense of continuity.





# THE POWER OF HISTORICAL LEGITIMACY



Drawing on history can lend authority and reassurance to reforms. Like Mao Zedong, who shaped his Communist agenda around traditional narratives, leaders can utilize the past to justify and smoothen their transitions.



# AVOIDING CHAOS THROUGH RITUAL

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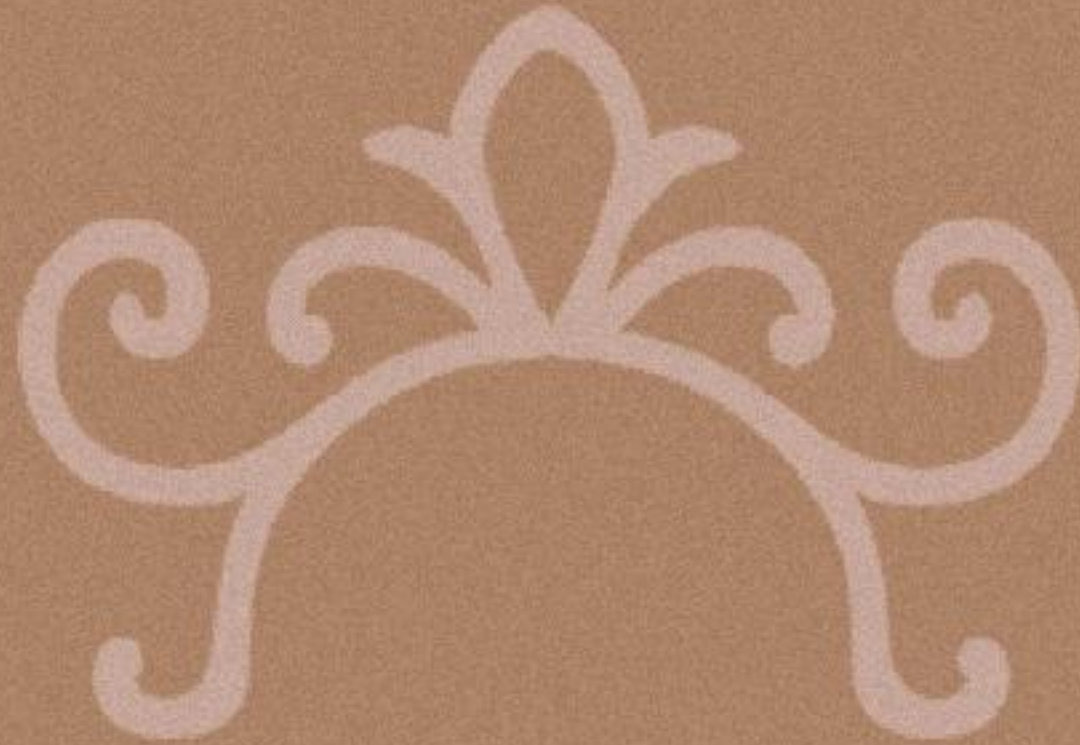
# WATCHING THE ZIETGEIST



Understanding the current mood and values of society is crucial for implementing successful reforms. Innovators must ensure their ideas resonate with the existing culture to minimize resistance.



# MASTERING THE ART OF CHANGE




In the complex game of power, leaders must balance the call for change with the comfort of tradition. By respecting the past while innovating, leaders can secure their positions and navigate transitions more smoothly.





# Recap

- "Change is necessary, but too much can shatter comfort."
  - "Honoring the past is a strategy for a smoother transition."
  - "Wrap new ideas in the comfort of the past."
  - "The past can be a powerful ally in the quest for change."
  - "Rituals create a bridge between the old and the new."
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# Thank You

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