

Timeline of key events in the BBC Prison Study

Day	Episode of THE EXPERIMENT	Intervention	Theoretical relevance	Description	Consequences for Prisoners	Consequences for Guards	Consequences for System
1	1: Conflict	Induction	Group boundaries permeable	Promotion from Prisoner to Guard possible	Dissatisfied but lack social identity and hence divided	Lack shared social identity and unity but able to manage Prisoners	Legitimacy of status relations stems conflict
3		Promotion	Group boundaries impermeable	No more promotion possible	Increasing social identity creates unity against Guards	Still lack social identity ; Pressure from Prisoners creates stress	Conflict fuelled by illegitimacy of status relations ; Power shifts to Prisoners
5	2: Order 	Introduction of new Prisoner	Exposure to cognitive alternatives	Trades Unionist introduced	Unite around new leadership and new framework for co-operation with Guards	Cede power to make system manageable	Order embodied by new forum; Conflict reduces; Power equalizes
6	3: Revolt 	Removal of new Prisoner	Removal of change agent	Trades Unionist withdrawn	Revert to conflict with Guards	Increasingly divided and burnt out; Unable to manage Prisoners	No-one left to implement forum; Conflict escalates; System collapses
7	4: Tyranny			Commune established	Strong shared social identity amongst Communards; Participants generally satisfied, industrious and co-operative		New democratic system flourishes
8				Commune collapses	Dissent not policed; Dissatisfaction and authoritarianism increase; Power vacuum creates opportunity and appetite for authoritarian leadership		New tyrannical system emerges

Note: Concepts relevant to *social identity theory* (Tajfel & Turner, 1979) are in red.