

ENGLISH GLOSSARY

The Glossary is an alphabetical listing of many of the key terms from the chapters, along with their meanings. The definitions listed in the Glossary are the ones that apply to the way the words are used in this textbook. The Glossary gives the part of speech of each word. The following abbreviations are used:

adj. = adjective **n.** = noun **v.** = verb

A

Abbasids n. a dynasty that ruled much of the Muslim Empire from A.D. 750 to 1258.

Aborigine n. a member of any of the native peoples of Australia.

absolute monarch n. a king or queen who has unlimited power and seeks to control all aspects of society.

acropolis n. a fortified hilltop in an ancient Greek city.

Aksum n. an African kingdom, in what is now Ethiopia and Eritrea, that reached the height of its power in the fourth century A.D.

al-Andalus n. a Muslim-ruled region in what is now Spain, established in the eighth century A.D.

Allah n. God (an Arabic word, used mainly in Islam).

Allies n. in World War I, the nations of Great Britain, France, and Russia, along with the other nations that fought on their side; also, the group of nations—including Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States—that opposed the Axis Powers in World War II.

Almohads n. a group of Islamic reformers who overthrew the Almoravid dynasty and established an empire in North Africa and southern Spain in the 12th century A.D.

Almoravids n. an Islamic religious brotherhood that established an empire in North Africa and southern Spain in the 11th century A.D.

Amritsar Massacre n. killing by British troops of nearly 400 Indians gathered at Amritsar to protest the Rowlatt Acts.

Anabaptists n. in the Reformation, a Protestant group that believed in baptizing only those persons who were old enough to decide to be Christian and believed in the separation of church and state.

Anasazi n. an early Native American people who lived in the American Southwest.

Anatolia n. the Southwest Asian peninsula now occupied by the Asian part of Turkey—also called Asia Minor.

Angkor Wat n. a temple complex built in the Khmer Empire and dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu.

Anglican adj. relating to the Church of England.

animism n. the belief that spirits are present in animals, plants, and other natural objects.

annexation n. the adding of a region to the territory of an existing political unit.

annul v. to cancel or put an end to.

anti-Semitism n. prejudice against Jews.

apartheid n. a South African policy of complete legal separation of the races, including the banning of all social contacts between blacks and whites.

apostle n. one of the followers of Jesus who preached and spread his teachings.

appeasement n. the making of concessions to an aggressor in order to avoid war.

aqueduct n. a pipeline or channel built to carry water to populated areas.

aristocracy n. a government in which power is in the hands of a hereditary ruling class or nobility.

armistice n. an agreement to stop fighting.

artifact n. a human-made object, such as a tool, weapon, or piece of jewelry.

artisan n. a skilled worker, such as a weaver or a potter, who makes goods by hand.

Aryans n. 1. an Indo-European people who, about 1500 B.C., began to migrate into the Indian subcontinent.
2. to the Nazis, the Germanic peoples who formed a “master race.”

assembly line n. in a factory, an arrangement in which a product is moved from worker to worker, with each person performing a single task in its manufacture.

assimilation n. **1.** the adoption of a conqueror's culture by a conquered people. **2.** a policy in which a nation forces or encourages a subject people to adopt its institutions and customs.

Assyria n. a Southwest Asian kingdom that controlled a large empire from about 850 to 612 B.C.

Atlantic Charter n. a declaration of principles issued in August 1941 by British prime minister Winston Churchill and U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt, on which the Allied peace plan at the end of World War II was based.

Atlantic slave trade n. the buying, transporting, and selling of Africans for work in the Americas.

autocracy n. a government in which the ruler has unlimited power and uses it in an arbitrary manner.

Axis Powers n. in World War II, the nations of Germany, Italy, and Japan, which had formed an alliance in 1936.

ayllu n. in Incan society, a small community or clan whose members worked together for the common good.

B

balance of power n. a political situation in which no one nation is powerful enough to pose a threat to others.

Balkans n. the region of southeastern Europe now occupied by Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, the European part of Turkey, and the former republics of Yugoslavia.

Bantu-speaking peoples n. the speakers of a related group of languages who, beginning about 2,000 years ago, migrated from West Africa into most of the southern half of Africa.

baroque adj. relating to a grand, ornate style that characterized European painting, music, and architecture in the 1600s and early 1700s.

barter n. a form of trade in which people exchange goods and services without the use of money.

Battle of Britain n. a series of battles between German and British air forces, fought over Britain in 1940–1941.

Battle of Guadalcanal n. a 1942–1943 battle of World War II, in which Allied troops drove Japanese forces from the Pacific island of Guadalcanal.

Battle of Midway n. a 1942 sea and air battle of World War II, in which American forces defeated Japanese forces in the central Pacific.

Battle of Stalingrad n. a 1942–1943 battle of World War II, in which German forces were defeated in their attempt to capture the city of Stalingrad in the Soviet Union.

Battle of the Bulge n. a 1944–1945 battle in which Allied forces turned back the last major German offensive of World War II.

Battle of Trafalgar n. an 1805 naval battle in which Napoleon's forces were defeated by a British fleet under the command of Horatio Nelson.

Benin n. a kingdom that arose near the Niger River delta in the 1300s and became a major West African state in the 1400s.

Beringia n. an ancient land bridge over which the earliest Americans are believed to have migrated from Asia into the Americas.

Berlin Conference of 1884–85 n. a meeting at which representatives of European nations agreed upon rules for the European colonization of Africa.

Bill of Rights n. the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which protect citizens' basic rights and freedoms.

bishop n. a high-ranking Christian official who supervises a number of local churches.

blitzkrieg n. "lightning war"—a form of warfare in which surprise attacks with fast-moving airplanes are followed by massive attacks with infantry forces.

blockade n. the use of troops or ships to prevent commercial traffic from entering or leaving a city or region.

Boer n. a Dutch colonist in South Africa.

Boer War n. a conflict, lasting from 1899 to 1902, in which the Boers and the British fought for control of territory in South Africa.

Bolsheviks n. a group of revolutionary Russian Marxists who took control of Russia's government in November 1917.

Boxer Rebellion n. a 1900 revolt in China, aimed at ending foreign influence in the country.

boyars n. landowning nobles of Russia.

Brahma n. a Hindu god considered the creator of the world.

Brahmin *n.* in Aryan society, a member of the social class made up of priests.

brinkmanship *n.* a policy of threatening to go to war in response to any enemy aggression.

Bronze Age *n.* a period in human history, beginning around 3000 B.C. in some areas, during which people began using bronze, rather than copper or stone, to fashion tools and weapons.

bubonic plague *n.* a deadly disease that spread across Asia and Europe in the mid-14th century, killing millions of people.

bureaucracy *n.* a system of departments and agencies formed to carry out the work of government.

burgher *n.* a medieval town dweller.

Bushido *n.* the strict code of behavior followed by samurai warriors in Japan.

C

cabinet *n.* a group of advisers or ministers chosen by the head of a country to help make government decisions.

caliph *n.* a supreme political and religious leader in a Muslim government.

calligraphy *n.* the art of beautiful handwriting.

Calvinism *n.* a body of religious teachings based on the ideas of the reformer John Calvin.

Camp David Accords *n.* the first signed agreement between Israel and an Arab country, in which Egyptian president Anwar Sadat recognized Israel as a legitimate state and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin agreed to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt.

canon law *n.* the body of laws governing the religious practices of a Christian church.

capitalism *n.* an economic system based on private ownership and on the investment of money in business ventures in order to make a profit.

Carolingian dynasty *n.* a dynasty of Frankish rulers, lasting from A.D. 751 to 987.

caste *n.* one of the four classes of people in the social system of the Aryans who settled in India—priests, warriors, peasants or traders, and non-Aryan laborers or craftsmen.

Catholic Reformation *n.* a 16th-century movement in which the Roman Catholic Church sought to make changes in response to the Protestant Reformation.

caudillo *n.* a military dictator of a Latin American country.

centralized government *n.* a government in which power is concentrated in a central authority to which local governments are subject.

Central Powers *n.* in World War I, the nations of Germany and Austria-Hungary, along with the other nations that fought on their side.

Chaldeans *n.* a Southwest Asian people who helped to destroy the Assyrian Empire.

Chartist movement *n.* in 19th-century Britain, members of the working class demanded reforms in Parliament and in elections, including suffrage for all men.

Chavín *n.* the first major South American civilization, which flourished in the highlands of what is now Peru from about 900 to 200 B.C.

checks and balances *n.* measures designed to prevent any one branch of government from dominating the others.

chivalry *n.* a code of behavior for knights in medieval Europe, stressing ideals such as courage, loyalty, and devotion.

CIS *n.* the Commonwealth of Independent States—a loose association of former Soviet republics that was formed after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

city-state *n.* a city and its surrounding lands functioning as an independent political unit.

civil disobedience *n.* a deliberate and public refusal to obey a law considered unjust.

civilization *n.* a form of culture characterized by cities, specialized workers, complex institutions, record keeping, and advanced technology.

civil service *n.* the administrative departments of a government—especially those in which employees are hired on the basis of their scores on examinations.

civil war *n.* a conflict between two political groups within the same country.

clan *n.* a group of people descended from a common ancestor.

classical art n. the art of ancient Greece and Rome, in which harmony, order, and balance were emphasized.

clergy n. a body of officials who perform religious services—such as priests, ministers, or rabbis.

cloning n. the creation of plants or animals that are genetically identical to an existing plant or animal.

coalition government n. a government controlled by a temporary alliance of several political parties.

codex n. a book with pages that can be turned, like the one you are reading now.

Cold War n. the state of diplomatic hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union in the decades following World War II.

collective bargaining n. negotiations between workers and their employers.

collective farm n. a large government-controlled farm formed by combining many small farms.

colony n. a land controlled by a distant nation.

Colossus of Rhodes n. an enormous Hellenistic statue that formerly stood near the harbor of Rhodes.

Columbian Exchange n. the global transfer of plants, animals, and diseases that occurred during the European colonization of the Americas.

comedy n. a humorous form of drama that often includes slapstick and satire.

command economy n. an economic system in which the government makes all economic decisions.

Commercial Revolution n. the expansion of trade and business that transformed European economies during the 16th and 17th centuries.

common law n. a unified body of law formed from rulings of England's royal judges that serves as the basis for law in many English-speaking countries today, including the United States.

commune n. in Communist China, a collective farm on which a great number of people work and live together.

Communist Party n. a political party practicing the ideas of Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin; originally the Russian Bolshevik Party.

communism n. an economic system in which all means of production—land, mines, factories, railroads, and businesses—are owned by the people, private property does not exist, and all goods and services are shared equally.

Concert of Europe n. a series of alliances among European nations in the 19th century, devised by Prince Klemens von Metternich to prevent the outbreak of revolutions.

concordat n. a formal agreement—especially one between the pope and a government, dealing with the control of Church affairs.

Congress of Vienna n. a series of meetings in 1814–1815, during which the European leaders sought to establish long-lasting peace and security after the defeat of Napoleon.

Congress Party n. a major national political party in India—also known as the Indian National Congress.

conquistadors n. the Spanish soldiers, explorers, and fortune hunters who took part in the conquest of the Americas in the 16th century.

conservatives n. in the first half of the 19th century, those Europeans—mainly wealthy landowners and nobles—who wanted to preserve the traditional monarchies of Europe.

constitutional monarchy n. a system of governing in which the ruler's power is limited by law.

consul n. in the Roman republic, one of the two powerful officials elected each year to command the army and direct the government.

containment n. a U.S. foreign policy adopted by President Harry Truman in the late 1940s, in which the United States tried to stop the spread of communism by creating alliances and helping weak countries to resist Soviet advances.

Continental System n. Napoleon's policy of preventing trade between Great Britain and continental Europe, intended to destroy Great Britain's economy.

corporation n. a business owned by stockholders who share in its profits but are not personally responsible for its debts.

Council of Trent n. a meeting of Roman Catholic leaders, called by Pope Paul III to rule on doctrines criticized by the Protestant reformers.

coup d'état n. a sudden seizure of political power in a nation.

covenant n. a mutual promise or agreement—especially an agreement between God and the Hebrew people as recorded in the Bible.

creoles n. in Spanish colonial society, colonists who were born in Latin America to Spanish parents.

Crimean War *n.* a conflict, lasting from 1853 to 1856, in which the Ottoman Empire, with the aid of Britain and France, halted Russian expansion in the region of the Black Sea.

crop rotation *n.* the system of growing a different crop in a field each year to preserve the fertility of the land.

Crusade *n.* one of the expeditions in which medieval Christian warriors sought to recover control of the Holy Land from the Muslims.

cultural diffusion *n.* the spreading of ideas or products from one culture to another.

Cultural Revolution *n.* a 1966–1976 uprising in China led by the Red Guards, with the goal of establishing a society of peasants and workers in which all were equal.

culture *n.* a people's unique way of life, as shown by its tools, customs, arts, and ideas.

cuneiform *n.* a system of writing with wedge-shaped symbols, invented by the Sumerians around 3000 B.C.

cyberterrorism *n.* politically motivated attacks on information systems.

Cyrillic alphabet *n.* an alphabet for the writing of Slavic languages, devised in the ninth century A.D. by Saints Cyril and Methodius.

czar *n.* a Russian emperor (from the Roman title *Caesar*).

D

daimyo *n.* a Japanese feudal lord who commanded a private army of samurai.

Daoism *n.* a philosophy based on the ideas of the Chinese thinker Laozi, who taught that people should be guided by a universal force called the Dao (Way).

D-Day *n.* June 6, 1944—the day on which the Allies began their invasion of the European mainland during World War II.

Declaration of Independence *n.* a statement of the reasons for the American colonies' break with Britain, approved by the Second Continental Congress in 1776.

delta *n.* a marshy region formed by deposits of silt at the mouth of a river.

demilitarization *n.* a reduction in a country's ability to wage war, achieved by disbanding its armed forces and prohibiting it from acquiring weapons.

democracy *n.* a government controlled by its citizens, either directly or through representatives.

democratization *n.* the process of creating a government elected by the people.

Department of Homeland Security *n.* U.S. federal agency created in 2002 to coordinate national efforts against terrorism.

détente *n.* a policy of reducing Cold War tensions that was adopted by the United States during the presidency of Richard Nixon.

developed nation *n.* a nation with all the facilities needed for the advanced production of manufactured goods.

devshirme *n.* in the Ottoman Empire, the policy of taking children from conquered Christian peoples to be trained as Muslim soldiers.

Diaspora *n.* the dispersal of the Jews from their homeland in Palestine—especially during the period of more than 1,800 years that followed the Romans' destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

dictator *n.* in ancient Rome, a political leader given absolute power to make laws and command the army for a limited time.

direct democracy *n.* a government in which citizens rule directly rather than through representatives.

dissident *n.* an opponent of a government's policies or actions.

divine right *n.* the idea that monarchs are God's representatives on earth and are therefore answerable only to God.

domestication *n.* the taming of animals for human use.

dominion *n.* in the British Empire, a nation (such as Canada) allowed to govern its own domestic affairs.

domino theory *n.* the idea that if a nation falls under Communist control, nearby nations will also fall under Communist control.

Dorians *n.* a Greek-speaking people that, according to tradition, migrated into mainland Greece after the destruction of the Mycenaean civilization.

Dreyfus affair *n.* a controversy in France in the 1890s, centering on the trial and imprisonment of a Jewish army officer, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, who had been falsely accused of selling military secrets to Germany.

Dutch East India Company *n.* a company founded by the Dutch in the early 17th century to establish and direct trade throughout Asia.

dynastic cycle *n.* the historical pattern of the rise, decline, and replacement of dynasties.

dynasty *n.* a series of rulers from a single family.

E

Eastern Front *n.* in World War I, the region along the German-Russian border where Russians and Serbs battled Germans, Austrians, and Turks.

Edict of Nantes *n.* a 1598 declaration in which the French king Henry IV promised that Protestants could live in peace in France and could set up houses of worship in some French cities.

Emancipation Proclamation *n.* a declaration issued by U.S. president Abraham Lincoln in 1863, stating that all slaves in the Confederate states were free.

emerging nation *n.* a nation in which the process of industrialization is not yet complete.

émigrés *n.* people who leave their native country for political reasons, like the nobles and others who fled France during the peasant uprisings of the French Revolution.

empire *n.* a political unit in which a number of peoples or countries are controlled by a single ruler.

enclosure *n.* one of the fenced-in or hedged-in fields created by wealthy British landowners on land that was formerly worked by village farmers.

encomienda *n.* a grant of land made by Spain to a settler in the Americas, including the right to use Native Americans as laborers on it.

English Civil War *n.* a conflict, lasting from 1642 to 1649, in which Puritan supporters of Parliament battled supporters of England's monarchy.

enlightened despot *n.* one of the 18th-century European monarchs who was inspired by Enlightenment ideas to rule justly and respect the rights of subjects.

enlightenment *n.* in Buddhism, a state of perfect wisdom in which one understands basic truths about the universe.

Enlightenment *n.* an 18th-century European movement in which thinkers attempted to apply the principles of reason and the scientific method to all aspects of society.

entrepreneur *n.* a person who organizes, manages, and takes on the risks of a business.

epics *n.* long narrative poems celebrating the deeds of legendary or traditional heroes.

estate *n.* one of the three social classes in France before the French Revolution—the First Estate consisting of the clergy; the Second Estate, of the nobility; and the Third Estate, of the rest of the population.

Estates-General *n.* an assembly of representatives from all three of the estates, or social classes, in France.

ethnic cleansing *n.* a policy of murder and other acts of brutality by which Serbs hoped to eliminate Bosnia's Muslim population after the breakup of Yugoslavia.

excommunication *n.* the taking away of a person's right of membership in a Christian church.

existentialism *n.* a philosophy based on the idea that people give meaning to their lives through their choices and actions.

extraterritorial rights *n.* an exemption of foreign residents from the laws of a country.

F

factors of production *n.* the resources—including land, labor, and capital—that are needed to produce goods and services.

factory *n.* a large building in which machinery is used to manufacture goods.

fascism *n.* a political movement that promotes an extreme form of nationalism, a denial of individual rights, and a dictatorial one-party rule.

Fatimid *n.* a member of a Muslim dynasty that traced its ancestry to Muhammad's daughter Fatima and that built an empire in North Africa, Arabia, and Syria in the 10th–12th centuries.

favorable balance of trade *n.* an economic situation in which a country sells more goods abroad than it buys from abroad.

federal system *n.* a system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and a number of individual states.

Fertile Crescent *n.* an arc of rich farmland in Southwest Asia, between the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea.

feudalism n. a political system in which nobles are granted the use of lands that legally belong to their king, in exchange for their loyalty, military service, and protection of the people who live on the land.

fief n. an estate granted to a vassal by a lord under the feudal system in medieval Europe.

filial piety n. respect shown by children for their parents and elders.

Final Solution n. Hitler's program of systematically killing the entire Jewish people.

Five-Year Plans n. plans outlined by Joseph Stalin in 1928 for the development of the Soviet Union's economy.

Four Modernizations n. a set of goals adopted by the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the late 20th century, involving progress in agriculture, industry, defense, and science and technology.

Fourteen Points n. a series of proposals in which U.S. president Woodrow Wilson outlined a plan for achieving a lasting peace after World War I.

Franks n. a Germanic people who settled in the Roman province of Gaul (roughly the area now occupied by France) and established a great empire during the Middle Ages.

free trade n. commerce between nations without economic restrictions or barriers (such as tariffs).

French and Indian War n. a conflict between Britain and France for control of territory in North America, lasting from 1754 to 1763.

G

gender inequality n. the difference between men and women in terms of wealth and status.

genetic engineering n. the transferring of genes from one living thing to another in order to produce an organism with new traits.

genocide n. the systematic killing of an entire people.

gentry n. a class of powerful, well-to-do people who enjoy a high social status.

geocentric theory n. in the Middle Ages, the earth-centered view of the universe in which scholars believed that the earth was an immovable object located at the center of the universe.

geopolitics n. a foreign policy based on a consideration of the strategic locations or products of other lands.

Ghana n. a West African kingdom that grew rich from taxing and controlling trade and that established an empire in the 9th–11th centuries A.D.

ghazi n. a warrior for Islam.

ghettos n. city neighborhoods in which European Jews were forced to live.

glasnost n. a Soviet policy of openness to the free flow of ideas and information, introduced in 1985 by Mikhail Gorbachev.

global economy n. all the financial interactions—involving people, businesses, and governments—that cross international boundaries.

Glorious Revolution n. the bloodless overthrow of the English king James II and his replacement by William and Mary.

glyph n. a symbolic picture—especially one used as part of a writing system for carving messages in stone.

Gothic adj. relating to a style of church architecture that developed in medieval Europe, featuring ribbed vaults, stained glass windows, flying buttresses, pointed arches, and tall spires.

Great Depression n. the severe economic slump that followed the collapse of the U.S. stock market in 1929.

Great Fear n. a wave of senseless panic that spread through the French countryside after the storming of the Bastille in 1789.

Great Purge n. a campaign of terror in the Soviet Union during the 1930s, in which Joseph Stalin sought to eliminate all Communist Party members and other citizens who threatened his power.

Great Schism n. a division in the medieval Roman Catholic Church, during which rival popes were established in Avignon and in Rome.

Greco-Roman culture n. an ancient culture that developed from a blending of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman cultures.

green revolution n. a 20th-century attempt to increase food resources worldwide, involving the use of fertilizers and pesticides and the development of disease-resistant crops.

griot n. a West African storyteller.

guerrilla n. a member of a loosely organized fighting force that makes surprise attacks on enemy troops occupying his or her country.

guild n. a medieval association of people working at the same occupation, which controlled its members' wages and prices.

guillotine n. a machine for beheading people, used as a means of execution during the French Revolution.

Gupta Empire n. the second empire in India, founded by Chandra Gupta I in A.D. 320.

H

habeas corpus n. a document requiring that a prisoner be brought before a court or judge so that it can be decided whether his or her imprisonment is legal.

Hagia Sophia n. the Cathedral of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople, built by order of the Byzantine emperor Justinian.

haiku n. a Japanese form of poetry, consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.

hajj n. a pilgrimage to Mecca, performed as a duty by Muslims.

Han dynasty n. a Chinese dynasty that ruled from 202 B.C. to A.D. 9 and again from A.D. 23 to 220.

Harappan civilization n. another name for the Indus Valley civilization that arose along the Indus River, possibly as early as 7000 B.C.; characterized by sophisticated city planning.

Hausa n. a West African people who lived in several city-states in what is now northern Nigeria.

heliocentric theory n. the idea that the earth and the other planets revolve around the sun.

Hellenistic adj. relating to the civilization, language, art, science, and literature of the Greek world from the reign of Alexander the Great to the late second century B.C.

helot n. in the society of ancient Sparta, a peasant bound to the land.

hieroglyphics n. an ancient Egyptian writing system in which pictures were used to represent ideas and sounds.

Hijrah n. Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina) in A.D. 622.

Hittites n. an Indo-European people who settled in Anatolia around 2000 B.C.

Holocaust n. a mass slaughter of Jews and other civilians, carried out by the Nazi government of Germany before and during World War II.

Holy Alliance n. a league of European nations formed by the leaders of Russia, Austria, and Prussia after the Congress of Vienna.

Holy Roman Empire n. an empire established in Europe in the 10th century A.D., originally consisting mainly of lands in what is now Germany and Italy.

home rule n. a control over internal matters granted to the residents of a region by a ruling government.

hominid n. a member of a biological group including human beings and related species that walk upright.

Homo sapiens n. the biological species to which modern human beings belong.

House of Wisdom n. a center of learning established in Baghdad in the 800s.

humanism n. a Renaissance intellectual movement in which thinkers studied classical texts and focused on human potential and achievements.

Hundred Days n. the brief period during 1815 when Napoleon made his last bid for power, deposing the French king and again becoming emperor of France.

Hundred Years' War n. a conflict in which England and France battled on French soil on and off from 1337 to 1453.

hunter-gatherer n. a member of a nomadic group whose food supply depends on hunting animals and collecting plant foods.

Hyksos n. a group of nomadic invaders from Southwest Asia who ruled Egypt from 1640 to 1570 B.C.

Ice Age n. a cold period in which huge ice sheets spread outward from the polar regions, the last one of which lasted from about 1,600,000 to 10,000 B.C.

I Ching n. a Chinese book of oracles, consulted to answer ethical and practical problems.

icon n. a religious image used by eastern Christians.

imperialism n. a policy in which a strong nation seeks to dominate other countries politically, economically, or socially.

impressionism n. a movement in 19th-century painting, in which artists reacted against realism by seeking to convey their impressions of subjects or moments in time.

Indo-Europeans n. a group of seminomadic peoples who, about 1700 B.C., began to migrate from what is now southern Russia to the Indian subcontinent, Europe, and Southwest Asia.

indulgence n. a pardon releasing a person from punishments due for a sin.

industrialization n. the development of industries for the machine production of goods.

Industrial Revolution n. the shift, beginning in England during the 18th century, from making goods by hand to making them by machine.

inflation n. a decline in the value of money, accompanied by a rise in the prices of goods and services.

Inquisition n. a Roman Catholic tribunal for investigating and prosecuting charges of heresy—especially the one active in Spain during the 1400s.

institution n. a long-lasting pattern of organization in a community.

intendant n. a French government official appointed by the monarch to collect taxes and administer justice.

International Space Station n. cooperative venture sponsored by the United States, Russia, and 14 other nations to establish and maintain a working laboratory for scientific experimentation in space.

Internet n. a linkage of computer networks that enables people around the world to exchange information and communicate with one another.

intifada n. Palestinian campaign of civil disobedience against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which continued into the 1990s.

Irish Republican Army (IRA) n. an unofficial nationalist military force seeking independence for Ireland from Great Britain.

iron curtain n. during the Cold War, the boundary separating the Communist nations of Eastern Europe from the mostly democratic nations of Western Europe.

Iroquois n. a group of Native American peoples who spoke related languages, lived in the eastern Great Lakes region of North America, and formed an alliance in the late 1500s.

Islam n. a monotheistic religion that developed in Arabia in the seventh century A.D.

isolationism n. a policy of avoiding political or military involvement with other countries.

Israel n. a kingdom of the united Hebrews in Palestine, lasting from about 1020 to 922 B.C.; later, the northernmost of the two Hebrew kingdoms; now, the Jewish nation that was established in Palestine in 1948.

J

Jainism n. a religion founded in India in the sixth century B.C., whose members believe that everything in the universe has a soul and therefore should not be harmed.

janissary n. a member of an elite force of soldiers in the Ottoman Empire.

jazz n. a 20th-century style of popular music developed mainly by African-American musicians.

Jesuits n. members of the Society of Jesus, a Roman Catholic religious order founded by Ignatius of Loyola.

“jewel in the crown” n. the British colony of India—so called because of its importance in the British Empire, both as a supplier of raw materials and as a market for British trade goods.

joint-stock company n. a business in which investors pool their wealth for a common purpose, then share the profits.

Judah n. a Hebrew kingdom in Palestine, established around 922 B.C.

Justinian Code n. the body of Roman civil law collected and organized by order of the Byzantine emperor Justinian around A.D. 529.

K

kabuki n. a type of Japanese drama in which music, dance, and mime are used to present stories.

kaiser n. a German emperor (from the Roman title *Caesar*).

kamikaze n. during World War II, Japanese suicide pilots trained to sink Allied ships by crashing bomb-filled planes into them.

karma n. in Hinduism and Buddhism, the totality of the good and bad deeds performed by a person, which is believed to determine his or her fate after rebirth.

Khmer Empire n. a Southeast Asian empire, centered in what is now Cambodia, that reached its peak of power around A.D. 1200.

Khmer Rouge n. a group of Communist rebels who seized power in Cambodia in 1975.

knight n. in medieval Europe, an armored warrior who fought on horseback.

Koryu dynasty n. a dynasty that ruled Korea from A.D. 935 to 1392.

Kristallnacht n. “Night of Broken Glass”—the night of November 9, 1938, on which Nazi storm troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues throughout Germany.

Kuomintang n. the Chinese Nationalist Party, formed after the fall of the Qing dynasty in 1912.

Kush n. an ancient Nubian kingdom whose rulers controlled Egypt between 2000 and 1000 B.C.

L

laissez faire n. the idea that government should not interfere with or regulate industries and businesses.

land reform n. a redistribution of farmland by breaking up large estates and giving the resulting smaller farms to peasants.

La Reforma n. a liberal reform movement in 19th-century Mexico, led by Benito Juárez.

lay investiture n. the appointment of religious officials by kings or nobles.

League of Nations n. an international association formed after World War I with the goal of keeping peace among nations.

lebensraum n. “living space”—the additional territory that, according to Adolf Hitler, Germany needed because it was overcrowded.

Legalism n. a Chinese political philosophy based on the idea that a highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order.

legion n. a military unit of the ancient Roman army, made up of about 5,000 foot soldiers and a group of soldiers on horseback.

Legislative Assembly n. a French congress with the power to create laws and approve declarations of war, established by the Constitution of 1791.

legitimacy n. the hereditary right of a monarch to rule.

liberals n. in the first half of the 19th century, those Europeans—mainly middle-class business leaders and merchants—who wanted to give more political power to elected parliaments.

lineage n. the people—living, dead, and unborn—who are descended from a common ancestor.

loess n. a fertile deposit of windblown soil.

Long March n. a 6,000-mile journey made in 1934–1935 by Chinese Communists fleeing from Jiang Jieshi’s Nationalist forces.

lord n. in feudal Europe, a person who controlled land and could therefore grant estates to vassals.

Lutheran n. a member of a Protestant church founded on the teachings of Martin Luther.

lycée n. a government-run public school in France.

M

Macedonia n. an ancient kingdom north of Greece, whose ruler Philip II conquered Greece in 338 B.C.

Maghrib n. a region of western North Africa, consisting of the Mediterranean coastlands of what is now Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.

Magna Carta n. “Great Charter”—a document guaranteeing basic political rights in England, drawn up by nobles and approved by King John in A.D. 1215.

Mahabharata n. a great Indian epic poem, reflecting the struggles of the Aryans as they moved south into India.

Mahayana n. a sect of Buddhism that offers salvation to all and allows popular worship.

maize n. a cultivated cereal grain that bears its kernels on large ears—usually called corn in the United States.

Mali n. a West African empire that flourished from 1235 to the 1400s and grew rich from trade.

Manchus *n.* a people, native to Manchuria, who ruled China during the Qing dynasty (1644–1912).

Mandate of Heaven *n.* in Chinese history, the divine approval thought to be the basis of royal authority.

manifest destiny *n.* the idea, popular among mid-19th-century Americans, that it was the right and the duty of the United States to rule North America from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

manor *n.* a lord's estate in feudal Europe.

Maori *n.* a member of a Polynesian people who settled in New Zealand around A.D. 800.

Marshall Plan *n.* a U.S. program of economic aid to European countries to help them rebuild after World War II.

martial law *n.* a temporary rule by military authorities over a civilian population, usually imposed in times of war or civil unrest.

mass culture *n.* the production of works of art and entertainment designed to appeal to a large audience.

materialism *n.* a placing of high value on acquiring material possessions.

matriarchal *adj.* relating to a social system in which the mother is head of the family.

matrilineal *adj.* relating to a social system in which family descent and inheritance rights are traced through the mother.

Mauryan Empire *n.* the first empire in India, founded by Chandragupta Maurya in 321 B.C.

May Fourth Movement *n.* a national protest in China in 1919, in which people demonstrated against the Treaty of Versailles and foreign interference.

Medes *n.* a Southwest Asian people who helped to destroy the Assyrian Empire.

Meiji era *n.* the period of Japanese history from 1867 to 1912, during which the country was ruled by Emperor Mutsuhito.

Mein Kampf *n.* “My Struggle”—a book written by Adolf Hitler during his imprisonment in 1923–1924, in which he set forth his beliefs and his goals for Germany.

mercantilism *n.* an economic policy under which nations sought to increase their wealth and power by obtaining large amounts of gold and silver and by selling more goods than they bought.

mercenary *n.* a soldier who is paid to fight in a foreign army.

Meroë *n.* center of the Kush dynasty from about 250 B.C. to A.D. 150; known for its manufacture of iron weapons and tools.

Mesoamerica *n.* an area extending from central Mexico to Honduras, where several of the ancient complex societies of the Americas developed.

mestizo *n.* a person of mixed Spanish and Native American ancestry.

Middle Ages *n.* the era in European history that followed the fall of the Roman Empire, lasting from about 500 to 1500—also called the medieval period.

middle class *n.* a social class made up of skilled workers, professionals, businesspeople, and wealthy farmers.

middle passage *n.* the voyage that brought captured Africans to the West Indies, and later to North and South America, to be sold as slaves—so called because it was considered the middle leg of the triangular trade route.

migration *n.* the act of moving from one place to settle in another.

militarism *n.* a policy of glorifying military power and keeping a standing army always prepared for war.

Ming dynasty *n.* a Chinese dynasty that ruled from 1368 to 1644.

Minoans *n.* a seafaring and trading people that lived on the island of Crete from about 2000 to 1400 B.C.

Mississippian *adj.* relating to a Mound Builder culture that flourished in North America between A.D. 800 and 1500.

mita *n.* in the Inca Empire, the requirement that all able-bodied subjects work for the state a certain number of days each year.

Moche *n.* a civilization that flourished on what is now the northern coast of Peru from about A.D. 100 to 700.

monarchy *n.* a government in which power is in the hands of a single person.

monastery *n.* a religious community of men (called monks) who have given up their possessions to devote themselves to a life of prayer and worship.

monopoly *n.* a group's exclusive control over the production and distribution of certain goods.

monotheism *n.* a belief in a single god.

Monroe Doctrine *n.* a U.S. policy of opposition to European interference in Latin America, announced by President James Monroe in 1823.

monsoon *n.* a wind that shifts in direction at certain times of each year.

mosque *n.* an Islamic place of worship.

movable type *n.* blocks of metal or wood, each bearing a single character, that can be arranged to make up a page for printing.

Mughal *n.* one of the nomads who invaded the Indian subcontinent in the 16th century and established a powerful empire there.

mujahideen *n.* in Afghanistan, holy warriors who banded together to fight the Soviet-supported government in the late 1970s.

mulattos *n.* persons of mixed European and African ancestry.

mummification *n.* a process of embalming and drying corpses to prevent them from decaying.

Munich Conference *n.* a 1938 meeting of representatives from Britain, France, Italy, and Germany, at which Britain and France agreed to allow Nazi Germany to annex part of Czechoslovakia in return for Adolf Hitler's pledge to respect Czechoslovakia's new borders.

Muslim *n.* a follower of Islam.

Muslim League *n.* an organization formed in 1906 to protect the interests of India's Muslims, which later proposed that India be divided into separate Muslim and Hindu nations.

Mutapa *adj.* relating to a southern African empire established by Mutota in the 15th century A.D.

Mycenaeans *n.* an Indo-European people who settled on the Greek mainland around 2000 B.C.

myths *n.* traditional stories about gods, ancestors, or heroes, told to explain the natural world or the customs and beliefs of a society.

N

Napoleonic Code *n.* a comprehensive and uniform system of laws established for France by Napoleon.

National Assembly *n.* a French congress established by representatives of the Third Estate on June 17, 1789, to enact laws and reforms in the name of the French people.

nationalism *n.* the belief that people should be loyal mainly to their nation—that is, to the people with whom they share a culture and history—rather than to a king or empire.

nation-state *n.* an independent geopolitical unit of people having a common culture and identity.

NATO *n.* the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—a defensive military alliance formed in 1949 by ten Western European nations, the United States, and Canada.

Nazca *n.* a civilization that flourished on what is now the southern coast of Peru from about 200 B.C. to A.D. 600.

Nazism *n.* the fascist policies of the National Socialist German Workers' party, based on totalitarianism, a belief in racial superiority, and state control of industry.

Negritude movement *n.* a movement in which French-speaking Africans and West Indians celebrated their heritage of traditional African culture and values.

neoclassical *adj.* relating to a simple, elegant style (based on ideas and themes from ancient Greece and Rome) that characterized the arts in Europe during the late 1700s.

Neolithic Age *n.* a prehistoric period that began about 8000 B.C. and in some areas ended as early as 3000 B.C., during which people learned to polish stone tools, make pottery, grow crops, and raise animals—also called the New Stone Age.

Neolithic Revolution *n.* the major change in human life caused by the beginnings of farming—that is, by people's shift from food gathering to food producing.

New Deal *n.* U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt's economic reform program designed to solve the problems created by the Great Depression.

New Kingdom *n.* the period of ancient Egyptian history that followed the overthrow of the Hyksos rulers, lasting from about 1570 to 1075 B.C.

nirvana *n.* in Buddhism, the release from pain and suffering achieved after enlightenment.

Nok *n.* an African people who lived in what is now Nigeria between 500 B.C. and A.D. 200.

nomad *n.* a member of a group that has no permanent home, wandering from place to place in search of food and water.

nonaggression pact *n.* an agreement in which nations promise not to attack one another.

nonaligned nations *n.* the independent countries that remained neutral in the Cold War competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Nuremberg Trials *n.* a series of court proceedings held in Nuremberg, Germany, after World War II, in which Nazi leaders were tried for aggression, violations of the rules of war, and crimes against humanity.

O

obsidian *n.* a hard, glassy volcanic rock used by early peoples to make sharp weapons.

Old Regime *n.* the political and social system that existed in France before the French Revolution.

oligarchy *n.* a government in which power is in the hands of a few people—especially one in which rule is based upon wealth.

Olmec *n.* the earliest-known Mesoamerican civilization, which flourished around 1200 B.C. and influenced later societies throughout the region.

Open Door Policy *n.* a policy, proposed by the United States in 1899, under which all nations would have equal opportunities to trade in China.

Opium War *n.* a conflict between Britain and China, lasting from 1839 to 1842, over Britain's opium trade in China.

oracle bone *n.* one of the animal bones or tortoise shells used by ancient Chinese priests to communicate with the gods.

Oslo Peace Accords *n.* an agreement in 1993 in which Israeli prime minister Rabin granted Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

ozone layer *n.* a layer of the earth's upper atmosphere, which protects living things from the sun's damaging ultraviolet rays.

P

Pacific Rim *n.* the lands surrounding the Pacific Ocean—especially those in Asia.

Paleolithic Age *n.* a prehistoric period that lasted from about 2,500,000 to 8000 B.C., during which people made use of crude stone tools and weapons—also called the Old Stone Age.

Panama Canal *n.* a man-made waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, built in Panama by the United States and opened in 1914.

papyrus *n.* a tall reed that grows in the Nile delta, used by the ancient Egyptians to make a paperlike material for writing on.

parliament *n.* a body of representatives that makes laws for a nation.

partition *n.* a division into parts, like the 1947 division of the British colony of India into the two nations of India and Pakistan.

pastoralist *n.* a member of a nomadic group that herds domesticated animals.

paternalism *n.* a policy of treating subject people as if they were children, providing for their needs but not giving them rights.

patriarch *n.* a principal bishop in the eastern branch of Christianity.

patriarchal *adj.* relating to a social system in which the father is head of the family.

patrician *n.* in ancient Rome, a member of the wealthy, privileged upper class.

patrilineal *adj.* relating to a social system in which family descent and inheritance rights are traced through the father.

patron *n.* a person who supports artists, especially financially.

Pax Mongolica *n.* the “Mongol Peace”—the period from the mid-1200s to the mid-1300s when the Mongols imposed stability and law and order across much of Eurasia.

Pax Romana *n.* a period of peace and prosperity throughout the Roman Empire, lasting from 27 B.C. to A.D. 180.

Peace of Augsburg *n.* a 1555 agreement declaring that the religion of each German state would be decided by its ruler.

Peloponnesian War *n.* a war, lasting from 431 to 404 B.C., in which Athens and its allies were defeated by Sparta and its allies.

penal colony *n.* a colony to which convicts are sent as an alternative to prison.

peninsulares n. in Spanish colonial society, colonists who were born in Spain.

Peninsular War *n.* a conflict, lasting from 1808 to 1813, in which Spanish rebels, with the aid of British forces, fought to drive Napoleon's French troops out of Spain.

perestroika *n.* a restructuring of the Soviet economy to permit more local decision making, begun by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985.

Persian Gulf War *n.* a 1991 conflict in which UN forces defeated Iraqi forces that had invaded Kuwait and threatened to invade Saudi Arabia.

Persian Wars *n.* a series of wars in the fifth century b.c., in which Greek city-states battled the Persian Empire.

perspective *n.* an artistic technique that creates the appearance of three dimensions on a flat surface.

phalanx *n.* a military formation of foot soldiers armed with spears and shields.

pharaoh *n.* a king of ancient Egypt, considered a god as well as a political and military leader.

philosophe *n.* one of a group of social thinkers in France during the Enlightenment.

philosophers *n.* thinkers who use logic and reason to investigate the nature of the universe, human society, and morality.

Phoenicians *n.* a seafaring people of Southwest Asia, who around 1100 b.c. began to trade and established colonies throughout the Mediterranean region.

Pilgrims *n.* a group of people who, in 1620, founded the colony of Plymouth in Massachusetts to escape religious persecution in England.

plebeian *n.* in ancient Rome, one of the common farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up most of the population.

plebiscite *n.* a direct vote in which a country's people have the opportunity to approve or reject a proposal.

PLO *n.* the Palestine Liberation Organization—an organization dedicated to the establishment of an independent state for Palestinians in the Middle East.

polis *n.* a Greek city-state—the fundamental political unit of ancient Greece after about 750 B.C.

Politburo *n.* the ruling committee of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

political dissent *n.* the difference of opinion over political issues.

polytheism *n.* a belief in many gods.

pope *n.* the bishop of Rome, head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Popol Vuh n. a book containing a version of the Mayan story of creation.

popular culture *n.* the cultural elements—sports, music, movies, clothing, and so forth—that reflect a group's common background and changing interests.

potlatch *n.* a ceremonial feast used to display rank and prosperity in some Northwest Coast tribes of Native Americans.

predestination *n.* the doctrine that God has decided all things beforehand, including which people will be eternally saved.

Presbyterian *n.* a member of a Protestant church governed by presbyters (elders) and founded on the teachings of John Knox.

PRI *n.* the Institutional Revolutionary Party—the main political party of Mexico.

proletariat *n.* in Marxist theory, the group of workers who would overthrow the czar and come to rule Russia.

proliferation *n.* a growth or spread—especially the spread of nuclear weapons to nations that do not currently have them.

propaganda *n.* information or material spread to advance a cause or to damage an opponent's cause.

Protestant *n.* a member of a Christian church founded on the principles of the Reformation.

provisional government *n.* a temporary government.

psychology *n.* the study of the human mind and human behavior.

pueblos *n.* villages of large apartment-like buildings made of clay and stone, built by the Anasazi and later peoples of the American Southwest.

Punic Wars *n.* a series of three wars between Rome and Carthage (264–146 B.C.); resulted in the destruction of Carthage and Rome’s dominance over the western Mediterranean.

Puritans *n.* a group of people who sought freedom from religious persecution in England by founding a colony at Massachusetts Bay in the early 1600s.

push-pull factors *n.* conditions that draw people to another location (pull factors) or cause people to leave their homelands and migrate to another region (push factors).

pyramid *n.* a massive structure with a rectangular base and four triangular sides, like those that were built in Egypt as burial places for Old Kingdom pharaohs.

Q

Qin dynasty *n.* a short-lived Chinese dynasty that replaced the Zhou dynasty in the third century B.C.

Qing dynasty *n.* China’s last dynasty, which ruled from 1644 to 1912.

Quetzalcoatl *n.* “the Feathered Serpent”—a god of the Toltecs and other Mesoamerican peoples.

quipu *n.* an arrangement of knotted strings on a cord, used by the Inca to record numerical information.

Qur’an *n.* the holy book of Islam.

R

racism *n.* the belief that one race is superior to others.

radicals *n.* in the first half of the 19th century, those Europeans who favored drastic change to extend democracy to all people.

radioactivity *n.* a form of energy released as atoms decay.

Raj *n.* the British-controlled portions of India in the years 1857–1947.

rationing *n.* the limiting of the amounts of goods people can buy—often imposed by governments during wartime, when goods are in short supply.

realism *n.* a 19th-century artistic movement in which writers and painters sought to show life as it is rather than life as it should be.

realpolitik *n.* “the politics of reality”—the practice of tough power politics without room for idealism.

recession *n.* a slowdown in a nation’s economy.

Reconquista *n.* the effort by Christian leaders to drive the Muslims out of Spain, lasting from the 1100s until 1492.

Red Guards *n.* militia units formed by young Chinese people in 1966 in response to Mao Zedong’s call for a social and cultural revolution.

Reformation *n.* a 16th-century movement for religious reform, leading to the founding of Christian churches that rejected the pope’s authority.

refugee *n.* a person who leaves his or her country to move to another to find safety.

Reign of Terror *n.* the period, from mid-1793 to mid-1794, when Maximilien Robespierre ruled France nearly as a dictator and thousands of political figures and ordinary citizens were executed.

reincarnation *n.* in Hinduism and Buddhism, the process by which a soul is reborn continuously until it achieves perfect understanding.

religious toleration *n.* a recognition of people’s right to hold differing religious beliefs.

Renaissance *n.* a period of European history, lasting from about 1300 to 1600, during which renewed interest in classical culture led to far-reaching changes in art, learning, and views of the world.

republic *n.* a form of government in which power is in the hands of representatives and leaders are elected by the people.

Restoration *n.* the period of Charles II’s rule over England, after the collapse of Oliver Cromwell’s government.

reunification *n.* a bringing together again of things that have been separated, like the reuniting of East Germany and West Germany in 1990.

romanticism *n.* an early-19th-century movement in art and thought, which focused on emotion and nature rather than reason and society.

Roosevelt Corollary *n.* President Theodore Roosevelt’s 1904 extension of the Monroe Doctrine, in which he declared that the United States had the right to exercise “police power” throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Rowlatt Acts *n.* laws passed in 1919 that allowed the British government in India to jail anti-British protesters without trial for as long as two years.

Royal Road *n.* a road in the Persian Empire, stretching over 1,600 miles from Susa in Persia to Sardis in Anatolia.

Russification *n.* the process of forcing Russian culture on all ethnic groups in the Russian Empire.

Russo-Japanese War *n.* a 1904–1905 conflict between Russia and Japan, sparked by the two countries' efforts to dominate Manchuria and Korea.

S

sacrament *n.* one of the Christian ceremonies in which God's grace is transmitted to people.

Safavid *n.* a member of a Shi'a Muslim dynasty that built an empire in Persia in the 16th–18th centuries.

Sahel *n.* the African region along the southern border of the Sahara.

salon *n.* a social gathering of intellectuals and artists, like those held in the homes of wealthy women in Paris and other European cities during the Enlightenment.

SALT *n.* the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks—a series of meetings in the 1970s, in which leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to limit their nations' stocks of nuclear weapons.

Salt March *n.* a peaceful protest against the Salt Acts in 1930 in India in which Mohandas Gandhi led his followers on a 240-mile walk to the sea, where they made their own salt from evaporated seawater.

samurai *n.* one of the professional warriors who served Japanese feudal lords.

sans-culottes *n.* in the French Revolution, a radical group made up of Parisian wage-earners and small shopkeepers who wanted a greater voice in government, lower prices, and an end to food shortages.

satrap *n.* a governor of a province in the Persian Empire.

savanna *n.* a flat, grassy plain.

Schlieffen Plan *n.* Germany's military plan at the outbreak of World War I, according to which German troops would rapidly defeat France and then move east to attack Russia.

scholastics *n.* scholars who gathered and taught at medieval European universities.

scientific method *n.* a logical procedure for gathering information about the natural world, in which experimentation and observation are used to test hypotheses.

Scientific Revolution *n.* a major change in European thought, starting in the mid-1500s, in which the study of the natural world began to be characterized by careful observation and the questioning of accepted beliefs.

scorched-earth policy *n.* the practice of burning crops and killing livestock during wartime so that the enemy cannot live off the land.

scribe *n.* one of the professional record keepers in early civilizations.

secede *v.* to withdraw formally from an association or alliance.

secular *adj.* concerned with worldly rather than spiritual matters.

segregation *n.* the legal or social separation of people of different races.

self-determination *n.* the freedom of a people to decide under what form of government they wish to live.

Seljuks *n.* a Turkish group who migrated into the Abbasid Empire in the 10th century and established their own empire in the 11th century.

senate *n.* in ancient Rome, the supreme governing body, originally made up only of aristocrats.

sepo *n.* an Indian soldier serving under British command.

Sepoy Mutiny *n.* an 1857 rebellion of Hindu and Muslim soldiers against the British in India.

serf *n.* a medieval peasant legally bound to live on a lord's estate.

Seven Years' War *n.* a conflict in Europe, North America, and India, lasting from 1756 to 1763, in which the forces of Britain and Prussia battled those of Austria, France, Russia, and other countries.

shah *n.* hereditary monarch of Iran.

shari'a *n.* a body of law governing the lives of Muslims.

Shi'a n. the branch of Islam whose members acknowledge Ali and his descendants as the rightful successors of Muhammad.

Shinto n. the native religion of Japan.

Shiva n. a Hindu god considered the destroyer of the world.

“shock therapy” n. an economic program implemented in Russia by Boris Yeltsin in the 1990s, involving an abrupt shift from a command economy to a free-market economy.

shogun n. in feudal Japan, a supreme military commander who ruled in the name of the emperor.

Sikh n. a member of a nonviolent religious group whose beliefs blend elements of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sufism.

Silk Roads n. a system of ancient caravan routes across Central Asia, along which traders carried silk and other trade goods.

simony n. the selling or buying of a position in a Christian church.

skepticism n. a philosophy based on the idea that nothing can be known for certain.

slash-and-burn farming n. a farming method in which people clear fields by cutting and burning trees and grasses, the ashes of which serve to fertilize the soil.

Slavs n. a people from the forests north of the Black Sea, ancestors of many peoples in Eastern Europe today.

social contract n. the agreement by which people define and limit their individual rights, thus creating an organized society or government.

Social Darwinism n. the application of Charles Darwin's ideas about evolution and “survival of the fittest” to human societies—particularly as justification for imperialist expansion.

socialism n. an economic system in which the factors of production are owned by the public and operate for the welfare of all.

Solidarity n. a Polish labor union that during the 1980s became the main force of opposition to Communist rule in Poland.

Songhai n. a West African empire that conquered Mali and controlled trade from the 1400s to 1591.

soviet n. one of the local representative councils formed in Russia after the downfall of Czar Nicholas II.

Spanish-American War n. an 1898 conflict between the United States and Spain, in which the United States supported Cubans' fight for independence.

specialization n. the development of skills in a particular kind of work, such as trading or record keeping.

sphere of influence n. a foreign region in which a nation has control over trade and other economic activities.

standard of living n. the quality of life of a person or a population, as indicated by the goods, services, and luxuries available to the person or people.

stateless societies n. cultural groups in which authority is shared by lineages of equal power instead of being exercised by a central government.

steppes n. dry, grass-covered plains.

strike v. to refuse to work in order to force an employer to meet certain demands.

stupa n. mounded stone structures built over Buddhist holy relics.

subcontinent n. a large landmass that forms a distinct part of a continent.

Suez Canal n. a man-made waterway, which was opened in 1869, connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

suffrage n. the right to vote.

Sufi n. a Muslim who seeks to achieve direct contact with God through mystical means.

sultan n. “overlord,” or “one with power;” title for Ottoman rulers during the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

Sunna n. an Islamic model for living, based on the life and teachings of Muhammad.

Sunni n. the branch of Islam whose members acknowledge the first four caliphs as the rightful successors of Muhammad.

surrealism n. a 20th-century artistic movement that focuses on the workings of the unconscious mind.

sustainable growth n. economic development that meets people's needs but preserves the environment and conserves resources for future generations.

Swahili n. an Arabic-influenced Bantu language that is spoken widely in eastern and central Africa.

T

Taiping Rebellion *n.* a mid-19th century rebellion against the Qing dynasty in China, led by Hong Xiuquan.

Taj Mahal *n.* a beautiful tomb in Agra, India, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Taliban *n.* conservative Islamic group that took control of Afghanistan after the Soviet Union withdrew its troops; driven from power by U.S. forces in December, 2001, because of its harboring of suspected terrorists.

Tamil *n.* a language of southern India; also, the people who speak that language.

technology *n.* the ways in which people apply knowledge, tools, and inventions to meet their needs.

Tennis Court Oath *n.* a pledge made by the members of France's National Assembly in 1789, in which they vowed to continue meeting until they had drawn up a new constitution.

terrace *n.* a new form of agriculture in Aksum, in which stepped ridges constructed on mountain slopes help retain water and reduce erosion.

terrorism *n.* the use of force or threats to frighten people or governments to change their policies.

theocracy *n.* **1.** a government in which the ruler is viewed as a divine figure. **2.** a government controlled by religious leaders.

theory of evolution *n.* the idea, proposed by Charles Darwin in 1859, that species of plants and animals arise by means of a process of natural selection.

theory of relativity *n.* Albert Einstein's ideas about the interrelationships between time and space and between energy and matter.

Theravada *n.* a sect of Buddhism focusing on the strict spiritual discipline originally advocated by the Buddha.

Third Reich *n.* the Third German Empire, established by Adolf Hitler in the 1930s.

Third Republic *n.* the republic that was established in France after the downfall of Napoleon III and ended with the German occupation of France during World War II.

Third World *n.* during the Cold War, the developing nations not allied with either the United States or the Soviet Union.

Thirty Years' War *n.* a European conflict over religion and territory, and for power among ruling families, lasting from 1618 to 1648.

three-field system *n.* a system of farming developed in medieval Europe, in which farmland was divided into three fields of equal size and each of these was successively planted with a winter crop, planted with a spring crop, and left unplanted.

Tiananmen Square *n.* a huge public space in Beijing, China; in 1989, the site of a student uprising in support of democratic reforms.

tithe *n.* a family's payment of one-tenth of its income to a church.

Tokugawa Shogunate *n.* a dynasty of shoguns that ruled a unified Japan from 1603 to 1867.

Torah *n.* the first five books of the Hebrew Bible—the most sacred writings in the Jewish tradition.

totalitarianism *n.* government control over every aspect of public and private life.

total war *n.* a conflict in which the participating countries devote all their resources to the war effort.

totems *n.* animals or other natural objects that serve as symbols of the unity of clans or other groups of people.

tournament *n.* a mock battle between groups of knights.

tragedy *n.* a serious form of drama dealing with the downfall of a heroic or noble character.

Treaty of Kanagawa *n.* an 1854 agreement between the United States and Japan, which opened two Japanese ports to U.S. ships and allowed the United States to set up an embassy in Japan.

Treaty of Tordesillas *n.* a 1494 agreement between Portugal and Spain, declaring that newly discovered lands to the west of an imaginary line in the Atlantic Ocean would belong to Spain and newly discovered lands to the east of the line would belong to Portugal.

Treaty of Versailles *n.* the peace treaty signed by Germany and the Allied powers after World War I.

trench warfare *n.* a form of warfare in which opposing armies fight each other from trenches dug in the battlefield.

triangular trade *n.* the transatlantic trading network along which slaves and other goods were carried between Africa, England, Europe, the West Indies, and the colonies in North America.

tribune *n.* in ancient Rome, an official elected by the plebeians to protect their rights.

tribute *n.* a payment made by a weaker power to a stronger power to obtain an assurance of peace and security.

Triple Alliance *n.* **1.** an association of the city-states of Tenochtitlán, Texcoco, and Tlacopan, which led to the formation of the Aztec Empire. **2.** a military alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy in the years preceding World War I.

Triple Entente *n.* a military alliance between Great Britain, France, and Russia in the years preceding World War I.

triumvirate *n.* in ancient Rome, a group of three leaders sharing control of the government.

Trojan War *n.* a war, fought around 1200 B.C., in which an army led by Mycenaean kings attacked the independent trading city of Troy in Anatolia.

troubadour *n.* a medieval poet and musician who traveled from place to place, entertaining people with songs of courtly love.

Truman Doctrine *n.* announced by President Harry Truman in 1947, a U.S. policy of giving economic and military aid to free nations threatened by internal or external opponents.

tyrant *n.* in ancient Greece, a powerful individual who gained control of a city-state's government by appealing to the poor for support.

U

Umayyads *n.* a dynasty that ruled the Muslim Empire from A.D. 661 to 750 and later established a kingdom in al-Andalus.

union *n.* an association of workers, formed to bargain for better working conditions and higher wages.

United Nations *n.* an international peacekeeping organization founded in 1945 to provide security to the nations of the world.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights *n.* a 1948 statement in which the United Nations declared that all human beings have rights to life, liberty, and security.

unrestricted submarine warfare *n.* the use of submarines to sink without warning any ship (including neutral ships and unarmed passenger liners) found in an enemy's waters.

urbanization *n.* the growth of cities and the migration of people into them.

U.S.A. Patriot Act *n.* an antiterrorism bill of 2001 that strengthened governmental rights to detain foreigners suspected of terrorism and prosecute terrorist crimes.

U.S. Civil War *n.* a conflict between Northern and Southern states of the United States over the issue of slavery, lasting from 1861 to 1865.

utilitarianism *n.* the theory, proposed by Jeremy Bentham in the late 1700s, that government actions are useful only if they promote the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Utopia *n.* an imaginary land described by Thomas More in his book *Utopia*—hence, an ideal place.

V

vassal *n.* in feudal Europe, a person who received a grant of land from a lord in exchange for a pledge of loyalty and services.

Vedas *n.* four collections of sacred writings produced by the Aryans during an early stage of their settlement in India.

vernacular *n.* the everyday language of people in a region or country.

Vietcong *n.* a group of Communist guerrillas who, with the help of North Vietnam, fought against the South Vietnamese government in the Vietnam War.

Vietnamization *n.* President Richard Nixon's strategy for ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, involving a gradual withdrawal of American troops and replacement of them with South Vietnamese forces.

Vishnu *n.* a Hindu god considered the preserver of the world.

vizier *n.* a prime minister in a Muslim kingdom or empire.

W

War of the Spanish Succession *n.* a conflict, lasting from 1701 to 1713, in which a number of European states fought to prevent the Bourbon family from controlling Spain as well as France.

Warsaw Pact *n.* a military alliance formed in 1955 by the Soviet Union and seven Eastern European countries.

Weimar Republic *n.* the republic that was established in Germany in 1919 and ended in 1933.

Western Front *n.* in World War I, the region of northern France where the forces of the Allies and the Central Powers battled each other.

westernization *n.* an adoption of the social, political, or economic institutions of Western—especially European or American—countries.

Y

yin and yang *n.* in Chinese thought, the two powers that govern the natural rhythms of life (with yin representing the feminine qualities in the universe, and yang the masculine qualities).

Yoruba *n.* a West African people who formed several kingdoms in what is now Benin and southern Nigeria.

Z

Zapotec *n.* an early Mesoamerican civilization that was centered in the Oaxaca Valley of what is now Mexico.

ziggurat *n.* a tiered, pyramid-shaped structure that formed part of a Sumerian temple.

Zionism *n.* a movement founded in the 1890s to promote the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.