

Key Unit Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this unit. For each word, you will find the definition, part of speech, word forms (plurals/tenses), synonyms, and examples of how the word, or forms of the word, are used in a sentence.

boyar

- a member of a class of nobles in Russia with high rank

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	boyars
Synonyms:	aristocrat, noble
In a sentence:	The boyars demanded land in exchange for their pledge of loyalty to the new king.

cannon

- a large, mounted gun for firing heavy shells

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	cannons
Synonyms:	gun
In a sentence:	The cannon's bombardment of the city led to its eventual defeat.

cosmopolitan

- of, drawn from, or common to all the world or all the peoples of the world

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	metropolitan
In a sentence:	Cosmopolitan port cities in South Asia welcomed merchants from different cultures and belief systems.

devshirme

- Ottoman practice of forcing Christian families to sell their children into the service of the sultan

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Ottoman rulers often forced Balkan families to sell their children, who converted to Islam and pledged service to the sultan.

divine

- of, from, pertaining to, or characteristic of a god or gods

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	divinity, divine right
Synonyms:	godlike, omnipotent, superhuman
In a sentence:	The sailors believed that divine mercy kept the ship from going under.

gunpowder

- an explosive used to propel a gun projectile, especially the explosive made from potassium nitrate, sulfur, and charcoal; black powder

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	gunpowdery
Synonyms:	explosives
In a sentence:	The Ottomans used gunpowder to conquer societies and expand their empire.

imam

- the officiating leader of prayer in a Muslim mosque

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	imams
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The older imam led the prayer that day.

imperial

- designating or characterizing the authority of a sovereign state over colonies or dependencies

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	empire, imperialism, imperialist, imperialistic
Synonyms:	sovereign
In a sentence:	During the British imperial period, India suffered greatly.

infrastructure

- the basic facilities and equipment, especially of a technological nature, that are necessary for a system or organization to function

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	infrastructures
Synonyms:	base, framework
In a sentence:	This empire has a highly developed infrastructure of paved roads and bridges.

janissary

- formerly, a member of a Turkish sultan's guard

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	janissaries
Synonyms:	warrior, soldier
In a sentence:	A group of janissaries can be seen patrolling outside the sultan's summer home whenever he is there.

principality

- the area ruled by a prince

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	principalities
Synonyms:	domain
In a sentence:	The principality, located in the far reaches of the kingdom, rarely had communication with the central government.

Reformation

- sixteenth-century religious movement in Europe that led to the creation of Protestant faiths in opposition to Catholicism

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	Protestant Reformation, European Reformation
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Martin Luther criticized the Catholic Church and his writings led to the period known as the Reformation.

revenue

- government income from the collection of taxes

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	revenues
Synonyms:	income, earnings, profit
In a sentence:	The government increased taxes in order to generate revenue for building projects.

Shi'a

- a messianic belief system and branch of Islam that accepts descendants of Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law, and the imams as the true successors of Muhammad and the faith

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Shi'ite
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Shi'a was the predominant faith practiced in the Safavid Empire (modern-day Iran).

Sikhism

- religious community founded in northern India by Guru Nanak that rejected caste divisions

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Sikh
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Many farmers and traders, including both men and women, were attracted to Sikhism and the rejection of castes.

sultan

- the ruler of an Islamic country

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	sultans
Synonyms:	ruler, emperor, king
In a sentence:	It is by the sultan's decree that all men between the ages of 18 and 35 will serve in the army.

Sunni

- branch of Islam that accepts the first four caliphs as the true successors of Muhammad and leaders of the faith

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The Sunni branch of Islam is considered more orthodox (traditional) and widespread than the Shi'a branch.

tariff

- a government tax on imports or exports, or a rate or schedule of such taxes; duty

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	tariffs, tariffing, tariffed
Synonyms:	tax, duty
In a sentence:	The president is threatening to impose extreme tariffs if the country refuses to honor the peace treaty.

tax

- a sum of money levied by government on income, property, or sales and used for its services and administration

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	taxes, taxation, taxing, taxed
Synonyms:	tariff, surcharge
In a sentence:	The English monarchy imposed many taxes on the American colonists for items such as sugar and stamps.

treasury

- the funds of a government, business, or club

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	treasuries, treasurer
Synonyms:	finances, funds, coffer
In a sentence:	The nation's treasury was left with almost nothing after spending so much on numerous wars.

tsar

- the title of a male Russian ruler before 1917

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	tsars, tsarina (female)
Synonyms:	czar, monarch
In a sentence:	The Russian leader used to be referred to as the tsar.