

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.

abolish

- to do away with; to put a stop to

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	abolished, abolition
Synonyms:	eradicate, cancel, stop
In a sentence:	Reformers in the nineteenth century fought to abolish slavery.

absolute monarchy

- an authoritarian governing system in which a hereditary ruler holds complete power until death
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Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	absolute monarchies
Synonyms:	dictatorship, autocracy, absolutism
In a sentence:	Ruled by an absolute monarchy, the empire's citizens constantly lived in fear of oppression and injustice.

aristocracy

- a high-ranking social class, having special privileges and influence and usually determined by heredity

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	aristocracies, aristocratic
Synonyms:	nobility, patricians
In a sentence:	She was born into the aristocracy and was expected to marry someone of her own class.

autonomy

- freedom and independence; self-governance

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	autonomies
Synonyms:	freedom, independence, liberty
In a sentence:	Most teenagers want autonomy even though they are still highly dependent on their parents.

bourgeoisie

- the middle class

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	bourgeois
Synonyms:	working class
In a sentence:	The French bourgeoisie became wealthy from trade and business and began to demand more political rights.

citizen

- a person belonging by birth or naturalization to a political and geographic entity, especially a nation

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	citizens, citizenry
Synonyms:	national, native, inhabitant
In a sentence:	His father emigrated from Russia in 1917 and became a French citizen.

communism

- the theory of a classless social system in which all property and means of production are owned in common; socialist theory deriving from the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	communist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Many reformers like Friedrich Engels advocated for communism to replace capitalism.

conservative

- a person who favors the traditional and opposes rapid change

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	conservatives, conservatism
Synonyms:	traditionalist
In a sentence:	As a conservative, the minister was uncomfortable with the way he saw the church changing.

constitution

- the set of basic laws and principles by which a nation, state, or other organization is governed

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	constitutions, constitutional
Synonyms:	charter, code, common law
In a sentence:	They were forced to change the club's constitution so that women could be allowed membership.

consumer

- one who purchases goods or services

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	consumers, consumerism
Synonyms:	buyer, customer, purchaser
In a sentence:	The farm depended on consumers to buy their corn to stay in business.

democracy

- a form of government in which power ultimately rests with the people, either directly or through elected representatives

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	democracies, democratic
Synonyms:	republic
In a sentence:	The dictator was forced out of power and democracy was established.

Enlightenment, the

- an eighteenth-century philosophical movement that emphasized the use of reason

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The Enlightenment marked a period of significant social growth and development, resulting in advancements in philosophy, politics, literature, technology, and science.

ethnic nationalism

- a form of nationalism wherein the nation is defined by a shared heritage, which usually includes a common language, a common faith, and a common ethnic ancestry

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	ethnonationalism
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Many minority groups under the control of empires fought for independence by banding together based on a shared sense of ethnic nationalism.

factory

- a building or set of buildings where products are manufactured

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	factories
Synonyms:	plant, mill
In a sentence:	People moved from farms to cities to work in the new factory.

fossil fuels

- any carbon-containing fuel formed from the remains of prehistoric plants and animals, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	fossil fuels
Synonyms:	energy source, fuel
In a sentence:	The burning of fossil fuels has been directly linked to climate change.

gender

- socially constructed characteristics of women and men, such as norms, roles, and relationships of and between groups of women and men (World Health Organization)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	genders
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The hiring guidelines are designed to reduce discrimination based on gender.

ideology

- the body of beliefs, symbols, and political and social aims that characterizes a particular group or institution

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	ideologies, ideological
Synonyms:	creed, dogma, philosophy
In a sentence:	Most Europeans in the thirteenth century were influenced by Catholic ideology.

independence

- the quality or state of being independent; freedom from outside control

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	independent
Synonyms:	autonomy, freedom, liberty
In a sentence:	Colonists in the Americas declared independence from Britain in 1776.

industrial

- of or pertaining to the production of goods and services by industry (the activity or process of turning raw materials into finished goods, or a particular business that does this)

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	industry, industries, industrialist, industrialization
Synonyms:	mechanical
In a sentence:	The number of industrial jobs increased in the nineteenth century as new factories were built.

invest

- to spend with the intention of gaining some benefit

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	invests, invested, investing, reinvest
Synonyms:	devote
In a sentence:	Factory owners invest in new machines to make textile production more efficient.

liberal

- one who believes in a progressive political philosophy, which favors government promotion of social change and the importance of individual liberty

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	liberals, liberalism
Synonyms:	progressive, reformer
In a sentence:	The liberals think that the government should do more to create jobs for the unemployed.

manufacture

- to make by machine, usually in great quantities

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	manufactures, manufacturing, manufactured
Synonyms:	mass-produce, assemble
In a sentence:	This factory manufactures machine parts.

nation

- a people living in the same geographic region and having a common history, language, and culture

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	nations, nationless, nationhood
Synonyms:	country, land, commonwealth
In a sentence:	Eventually, the 13 colonies came together and formed a nation of 13 states, each connected by a common identity and ideology.

nation-state

- the modern autonomous (self-governing) nation, considered as a unit of political organization

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	nation-states
Synonyms:	country, commonwealth
In a sentence:	Albania is a small nation-state of around 3 million people.

nationalism

- concern for or devotion to one's own nation, especially desire for national progress, defense, or independence

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	nationalist, nationalistic
Synonyms:	patriotism, allegiance
In a sentence:	A wave of nationalism swept the country after its citizens were attacked.

proletariat

- the working class, especially those that lack capital and must sell their usually unskilled labor in order to survive

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	working class
In a sentence:	The revolutionaries declared that factories and other means of production should be handed over to the proletariat.

radical

- a person who advocates fundamental or extreme social and political changes

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	radicals, radicalism
Synonyms:	extremist
In a sentence:	Some of the radicals were arrested and put in jail for their violent protests.

reform

- to improve or enhance through moderate change

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	reforms, reforming, reformed, reformist
Synonyms:	improve, amend, change, enhance
In a sentence:	Women sought to reform factory conditions and fought for the right to vote.

republic

- a state or nation where supreme political power is exercised by elected representatives acting in the name of the people

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	republics
Synonyms:	democracy, representative government
In a sentence:	After the king was dethroned, the country became a republic led by a democratically selected leader.

revolution

- a massive upheaval in ideas or ways of doing something, or the widescale change or transformation that occurs because of it

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	revolutions, revolutionary
Synonyms:	upheaval, cataclysm
In a sentence:	The Industrial Revolution made mass production of goods possible.

socialism

- a political or economic theory in which community members own all property, resources, and the means of production, and control the distribution of goods

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	socialist, socialists
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Individuals who think the community should own and control property, production and distribution believe in socialism.

sovereignty

- the power of self-government, with independence from outside control; autonomy

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	sovereignities
Synonyms:	autonomy, self-government, self-rule
In a sentence:	The nation's military fought bravely to maintain their country's sovereignty, but they ultimately were no match for their rivals to the north.

suffrage

- the right to vote in a political election

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	suffragette, suffragist
Synonyms:	voting rights
In a sentence:	Some states imposed obstacles to restrict the suffrage of Black people.