

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.

alliance

- a formal pact or agreement between or among nations

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | alliances |
| Synonyms: | agreement, compact, pact, treaty |
| In a sentence: | The two nations formed an alliance in hopes of defeating their common enemy in war. |

antisemitism (also anti-Semitism)

- prejudice, discrimination, or hostility toward Jews

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | antisemitic |
| Synonyms: | prejudice, discrimination, hate |
| In a sentence: | The genocide of the Holocaust was largely motivated by the Nazi's antisemitism. |

atrocities

- a cruel or ruthless act or behavior

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | atrocities |
| Synonyms: | cruelty, horror, brutality |
| In a sentence: | The Holocaust was an atrocity committed by the Nazi regime against the Jewish population. |

authoritarian

- of, pertaining to, or advocating complete obedience or subjection to authority, especially political authority, without concern for individual rights

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| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | authoritarianism |
| Synonyms: | repressive |
| In a sentence: | Tsar Alexander II was less authoritarian in his views than his father, and this led him to eventually free the serfs. |

blitzkrieg

- a swift military attack from the air or ground

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | blitz |
| Synonyms: | attack, assault |
| In a sentence: | During World War 2, Hitler used a military tactic known as a blitzkrieg to swiftly take over Poland. |

Bolsheviks

- a member of the majority faction of the party that seized power in 1917 and formed the Communist party in the Soviet Union

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| Part of speech: | proper noun, noun |
| Word forms: | Bolshevik, Bolshevik, Bolshevism |
| Synonyms: | communist |
| In a sentence: | The Bolsheviks wanted to revolt against the Russian government instead of waiting for change to happen over time. |

casualty

- a member of the armed forces removed from active duty as a result of being killed, wounded, captured, or missing in action

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | casualties |
| Synonyms: | victim, fatality |
| In a sentence: | There were thousands of casualties after the battle. |

concentration camp

- a prison camp in which large numbers of political prisoners, aliens, or those considered undesirable are confined and sometimes executed

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | concentration camps |
| Synonyms: | |
| In a sentence: | During the 1940s, Japanese Americans on the West coast were forced into concentration camps by the US military. |

conscription

- compulsory enrollment in military service

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | conscript, conscripted, conscripted |
| Synonyms: | draft |
| In a sentence: | The men became soldiers through conscription rather than volunteering. |

diplomacy

- the practice or skill of conducting negotiations between nations or governments

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | |
| Synonyms: | statesmanship |
| In a sentence: | The negotiations to end the war were successful due to diplomacy. |

disillusion

- disappointment that something was not as one initially perceived it to be

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | disillusionment, disillusiones, disillusioned |
| Synonyms: | dismay, disappoint |
| In a sentence: | At first, the soldiers were proud to fight for their nation in the war, but after fighting for years, they were in a state of disillusion about its purpose and progress. |

dual consciousness

- the state of feeling as though you have two identities housed in one person or mind

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | |
| Synonyms: | |
| In a sentence: | During the era of slavery and segregation, African Americans often wrote of having a dual consciousness because they felt as though they had two identities: one around whites, who perceived them differently than those of their same race. |

eugenics

- the false science, study of, or belief in the genetic improvement of the human race through control of breeding

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | |
| Synonyms: | |
| In a sentence: | Part of Hitler's inspiration for a "master race" came from the American support of eugenics, which stated that America would be a healthier nation if the "feeble-minded" did not reproduce. |

fascism

- a system of government characterized by strong, often dictatorial control of political and economic affairs, and often by warlike nationalism and brutal suppression of political protestors and ethnic minorities

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | fascist, Fascist (when referring to the Italian political party) |
| Synonyms: | tyranny |
| In a sentence: | Fascism began in Italy with the party of Benito Mussolini and his brutal takeover of the Italian government. |

genocide

- the intentional attempt to exterminate all members of a certain race, nationality, religious, or ethnic group

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | genocides, genocidal |
| Synonyms: | massacre |
| In a sentence: | Within the borders of Rwanda, there was a mass genocide against a minority group. |

Great Depression

- the decade of the 1930s in the United States and other countries, characterized by extreme economic hardship; the Depression

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| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: | |
| Synonyms: | |
| In a sentence: | American companies struggled to sell goods during the Great Depression. |

mandate

- a legal status established by the League of Nations where some territories were temporarily controlled by another state

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | mandates |
| Synonyms: | decree, directive, edict |
| In a sentence: | The mandate stated that India would fall under British control for the time being. |

militarism

- a policy that emphasizes military strength and preparedness

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | militarist, militaristic |
| Synonyms: | imperialism |
| In a sentence: | The administration has been criticized for the militarism of its foreign policy. |

mobilization

- the act of assembling and preparing (troops or the like) for active military duty or service to a country; the act of assembling, organizing, or adapting (industries, supplies, facilities, or the like) for immediate use or service in times of war or states of emergency

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | mobilize, mobilized, mobilizing |
| Synonyms: | assembling, preparing |
| In a sentence: | The prime minister ordered for the mobilization of troops to prepare for the upcoming battle. |

nuclear

- of or having atomic or hydrogen bombs

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| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | nucleus |
| Synonyms: | atomic |
| In a sentence: | The threat of nuclear war terrified people across the world after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. |

propaganda

- information or opinions that are made public to promote or attack a movement, cause, or person

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | propagandist, propagandistic |
| Synonyms: | advertisement, disinformation |
| In a sentence: | Both the Allied and Axis Powers in World War 2 used propaganda to encourage people to support their side in the war. |

total war

- a global war in which all warring nations mobilize for the war effort including soldier and civilian populations, who are both participants and targets; usually defined as meeting four criteria: mobilization, blurring of lines between soldier and civilian, total control of society, and rejection of a compromise peace

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | |
| Synonyms: | |
| In a sentence: | Some historians argue that World War 1 was the first example of total war. |

totalitarian

- designating a system of government in which power and authority are highly centralized and intrusive into the lives of private citizens, and in which neither opposing parties nor individual differences in opinion are allowed

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| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | totalitarianism |
| Synonyms: | authoritarian, dictatorial, tyrannical |
| In a sentence: | A totalitarian government was established under the dictator. |

treaty

- a formal agreement between two or more countries

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | treaties |
| Synonyms: | truce, alliance, negotiation |
| In a sentence: | The two nations signed a treaty to settle their disputes. |

tyranny

- the oppressive or abusive exercise of power, of the government or authority that uses power in this way; unnecessary harshness; cruelty

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | tyrannies, tyrannical |
| Synonyms: | oppression, repression |
| In a sentence: | The citizens were subjected to the emperor's tyranny. |