# Key Unit Vocabulary

This guide 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.

## abolitionist

* of or pertaining to the fight to end slavery; a person who fought for the abolition (end) of slavery

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | abolition, abolitionism |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Many formerly enslaved people living in the northern US took part in the abolitionist movement. |

## autonomy

* freedom and independence; self-governance

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| 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. |

## capitalist

* of or pertaining to capitalism (an economic system in which the means of production and distribution are privately owned and prices are chiefly determined by open competition in a free market)

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | capital, capitalism |
| Synonyms: | freedom, independence, liberty |
| In a sentence: | The United States has a capitalist economy. |

## citizen

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

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| --- | --- |
| 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. |

## colonialism

* the practice of a foreign government exercising political or economic control of another community

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | colonial, colonialist, colonize |
| Synonyms: | expansionism, imperialism |
| In a sentence: | Colonialism imposed European control over most of Africa in the nineteenth century. |

## consumer

* one who purchases goods or services; a person or thing that consumes

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

## debt

* something owed to another, such as money or services

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | debts |
| Synonyms: | liability, burden, obligation |
| In a sentence: | Your debt to the bank is now twenty thousand dollars. |

## democratic

* having or promoting social, economic, and political equality

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | democracy |
| Synonyms: | egalitarian |
| In a sentence: | All citizens are equal in a truly democratic society. |

## the Enlightenment

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

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| 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. |

## enslavement

* the state of being a slave or being in a condition of bondage

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | enslave, enslaved |
| Synonyms: | slavery, servitude |
| In a sentence: | The horrifying mass enslavement of imported Africans was the basis of the American agricultural economy for over a century. |

## factory

* a building or set of buildings where products are manufactured

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | factories |
| Synonyms: | plant, mill |
| In a sentence: | I pass by the bread factory on my way to work every morning and it always smells delicious. |

## financier

* a person skilled in or occupied in financial operations such as investments, usually on a large scale

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | financiers, finance, financial |
| Synonyms: | capitalist, tycoon |
| In a sentence: | A large number of financiers work on Wall Street in New York City. |

## imperialism

* the policy of extending the rule or authority of one nation over others usually by taking control of their territory or through economic or political dominance

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | imperialist, imperial, imperialistic |
| Synonyms: | colonialism |
| In a sentence: | Because the people of the area wanted to be a self-governing state, they fought imperialism for many years. |

## 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)

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | industry, industries, industrialist, industrialists |
| Synonyms: | colonialism |
| In a sentence: | The number of industrial jobs such as those in manufacturing have been decreasing in the region. |

## industrialization

* to introduce industry into (a country, region, or the like); make industrial

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | industrializes, industrializing, industrialized |
| Synonyms: | urbanization |
| In a sentence: | Industrialization in nineteenth-century Britain dramatically changed the ways people worked and lived. |

## liberal

* relating to democratic forms of government rather than monarchies or aristocracies

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | liberalism |
| Synonyms: | democratic, progressive |
| In a sentence: | The new leader wished to establish a liberal form of government in a country that had never known political freedom. |

## manufacturing

* the process or business of producing a large quantity of products, often from raw materials, using machines and human labor

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | manufacturer, manufacture, manufactured |
| Synonyms: | production, construction, assembly |
| In a sentence: | Many jobs in manufacturing were lost last year, when a large car maker had to close down. |

## middle class

* the social class between the very rich or the aristocracy and lower-class laborers, that includes business people, professionals, farmers, skilled workers, and the like

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: | bourgeoisie |
| In a sentence: | Most Americans view themselves as being a part of the middle class, neither poor nor rich. |

## nation

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

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| --- | --- |
| 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

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | nation-states |
| Synonyms: | country, sovereign states |
| 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

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| --- | --- |
| 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. |

## natural rights

* basic rights, such as life and liberty, that are considered inherent (essential) rights of all human beings

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | natural right |
| Synonyms: | innate rights, natural laws |
| In a sentence: | Although freedom from persecution and discrimination is considered a natural right, many continue to face oppression and injustice on daily basis. |

## popular sovereignty

* the doctrine that a state is subject to the will of the people who comprise that state

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: | democracy |
| In a sentence: | The idea of popular sovereignty was present throughout the American Revolution. |

## proletariat

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

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| --- | --- |
| 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. |

## racism

* the theory or opinion that a certain race or races of people, usually one’s own, are superior to others because of certain inborn characteristics and any policy or practice based on said belief

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | racist |
| Synonyms: | discrimination, prejudice |
| In a sentence: | West Indian psychiatrist Frantz Fanon emphasized the different forms of racism that exist, as those facing colonialism in Africa face different issues than those enslaved in the United States. |

## reform

* the improvement of wrong or bad conditions

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | reforms |
| Synonyms: | improvement |
| In a sentence: | People with a wide variety of occupations demanded labor reforms. |

## revolution

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

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | revolutions, revolutionary |
| Synonyms: | cataclysm, upheaval |
| In a sentence: | The development of the microchip caused a revolution in the computer industry. |

## 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

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | socialist, socialists |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Individuals who think community members should own and control property, production and distribution prescribe to socialism. |

## sovereignty

* freedom from the control of others, usually freedom from an authority such as a monarch

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | sovereign |
| Synonyms: | autonomy |
| In a sentence: | Enlightenment philosophers wrote about both personal and popular sovereignty as they believed that people should have a say in their lives and in their governments. |

## suffrage

* the right to vote in a political election

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

## urbanization

* the process by which the population of cities increases, usually characterized by the shift of the population from rural to urban settings

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | urban, urbanize, urbanite |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | During the Industrial Revolution, urbanization increased as more people relocated from the countryside to factory cities. |