# 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.

## 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

* 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. |

## authoritarianism

* a system of ruling that advocates for complete obedience or subjection to authority, especially political authority, without concern for individual rights

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | authoritarian |
| Synonyms: | totalitarianism |
| In a sentence: | Without access to non-governmental newspapers, the citizens living under authoritarianism could not learn much about international affairs. |

## Bolshevik

* 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: | Bolsheviks, Bolshevist, 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. |

## civilian

* a person who is not serving in the military or the police

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | civilians |
| Synonyms: | citizen |
| In a sentence: | In addition to military personnel, many civilians were killed during the bombings. |

## 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

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | communist |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The nation practiced communism as their political and economic system. |

## 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. |

## containment

* a government policy, enacted in a variety of ways, that is intended to curb the territorial growth, economic expansion, or ideological influence of a hostile nation, in particular communist nations

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | contain, container |
| Synonyms: | control, constrain |
| In a sentence: | Under the policy of containment, the US tried to extend its sphere of influence in order to curb the spread of communism. |

## decolonization

* the process or act of freeing a colony of eliminating colonialism

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | decolonize |
| Synonyms: | freedom, overthrowing |
| In a sentence: | The decolonization process left many previous colonies in shambles due to economic dependence and arbitrary borders made by colonizers. |

## dependency

* the condition of relying on another for help or support

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | dependence |
| Synonyms: | reliance |
| In a sentence: | The baby bird’s dependency on their parents for food required them to stay in the nest. |

## ethnic

* of or related to a large group of people who share a distinctive culture, language, or religion, or who are of the same race or national heritage

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | ethnicity |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The school had a high level of ethnic diversity as there were large Chinese, Indian, and Ethiopian populations in the district. |

## 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. |

## guerilla

* one of an unofficial or loosely organized group of soldiers who stage unconventional or surprise attacks against an enemy

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| Part of speech: | noun, adjective |
| Word forms: | guerillas |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The guerrillas were camped out in the forest, preparing for their next attack on government leaders. |

## the Holocaust

* the systematic slaughter of Jews and members of other groups by Nazis during World War II

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| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: | genocide, annihilation |
| In a sentence: | The Holocaust is remembered as one of history’s most atrocious crimes against humanity. |

## internationalism

* a political principle that urges nations to cooperate to solve problems and end disputes in order to prevent war

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | international, internationalist |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | After World War I, leaders of many nations attempted to promote internationalism to prevent future wars. |

## 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. |

## nationalize

* to bring under government ownership or control

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | verb |
| Word forms: | nationalizes, nationalized, nationalizing, nationalization |
| Synonyms: | communalize |
| In a sentence: | The administration intends to nationalize the banks in order to control the supply of money. |

## nonviolence

* the policy or practice of refusing to use violent means to pursue political or social aims

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| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | nonviolent, nonviolently |
| Synonyms: | peaceful |
| In a sentence: | One of Gandhi’s main principles was nonviolence. |

## 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 during the 1960s. |

## pacifism

* refusal to use or acknowledge violence as a means for settling disputes

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | pacifist |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The gang members had no regard for pacifism, as they settled all conflicts with violence. |

## partition

* the political division of a nation into two or more separate nations

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | partitions |
| Synonyms: | division, separation |
| In a sentence: | The partition of Germany during the Cold War was physically represented by the Berlin Wall, which was constructed in 1961. |

## proliferation

* the act or process of spreading quickly

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | proliferations |
| Synonyms: | multiplication |
| In a sentence: | The leaders signed a treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. |

## 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 II used propaganda to encourage people to support their side in the war. |

## security

* freedom from danger

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | securities, secure |
| Synonyms: | safety, protection |
| In a sentence: | The security of the president depends on the skill of his bodyguards. |

## self-determination

* the freedom to make decisions for oneself without external pressure or influence

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| Part of speech: | Noun |
| Word forms: | self-determined, self-determining |
| Synonyms: | independence, liberty |
| In a sentence: | With autonomy came self-determination for this small nation that had long been dominated by foreign powers. |

## sterilization

* the act of rendering unable to reproduce, as by removing or damaging the reproductive organs

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | sterile, sterilize |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The involuntary sterilization of people of color was a cruel and oppressive act. |

## superpower

* a country with great international power and influence, especially one that dominates the affairs of other countries

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | superpowers |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The global superpowers during the Cold War included the US and USSR. |

## 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. |

## union

* an organization of laborers

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | unions |
| Synonyms: | guild, labor union, trade union |
| In a sentence: | The union organized to demand higher wages and safer working conditions for their members. |