

Key Era Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this era. 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

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

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)

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

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

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.

color line

- the role race and racism had in American society after the abolition of slavery

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	racial segregation
In a sentence:	DuBois wrote about the color line in an attempt to bring awareness to the injustices stemming from racial segregation after the abolition of slavery.

commerce

- the exchange of goods or services for money

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	commercial
Synonyms:	business, trade, dealings
In a sentence:	The trade agreement is expected to increase commerce between the two nations.

consumer

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

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.

constitutional monarchy

- a system of government in which a country is ruled by a king and queen whose power is limited by a constitution

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	constitutional monarchies
Synonyms:	limited monarchy
In a sentence:	Although the queen is the head of the state, under the established constitutional monarchy, she does not have the authority to create laws.

debt

- something owed to another, such as money or services

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

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

dual consciousness

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

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Dual consciousness occurs when a person sees themselves in one way but also knows that they are viewed differently through the eyes of others.

the Enlightenment

- 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.

enslavement

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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.

modernization

- the process or act of updating or redesigning something to make it look new or contemporary

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	modernize, modernizing
Synonyms:	innovation, modification
In a sentence:	Modernization allows for technological and scientific advancements to be made.

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, 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

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

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.

personal sovereignty

- the concept of property in one's own person, expressed as the moral or natural right of a person to have bodily integrity and be the exclusive controller of one's own body and life

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	self-ownership, individual sovereignty
In a sentence:	The right to personal sovereignty is often debated in the courts.

popular sovereignty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

suffrage

- the right to vote in a political election

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