

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.

absolute monarchy

- an authoritarian governing system in which a hereditary ruler holds complete power until death

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 American bourgeoisie is finding college tuition increasingly unaffordable.

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:	noun
Word forms:	capitalist, capitalists
Synonyms:	commercialism, competition, free market
In a sentence:	The individual's right to pursue material wealth with little interference from government is considered one of the defining principles of capitalism.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:	The owner's business partner declared independence from the company and moved across the country to open a new store.

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
Synonyms:	progressive, reformer
In a sentence:	The liberals think that the government should do more to create jobs for the unemployed.

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.

patriarchal

- relating to a social system in which a father rules, and descent and succession are traced through the father

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	patriarchy, patriarchies
Synonyms:	fatherly
In a sentence:	When the queen took the throne, she ended the country's patriarchal system of government.

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.

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.

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.

Scientific Revolution

- a period of significant change that occurred during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as new scientific discoveries and innovations transformed history

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	In the sixteenth century, Copernicus outlined his theory of a heliocentric universe, which was one of the many discoveries and innovations of the period that historians call the Scientific Revolution.

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.

tax

- a sum of money levied by government on income, property, or sales and used for its services and administration

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	taxes, taxation, taxing, taxed
Synonyms:	tariff, surcharge
In a sentence:	The English monarchy imposed many taxes on the American colonists for items such as sugar and stamps.