

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.

antisemitism (also anti-Semitism)

- prejudice, discrimination, or hostility toward Jews

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.

appeasement

- a political strategy or policy that favors conflict avoidance, attempting to bring about a state of peace, quiet, ease, or calm

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	appeasements, appease
Synonyms:	pacification
In a sentence:	After World War I, many citizens approved of Prime Minister Chamberlain's acts of appeasement, hoping to satisfy Hitler and prevent another war.

assimilate

- to absorb and incorporate (an ethnically distinct group) into the prevailing culture

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	assimilates, assimilating, assimilated
Synonyms:	integrate, naturalize
In a sentence:	The villagers were forcibly assimilated into the society of the conquerors.

authoritarian

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

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

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.

collectivization

- the act or process of organizing or reorganizing an economy, business, or industry based on collective ownership and joint control of the means of production and distribution

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	collectivize
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The collectivization of factories in the Soviet Union theoretically put industry in the hands of the workers.

concentration camp

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

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.

dictator

- a ruler who has supreme and total authority, especially one who has seized power or who uses it harshly or selfishly

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	dictators, dictatorial
Synonyms:	autocrat, tyrant
In a sentence:	The dictator ruled the country with an iron fist for decades.

embargo

- a government injunction or other legal restriction on trade or the shipment of goods

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	embargoes
Synonyms:	ban, restriction
In a sentence:	After the Cuban Revolution, the US imposed an embargo on all goods previously traded with the nation.

eugenics

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

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

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

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

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

hegemony

- superiority of one country or social group over others by virtue of leadership or influence

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	hegemonic, hegemonical
Synonyms:	authority, command
In a sentence:	Spain's hegemony over most of Central and South America lasted into the nineteenth century.

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:	Growing up in France in the fifteenth century, all aspects of our lives were influenced by Catholic ideology.

internationalism

- the principle or policy of international cooperation, especially economic and governmental

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	internationalist
Synonyms:	globalism
In a sentence:	There's a growing debate in the world today between those who believe in internationalism and those who think that nationalism is the best policy.

militarism

- a policy that emphasizes military strength and preparedness

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	military
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Militarism played a large role in the Cold War, specifically the nuclear arms race.

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 by a foreign nation.

Nazi

- a member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party which controlled Germany under Hitler from 1933 to 1945; fascist

Part of speech:	proper noun, adjective
Word forms:	Nazis
Synonyms:	fascist
In a sentence:	Hitler was the leader of the Nazi Party, which violently ruled the German people in the 1930s and 1940s.

neutrality

- the foreign policy of a nation that refuses to take sides in an international dispute

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	neutral
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Sweden adopted a policy of neutrality in the early 1800s and did not participate militarily in either of the twentieth-century world wars.

pseudoscience

- a theory, methodology, or the like, such as astrology or eugenics, that claims an unjustified scientific basis or application

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	pseudoscientific, pseudoscientist
Synonyms:	fallacy
In a sentence:	While most people do not actually believe in astrology, it is a popular pseudoscience in American culture today.

regime

- a system of rule, government, or administration

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	regimes
Synonyms:	governance
In a sentence:	The people suffered under the dictator's oppressive regime.

self-determination

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

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.

Social Darwinism

- a late-nineteenth-century social theory in which Darwinism is applied to the understanding of human society, as in the belief of the genetic superiority of some individuals or groups over others

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Social Darwinist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	She believed some people are born better than others, and was intrigued by the theory of Social Darwinism.

sterilization

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

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

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

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