

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.

activism

- the belief in or practice of trying to make social or political changes through active, sometimes militant, involvement, especially in particular issues

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	activist
Synonyms:	advocacy
In a sentence:	She believed that activism could bring about change, and she spoke at and took part in many demonstrations to support environmental causes.

apartheid

- a policy of racial segregation, especially the segregation of blacks and whites and the discrimination against blacks in the Republic of South Africa

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	segregation
In a sentence:	When studying apartheid in South Africa, we must keep in mind how recent this system of segregation existed.

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, usually in reference to the American policy of containing communism during the Cold War

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	contain, container
Synonyms:	control, constraint
In a sentence:	The Truman Doctrine outlined a policy of containment, where the US would strive to prevent the spread of the Soviet Union's influence.

coup

- the sudden and forceful attempt of a group, especially of military or other government personnel, to seize state power

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	coups
Synonyms:	plot, revolution
In a sentence:	Napoleon Bonaparte staged a coup to take over the French government by force.

decolonization

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

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

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	dependence, dependent
Synonyms:	reliance, dependence
In a sentence:	The baby birds' dependency on their parents for food required them to stay in the nest at all times.

dissident

- one who disagrees with, dissents from, or opposes (the opinions or doctrines of others or the authority of some group or institution)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	dissidents
Synonyms:	renegade, rebel
In a sentence:	Dissidents, who wrote books that had been banned by the government, found ways to publish their books outside the country.

ideological

- of or concerning basic beliefs, concepts, and social and political aims of an individual, group, or institution

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	ideologically, ideology
Synonyms:	philosophical, intellectual
In a sentence:	The ideological differences between capitalists and socialists are immense.

intervention

- the act of entering a situation so as to change what is happening by one nation in the affairs of another, as with military force

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	interventions, interventional, intervene
Synonyms:	interference
In a sentence:	If the civil conflict continues to escalate in that country, a military intervention may be the only way to stop the slaughter of civilians.

minority

- a group that differs in race, ethnic background, religion, or political ideas from the majority of people in a society

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	minorities
Synonyms:	faction, sect
In a sentence:	People not of Caucasian descent are considered minorities in America.

nationalize

- to bring under government ownership or control

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	nationalizes, nationalized, nationalizing, nationalization
Synonyms:	communalize
In a sentence:	The administration intends to nationalize the banks.

nonviolence

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

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	nonviolent, non-violently
Synonyms:	peaceful, nonviolent
In a sentence:	One of Gandhi's main principles was nonviolence.

nuclear

- of or having atomic or hydrogen bombs

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.

partition

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

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.

protest

- a gesture or formal action by a person or especially a group as a public display of objection or dissent

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	protests
Synonyms:	demonstration, rally, walkout
In a sentence:	A citizens group mounted a protest against the establishment of a nuclear power plant in the area.

redistribute

- to distribute (spread over an area) again, often in different ways or amounts

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	redistributes, redistributing, redistributed
Synonyms:	mix up
In a sentence:	The new government will try to redistribute the wealth by taxing the wealthy to help the middle and lower classes.

sphere of influence

- a country or region that another country has informal power over but no formal authority

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	spheres of influence
Synonyms:	territory
In a sentence:	China spread its sphere of influence to include many Southeast Asian countries.

superpower

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

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

union

- an organization of laborers

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