

WH9H VOCAB GLOSSARY - Semester 1

- abdicate** (II) - *to relinquish a throne, right, or claim to power in a formal manner.*
- abolition** (III) - *the act of abolishing or eliminating, such as slavery.*
- absolute power** (I) - *to possess power that is total or complete.*
- agricultural** (III) - *having to do with farming.*
- alliance** (I) - *a union or grouping for a shared, common purpose.*
- allies** (II) - *a group of countries who fight together against a common enemy.*
- amendment** (II) - *an alteration or change made by addition, correction, or deletion to a document.*
- ancient** (I) - *to be very old; in historical terms, prior to the fall of Rome in 476.*
- aristocracy** (I) - *a gov't in which power is in the hands of a hereditary ruling class or nobility.*
- assassination** (I) - *to kill suddenly or secretly a politically prominent person.*
- assimilation** (IV) - *the merging of cultural traits from previously distinct cultural groups.*
- balance of power** (II) - *political situation in which no one nation is powerful enough to pose a threat to others.*
- bankruptcy** (II) - *a state of being financially ruined or impoverished.*
- bicameral** (IV) - *having two chambers or houses, such as in a legislature (eg. US Congress).*
- bill of rights** (I) - *a statement of the fundamental rights of the people of any nation.*
- blockade** (II) - *the use of troops/ships to prevent commercial traffic from entering or leaving a location.*
- boycott** (II) - *to abstain from buying or using as a means of intimidation or coercion.*
- branch** (I) - *any member, section, subdivision, or part of a body or system.*
- caesar** (I) - *Latin title for emperor, used first by Augustus in honor of his murdered uncle Julius Caesar.*
- capitalism** (III) - *an economic system based on private ownership of the factors of production, which are invested to make a profit.*
- capitulate** (IV) - *complete or total surrender.*
- cash crop** (IV) - *a crop produced for market sale rather than for direct consumption by the producer.*
- chancellor** (IV) - *German title for "prime minister."*
- check and balance** (I) - *measures designed to prevent any one branch of gov't from dominating the others.*
- citizen** (I) - *a native of a state or nation with certain rights and privileges.*
- civil war** (I) - *an armed conflict between citizens of the same nation-state.*
- clergy** (II) - *the group or body of ordained persons in a religion, as distinguished from the laity.*
- collective security** (II) - *the organization of nation-states for the purpose of defense.*
- colonization** (IV) - *the act of establishing control over, and settling, a foreign land as a colony.*
- colony** (II) - *a land controlled by another state.*
- common law** (I) - *the unwritten law of England, based on custom or court decisions.*
- communism** (III) - *an economic system based on common ownership, by the people, of all of the factors of production. private property does not exist, and all goods and services are shared equally by everyone.*
- confederation** (II) - *a system of gov't in which power is divided between a weak central authority and relatively stronger states.*
- conservative** (II) - *one who favors tradition, and thus seeks little or no change.*
- constitution** (II) - *a formal plan or system of fundamental principles by which a state is governed.*
- constitutional monarchy** (I) - *a monarchy in which the monarch's power is limited by law.*
- consul** (II) - *a government official whose job it is to look after the welfare of his country's citizens.*
- consumer** (III) - *a person or organization that uses, or consumes, a commodity or service.*
- convention** (II) - *a meeting of representatives for discussion of and action on matters of common concern.*
- corvee** (II) - *unpaid labor for one day exacted like a tax by a feudal lord.*
- coup** (II) - *a sudden seizure of political power in a nation-state. (aka "coup d'etat")*
- covenant** (I) - *a binding promise or agreement.*
- czar** (II) - *Russian for emperor; from the Latin word Caesar.*
- debt** (II) - *something that is owed to another.*
- demand** (III) - *in economics, the desire and ability to purchase.*
- democracy** (I) - *a gov't controlled by its citizens, either directly or indirectly through representatives.*
- depose** (II) - *to remove or overthrow from office or position.*
- dictator** (I) - *a ruler who has absolute, unrestricted control in a gov't without hereditary succession.*
- diplomacy** (II) - *the conduct by gov't officials of negotiations between nation-states.*

direct control (IV) - *to govern a colony directly from the mother country, with out the use of native officials.*

direct democracy (I) - *a form of gov't in which people collectively make decisions for themselves, rather than through representatives.*

divine (I) - *to be of or from the gods.*

divine right (I) - *the belief that as God's representative on Earth, a ruler is answerable only to God.*

domestic (I) - *of or pertaining to the home, the family, or to one's own country.*

due process of law (I) - *administration of the law by proceeding according to established legal principles that protect individual rights.*

dynasty (I) - *a series of rulers from the same family.*

economic (II) - *pertaining to the production, distribution, and use of resources.*

emigrate (III) - *to permanently exit or leave a land, country, or territory for the purpose of migration.*

empire (I) - *a political unit having an extensive territory that extends beyond the recognized homeland.*

entrepreneur (III) - *one who organizes and manages the factors of production by taking on the risks of starting a business.*

estate (II) - *one of the three social classes in pre-Revolutionary France.*

evolution (IV) - *a process of gradual change or development.*

executive (I) - *the branch of gov't whose duty it is to enforce the laws of a nation-state.*

exile (II) - *to be banned or expelled from one's homeland.*

extra-territorial rights (IV) - *an exemption of foreign residents from the laws of a country.*

faction (II) - *a group or subdivision within a larger group.*

factors of production (III) - *the resources - land, labor, and capital - that are needed to produce goods and services.*

factory (III) - *a large building in which machinery is used to manufacture goods.*

faith (I) - *belief that is not based on proof.*

federal system (II) - *a system of gov't in which power is divided between a strong central authority and relatively weaker states.*

folk (III) - *having unknown origins and reflecting the traditions forms and customs of a society.*

foreign minister (II) - *a gov't official placed in charge of the conduct of international diplomacy for a nation-state.*

free market (III) - *an economic system of unrestricted competition, without gov't regulation.*

free trade (III) - *trade without any restrictions, such as taxes (tariffs) or quantity limits (quotas).*

guerrilla (II) - *a member of a loosely organized fighting force that makes surprise attacks on enemy troops occupying his country.*

guillotine (II) - *a machine used for executing people by beheading them.*

hereditary (IV) - *to be passed from one generation to the next.*

heresy (I) - *believing in or promoting ideas that are contradictory to the teachings of a religion.*

home rule (IV) - *to have self-government in local matters.*

idealism (IV) - *the pursuit of high or noble principles, purposes, or goals.*

immigrant (III) - *one who permanently comes into a land, country, or territory for the purpose of migration.*

imperialism (IV) - *a policy in which a strong nation-state seeks to dominate other (foreign) territories politically, economically and/or socially.*

indirect democracy (I) - *Representative gov't in which citizens vote for people to represent them and make laws.*

industry (III) - *the collection of all manufacturing or productive enterprises in a particular field.*

infrastructure (IV) - *the basic, underlying framework, facilities, and systems of a nation-state for providing transportation, communication, power, and social services.*

judicial (I) - *the branch of gov't whose duty it is to interpret the laws of a nation-state.*

jury (I) - *a group of persons sworn to render a verdict or true answer on questions submitted to them.*

Kaiser (IV) - *German for "emperor," from the Latin word caesar.*

laissez-faire (III) - *the idea that government should keep its "hands-off" and not interfere with or regulate industries and business.*

legislative (I) - *the branch of gov't whose duty it is to make the laws of a nation-state.*

legitimacy (II) - *the hereditary right of a monarch to rule.*

leviathan (I) - *anything of immense size and power; a Biblical sea monster.*

liberal (II) - *one who seeks reform, and thus supports some moderate change.*

majority (II) - *more than one-half; 50% + 1.*

mercenary (II) - *a professional soldier hired to serve in the military of a foreign country.*

mercantilism (III) - *an economic policy whereby nations sought to increase their power by acquiring as much wealth as possible.*

merit (II) - *a claim to respect and praise for excellence or worth.*

messiah (I) - *the anointed or chosen one; a savior.*

middle-class (III) - *a social class made up of skilled workers, professionals, businesspeople (bourgeoisie), and wealthy farmers.*

migrate (III) – to move permanently from one home or location to another.

mobilize (II) - to prepare a nation-state and its citizens for war.

monarchy (I) - a gov't in which power is in the hands of a hereditary ruler.

monotheism (I) – belief in one god.

morale (II) - the emotional or mental condition of people in the face of opposition or hardship.

mythology (I) - a set of stories, traditions, or beliefs associated with a particular group.

narcotic (IV) - a habit-forming substance that blunts the senses.

nationalism (II) –loyalty to one's own people or nation.

natural laws (I) - patterns and explanations of the world discovered through reason and intelligence.

natural rights (I) - the rights that all people are born with, including: life, liberty, property, and health.

neutral zone (IV) - a territory without claim located between two opposing sides.

neutrality (IV) - a policy or strategy by which one does not choose sides in a war or conflict.

nobility (I) - the noble, privileged class in a country.

parliament (I) - a legislative body.

partition (II) - to divide into smaller parts.

paternalism (IV) - the practice of governing in the manner of a father, providing for basic care and needs.

penal (IV) - having to do with punishment for crimes or other offenses.

philosopher (I) - a thinker who uses logic and reason to investigate questions about the world.

philosophe (I) - one of a group of social thinkers in France during the Enlightenment.

piecemeal (III) - gradually, or one piece at a time.

plantation (IV) - a large farm or estate, typically in a tropical climate, organized for the cultivation of a cash crop.

plebiscite (II) - a direct vote in which a country's people have the opportunity to approve or reject a proposal.

political (III) - having to do with the affairs of a state or its government.

preamble (II) – an introductory statement of intent or purpose, ie. Preamble of the U.S. Constitution.

precedent (I) - any act, decision, or case that serves as a guide for similar situations that follow.

predecessor (II) - a person who comes before another in an office or position.

prime minister (IV) - title often given to a monarch's chief advisor; also, in countries such as the UK, the leader of parliament.

profit (III) – revenue (money in) minus costs (money out) = profit

proletariat (III) – name given to the industrial working-class by Marx and Engels.

prophet (I) - a human messenger of the gods.

protectorate (IV) - a relatively weak state or territory that is protected by, and partly controlled by a stronger state.

radical (II) - one who seeks revolutionary, or complete/total, change.

rational (I) - derived from reason or based on reasoning.

Realpolitik (IV) - a German expression indicating practical decision-making in politics, based on power rather than ideals.

reason (I) - intelligent and dispassionate thought, often based on fact or scientific proof.

recant (I) - to formally withdraw or disavow a statement, opinion, or belief.

reform (III) – change or improvement that is usually carried out at a moderate pace.

refractory (II) - to be disobedient by refusing to obey orders or commands.

refuge (II) – to seek protection.

reich (IV) - German for "empire"

republic (I) - representative gov't without a monarch.

reversionist (III) - attempting to reevaluate and restate the past based on newly acquired standards.

revolution (I) - a sudden and complete change, such as the overthrow and replacement of an established gov't.

royalist (II) - one who supports monarchical government.

sanitation (III) – measures taken for the sake of cleanliness and public health, such as the disposal of sewage.

scorched-earth policy (II) – practice of destroying a country's own resources during war to prevent an enemy from having their use.

self-sufficient (IV) - the ability to supply one's own needs without external assistance.

separation of power (I) - the assignment of specific powers to different branches of gov't.

shogun (IV) - a Japanese military governor.

smuggling (II) – to import (bring in) or export (take out) goods in violation of the law.

socialism (III) - an economic system based on common ownership, by the people, of the factors of production, as well as on the belief that government should regulate ("hands-on") industries and business to improve living and working conditions of the working-class.

sphere of influence (IV) - *a foreign region over which a relatively stronger nation-state has control over trade and other economic activities.*

spinner (III) - *one who spins raw wool or cotton into thread.*

strategic (II) - *to be important or essential to the conduct of strategy, such as war.*

strike (III) - *to refuse to work in order to force an employer to meet certain demands.*

succession (I) - *the act or process by which one person follows another in acquiring a title or throne.*

suffrage (III) - *the right to vote.*

supernatural (III) - *to be unexplainable by being above or beyond what can be explained by natural law or phenomena.*

textile (III) - *any cloth or goods produced by weaving.*

totalitarian (I) - *gov't control over every aspect of public and private life, both actions and thoughts.*

traitor (I) - *a person who betrays his/her own country.*

treason (II) - *betrayal of one's own country or nation.*

tyrant (I) - *a ruler who uses power oppressively or unjustly.*

union (III) - *an association of workers formed to bargain for better working conditions and higher wages.*

unredeemed (IV) - *to be unclaimed.*

urban (III) - *having to do with the city.*

utility (III) - *the benefit or usefulness received from something.*

virtue (II) - *moral goodness, excellence, and righteousness; to not be corrupt.*

weaver (III) - *one who weaves thread into cloth.*