

## Glossary

**adaptation:** the changing of attitudes and behaviours to suit a new situation

**aesthetics:** a sense of what is beautiful

**alliance:** a formal agreement to cooperate

**altepetl:** Meso-American city-state

**aristocracy:** the nobility or those with inherited titles

**armory:** a place where weapons and ammunition are kept

**assimilate:** to be absorbed into a larger group, often by giving up aspects of identity

**astrolabe:** an instrument used to measure the locations of stars and planets as an aid to navigation

**astrology:** the study of planets, stars, and comets in the belief that their movements and positions affect daily life

**Bakufu:** the centralized military government, headed by the shogun

**basilica:** a Roman Catholic cathedral of particular honour

**belief:** something accepted as true

**bias:** a prejudice that interferes with fair judgment

**Byzantine Empire:** the eastern part of the Roman Empire in existence from the 4th to 15th centuries

**cacao beans:** the dried seeds of a tropical bush, used for processing into cocoa and chocolate; used as a form of currency by the Aztec

**capitalist society:** a society with an economic system that depends on private investment and profit

**cartography:** the science of mapmaking

**CE:** Common Era, referring to a way of numbering years, accepted commonly throughout the world, numbering from the birth of Jesus Christ

**character traits:** the qualities or features that distinguish one person or group from another

**Christianity:** the religion of the Christians, based on a belief in one God, as told in the Old Testament of the Bible and the teaching of Jesus in the New Testament

**circumnavigate:** to go around the whole of the Earth's circumference

**city-state:** a city that governs itself and the countryside surrounding it

**codex:** an ancient manuscript in book form

**commodore:** a former US Navy ranking above captain and below rear admiral

**compromise:** a settlement through mutual concession

**confrontation:** the clashing of forces or ideas

**conquistador:** one who conquers; specifically, a leader in the Spanish conquest of America and especially of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century

**conscript:** to force someone to join or enlist in an enterprise

**consensus:** a decision reached through common agreement

**conservative:** averse to rapid change; favouring the status quo

**constitutional government:** a government in which operation is controlled by a set list of rules

**consumerism:** focusing on collecting and using material goods or products

**contemporary:** of the time

**cottage industry:** an industry whose force consists of families or individuals working at home with their own equipment

**coup:** from the French expression *coup d'État*, a sudden violent overthrow of a government

**court:** the families, advisors, and other members of a royal or noble household

**crisis:** a situation of urgent need or great danger

**crucifixion:** putting to death by fastening to a cross

**crusade:** a campaign in favour of a cause; historically, a medieval Christian military expedition to recover the Holy Land from the Muslims

**czar:** Russian monarch

**daimyo:** a feudal lord of a region in Japan

**Dajokan:** the Japanese government structure implemented during the Meiji Period

**democracy:** a form of government in which the citizens exercise power, either directly or through elected representatives

**despot:** a leader with unlimited power; a tyrant or oppressor

**destiny:** all that is supposedly predetermined to happen to someone or something in spite of all efforts to change or prevent it

**diplomacy:** the skill or tact in handling negotiations, especially in government

- discipline:** a branch or category of learning or study
- disdain:** to treat with contempt; to look down on
- diversity:** variety
- domestic products:** the goods produced within a country
- ecological zone:** a physical area with specific traits of climate, soil, altitude, and so on that determine its particular plants and animals
- edict:** legal order; a command to the public by an authority
- emperor:** the hereditary ruler of Japan
- entourage:** a group of attendants or other people who accompany someone, usually of important rank
- epoch:** a period of history marked by notable events
- equinox:** the two times of the year, around March 21 and September 21, when day and night are equal
- era:** a historical time period
- ethnocentrism:** a belief that one's own race or culture is superior to others
- Eurasia:** the combined continents of Europe and Asia
- expansionism:** a government policy encouraging territorial or economic expansion to other countries, often by force
- fact:** a specific thing known to be true or to exist
- feudal system:** a political-economic-social system of landholding, in place in much of Europe in the Middle Ages. Class structure and roles were very rigid.
- feudalism:** the feudal system
- fiefdom:** a piece of land under a person's control
- filial:** showing proper respect
- Flemish:** the language and nationality of the powerful medieval principality of Flanders, now divided among Belgium, France, and the Netherlands
- fresco:** a watercolour painting done on a wall or ceiling on wet plaster
- garrison:** the troops assigned to a military post
- genealogy:** family history
- guild:** an organization of craftsmen or merchants
- gunboat diplomacy:** political negotiation supported by the threat or use of military force
- hacienda:** estate; plantation
- Han:** the local government in each domain (province), ruled by a daimyo
- heresy:** an opinion against the beliefs of a given religion
- hierarchical:** based on classes of status or authority ranked one above the other
- history:** the total accumulation of the experiences of a people; a continuous chronological record of events; the study of past events
- human rights:** the basic rights believed to belong to every person, such as the right to freedom, to justice, and to religion
- humanism:** a system of thought that centres on humans and their values, potential, and worth; concerned with the needs and welfare of humans
- hypothesis:** an explanation that seems likely to be true; a possible explanation that has not been tested
- identity:** an individual's perception of who he or she is; a sense of self. A person may have many identities, depending on the groups to which he or she belongs.
- imperialism:** the policy of a country or empire to extend its authority or domination by political, economic, or military means
- impersonate:** to pretend to be someone or something else, either to entertain or to deceive
- import tariff:** the taxes on goods coming into a country; imposed to make imported goods more expensive in relation to domestic products
- incarnation:** a deity or spirit taking a physical form
- incentive:** a motivation
- indigenous:** referring to the original inhabitants of a region
- industrialized:** having large industries as an important feature in a country or an economic system
- inflation:** an increase in prices and a decrease in the purchasing power of money
- inviolable:** not to be violated or injured

- Islam:** the religion of the Muslims, based on a belief in one God, based on the teachings of Muhammad as revealed in the Koran (Qur'an)
- isolate:** to seclude; to follow a policy of having no relationships with other nations
- Judaism:** the religion of the Jews, based on a belief in one God, as told in the Hebrew Bible, referred to as the Old Testament by Christians, and the teaching of rabbis
- koku:** a Japanese measurement equal to approximately 175 litres of rice
- liberal:** favouring a relaxing of social traditions; favouring personal freedom
- literate:** able to read and write
- logic:** the science of reasoning and proving arguments
- mercenary:** selling services for money, especially military services
- Meso-America:** a region stretching from central Mexico to Nicaragua, usually used in terms of the region's ancient civilizations and Aboriginal cultures
- metropolis:** a large, important city of a country or region
- Middle Ages:** a historical period in Europe stretching from the fall of the Roman Empire in the 4th century to the beginning of the Renaissance in the 14th century
- militarism:** the tendency, belief, or policy that a country should maintain a strong military force and be prepared to use it to advance national interests
- modernize:** to adopt new ideas and technologies that are considered to be of the present time or times not long past
- monopoly:** the exclusive possession or control
- Moors:** a Muslim people of Berber and Arab descent from North Africa. They conquered the Iberian peninsula in the 8th century
- mortality:** death
- mother tongue:** one's native language from birth
- multicultural:** many cultures
- nation:** a group of people, mainly of common descent, history, and language, often forming a state or inhabiting a territory
- national income:** the money generated by all services, goods, and products produced by a country, usually measured quarterly or annually
- nationalistic:** patriotic, sometimes to the extreme
- objective:** dealing with facts or objects, not with thoughts or feelings; not biased
- obsidian:** a dark natural glass formed by the cooling of molten lava, used to create razor-sharp knives
- oligarchy:** a form of government in which a few people have the power
- omen:** an event or item predicting future good or evil
- opinion:** a view or belief based on judgment rather than knowledge
- opulent:** luxurious or lavish
- oral tradition:** the passing of cultural knowledge, beliefs, and stories to the next generation through speaking rather than writing; notably used by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit societies of the Americas. The oral tradition was also the key method of passing on cultural knowledge in early Asian, European, African, and Australian societies.
- papacy:** the pope and the government of the Roman Catholic Church
- parish:** a district that has its own Christian church and minister or priest
- patron of the arts:** a person who provides financial or other support for artists
- perspective:** a way of looking at the world; an interpretation of a particular event (often applied to a group's interpretation)
- perspective:** the artistic technique of showing depth and three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface
- pestilence:** a usually fatal epidemic disease
- pilgrim:** a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious purposes
- plateau:** a large raised area of mostly level land
- pluralistic:** describing a society in which members of minority groups maintain their different cultural traditions
- popular culture:** the cultural activities that appeal to the current tastes of the general public
- pre-Columbian:** referring to the time in the Americas before Columbus arrived
- prefecture:** an administrative district in Japan, somewhat like a large county

- primary sources of information:** original sources of information, such as diaries, eyewitness accounts, personal stories, photographs, or artifacts
- protectorate:** country under the protection or control of another
- Protestant:** a member of any of the western Christian churches that are not Roman Catholic
- Protestant Reformation:** the 16th-century movement to reform the doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, which resulted in the formation of Protestant churches
- quality of life:** the sense of safety, comfort, security, health, and happiness that a person has in his or her life
- ratify:** to approve formally
- regalia:** distinctive, elaborate, or emblematic clothing or decorations
- Renaissance:** (from the French *renaître*, born again) a historical period that originated in Italy in the 14th century, known for the revival of classical art, architecture, literature, and learning
- representative government:** a government in which decisions are made by elected representatives
- republic:** a state in which power is held by the people or their representatives
- resources:** the means available to a society to achieve a goal; for example, money, productive land, educated citizens
- rhetoric:** the art of persuasive speaking and writing
- saline:** salty; consisting of salt
- secondary sources of information:** sources of information created by someone who has interpreted primary sources and other sources of information, such as in books, reports, or encyclopedia entries
- secular:** having to do with physical things; the opposite of spiritual
- semi-nomadic:** partially settled and partially moving around
- seppuku:** ritual suicide by disembowelment by a sword; also known as hara-kiri
- shogun:** the leader of the military government in Japan
- society:** a group of people linked by common activities or interests and sharing a location; group of humans defined by mutual interests, shared institutions, and a common culture
- solstice:** either of the two times of the year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the equator. In the northern hemisphere, the summer solstice (about June 21) is the longest day of the year and the winter solstice (about December 22) is the shortest
- sovereignty:** supreme power and authority; the freedom of a country or political unit from outside control
- status quo:** the existing way of doing things
- synthesize:** to combine parts or elements into a whole
- system:** a set of connected procedures, rules, or structures for dealing with some aspect of society; for example, a school system, a transportation system, a medical system
- Templo Mayor:** the major temple in the centre of Tenochtitlan, dedicated to the god Huitzilopochtli
- tribute:** money and goods demanded on an ongoing basis
- Trinity:** a Christian belief that God consists of three parts: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit
- troubadour:** a travelling singer/ musician
- urbanization:** the movement of population away from the countryside and into cities
- utopia:** a perfect world
- value:** a moral standard or principle of behaviour of a person or group; a personal or group judgment as to what is important or valuable in life
- value judgment:** an opinion based on a person's individual values and beliefs
- vellum:** fine parchment made from the hide of calves
- vernacular:** local, common, or native, referring in particular to languages
- Western world:** societies that are based on the worldview that developed in Western Europe