

Glossary

abolition—cabinet

A

- abolition** the immediate ending of slavery (p. 199)
- affirmative action** an active effort to improve employment or educational opportunities for minorities (p. 813)
- alien** a person living in a country who is not a citizen of that country (p. 157)
- allotment** a plot of land assigned to an individual or family for cultivation (p. 302)
- amendment** a change to the Constitution (p. 112)
- Americanization** causing someone to acquire American traits and characteristics (p. 357)
- amnesty** the act of granting a pardon to a large group of people (p. 267)
- amphtrac** an amphibious tractor used to move troops from ships to shore (p. 636)
- anarchist** person who believes that there should be no government (p. 483)
- annexation** incorporating a territory within the domain of a country (p. 207)
- annuity** money paid by contract on regular intervals (p. 298)
- appeasement** accepting demands in order to avoid conflict (p. 590)
- appropriate** to allocate funds for spending (p. 124)
- arbitration** settling a dispute by agreeing to accept the decision of an impartial outsider (pp. 330, 429)
- armistice** a temporary agreement to end fighting (p. 468)
- assembly line** a production system with machines and workers arranged so that each person performs an assigned task again and again as the item passes before him or her (p. 515)
- assimilate** to absorb a group into the culture of a larger population (p. 302)
- astrolabe** device used to determine direction, latitude, and local time (p. 21)
- attrition** the act of wearing down by constant harassment or attack (p. 247)

B

- baby boom** a marked rise in birthrate, such as occurred in the United States following World War II (p. 694)
- bailiff** minor officer of the courts (p. 536)
- benevolent society** an association focusing on spreading the word of God and combating social problems (p. 195)

- bilingualism** the practice of teaching immigrant students in their own language (p. 815)
- bill** a proposed law (p. 125)
- binding arbitration** process whereby a neutral party hears arguments from two opposing sides and makes a decision that both must accept (p. 567)
- black codes** laws passed in the South just after the Civil War aimed at controlling freedmen and enabling plantation owners to exploit African American workers (p. 269)
- black power** the mobilization of the political and economic power of African Americans, especially to compel respect for their rights and to improve their condition (p. 764)
- blitzkrieg** name given to sudden violent offensive attacks the Germans used during World War II; “lightning war” (p. 591)
- blockade runner** ship that runs through a blockade, usually to smuggle goods through a protected area (p. 250)
- blue-collar** jobs in the manual labor field, particularly those requiring protective clothing (p. 693)
- blues** style of music evolving from African American spirituals and noted for its melancholy sound (p. 500)
- Bohemian** a person (as an artist or writer) leading an unconventional lifestyle (p. 493)
- bonanza farm** a large, highly-profitable wheat farm (p. 294)
- bond** a note issued by the government which promises to pay off a loan with interest (p. 153)
- bounty** money given as a reward, as to encourage enlistment in the army (p. 250)
- brinkmanship** the willingness to go to the brink of war to force an opponent to back down (p. 677)
- broker state** role of the government to work out conflicts among competing interest groups (p. 577)
- budget deficit** the amount by which expenses exceed income (p. 867)
- bull market** a long period of rising stock prices (p. 531)
- burgesses** representatives to the general assembly of the Virginia colony (p. 46)
- busing** a policy of transporting children to schools outside their neighborhoods to achieve greater racial balance (p. 814)

C

- cabinet** a group of advisers to the president (pp. 126, 153)

capital gains tax-credibility gap

- capital gains tax** a federal tax paid by businesses and investors when they sell stocks or real estate (p. 886)
- capitalist** person who invests wealth, particularly money, in a business (p. 63)
- caravel** sailing ship capable of long-distance exploration (p. 21)
- carpetbagger** name given to many Northerners who moved to the South after the Civil War and supported the Republicans (p. 273)
- cash crop** a crop grown primarily for profit (p. 59)
- caucus** a meeting in which members of a political party choose their party's candidate for president or decide policy (p. 190)
- censure** to express a formal disapproval of an action (p. 673)
- chad** a small piece of cardboard produced by punching a data card (p. 908)
- charter** a constitution (p. 647)
- checks and balances** the system in which each branch of government has the ability to limit the power of the other branches to prevent any from becoming too powerful (p. 112)
- circumnavigate** to sail around (p. 27)
- civilization** a highly organized society marked by knowledge of trade, government, the arts, science, and, often, written language (p. 13)
- closed shop** an agreement in which a company agrees to hire only union members (pp. 330, 687)
- cloture** a motion which ends debate and calls for an immediate vote, possible in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 60 senators (p. 758)
- Cold War** the ideological and often confrontational conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union between 1946 and 1990 (p. 654)
- Columbian Exchange** series of complex societal and environmental interactions between Europe and the Americas begun with Columbus's first voyage (p. 28)
- commission plan** a plan in which a city's government is divided into different departments with different functions, each placed under the control of a commissioner (p. 420)
- committee of correspondence** committee organized in each colony to communicate with and unify the colonies (p. 83)
- commune** a group living arrangement in which members share everything and work together (p. 803)
- concentration camp** a camp where persons are detained or confined (p. 599)
- concurrent powers** those powers which the state and federal governments share (p. 123)
- Confederacy** nation declared to have been formed by the southern states that seceded from the Union in 1860-1861 (p. 235)
- conference committee** a special joint committee organized to help the House and Senate work on a compromise bill acceptable to both houses (p. 125)
- conquistador** Spanish for conqueror, the men who led the expeditions to conquer the Americas (p. 32)
- conscription** requiring people to enter military service (pp. 246, 457)
- consensus** general agreement (p. 734)
- conservative** a person who believes government power, particularly in the economy, should be limited in order to maximize individual freedom (p. 861)
- constituent** a resident of an electoral district (p. 125)
- containment** the policy or process of preventing the expansion of a hostile power (p. 660)
- contra** Spanish for counter-revolutionary, an anti-Sandinista guerrilla force in Nicaragua (p. 870)
- contraband** goods whose importation, exportation, or possession is illegal (pp. 164, 453)
- convoy** a group that travels with something, such as a ship, to protect it (p. 466)
- convoy system** a system in which merchant ships travel with naval vessels for protection (p. 622)
- cooperative** store where farmers bought products from each other; an enterprise owned and operated by those who use its services (p. 374)
- cooperative individualism** President Hoover's policy of encouraging manufacturers and distributors to form their own organizations and volunteer information to the federal government in an effort to stimulate the economy (p. 522)
- corporation** an organization that is authorized by law to carry on an activity but treated as though it were a single person (p. 320)
- "corrupt bargain"** an illegitimate agreement between politicians (p. 189)
- cost of living** the cost of purchasing goods and services essential for survival (p. 471)
- cost-plus** a government contract to pay a manufacturer the cost to produce an item plus a guaranteed percentage (p. 613)
- cotton gin** a machine that removed seeds from cotton fiber (p. 182)
- counterculture** a culture with values and beliefs different than the mainstream (p. 802)
- covert** not openly shown or engaged in (p. 679)
- creationism** the belief that God created the world and everything in it, usually in the way described in Genesis (p. 486)
- credibility gap** lack of trust or believability (p. 785)

customs duty a tax on imports and exports (p. 77)

D

de facto segregation segregation by custom and tradition (p. 747)

debtor a person who owes a debt, usually a financial debt that cannot be paid (p. 56)

deficit spending government practice of spending borrowed money rather than raising taxes, usually an attempt to boost the economy (p. 565)

deflation a decline in the volume of available money or credit that results in lower prices, and, therefore, increases the buying power of money (pp. 327, 373)

deport to expel individuals from the country (p. 474)

détente a policy which attempts to relax or ease tensions between nations (p. 836)

developing nation a nation whose economy is primarily agricultural (p. 679)

direct primary a vote held by all members of a political party to decide their candidate for public office (p. 421)

disco popular dance music characterized by hypnotic rhythm, repetitive lyrics, and electronically produced sounds (p. 853)

disfranchise to deprive of the right to vote (p. 616)

DNA the genetic material in cells that determines all forms of life (p. 895)

dollar diplomacy a policy of joining the business interests of a country with its diplomatic interests abroad (p. 413)

domino theory the belief that if one nation in Asia fell to the Communists, neighboring countries would follow (p. 774)

dove a person in favor of the United States withdrawing from the Vietnam War (p. 787)

downsizing reducing a company in size by laying off workers and managers to become more efficient (p. 885)

dry farming a way of farming dry land in which seeds are planted deep in the ground where there is some moisture (p. 294)

due process a judicial requirement that laws may not treat individuals unfairly, arbitrarily, or unreasonably, and that courts must follow proper procedures and rules when trying cases (pp. 128, 722)

Dust Bowl name given to the area of the southern Great Plains severely damaged by droughts and dust storms during the 1930s (p. 537)

dynamic conservatism policy of balancing economic conservatism with some activism (p. 689)

E

economies of scale the reduction in the cost of a good brought about especially by increased production at a given facility (p. 320)

emancipation the act or process of freeing enslaved persons (p. 199)

embargo a government ban on trade with other countries (pp. 164, 844)

empresario a person who arranged for the settlement of Texas in the 1800s (p. 204)

enclosure movement an economic change in England in the 1500s in which landowners converted agricultural estates into sheep farms and evicted the tenant farmers (p. 44)

encomienda system of rewarding conquistadors tracts of land, including the right to tax and exact labor from Native Americans (p. 33)

Enlightenment movement during the 1700s that promoted science, knowledge, and reason (p. 68)

entrepreneur one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise (pp. 63, 310)

enumerated powers powers listed in the Constitution as belonging to the federal government (pp. 123, 154)

espionage spying, especially to gain government secrets (p. 460)

ethnic cleansing the expulsion, imprisonment, or killing of ethnic minorities by a dominant majority group (p. 900)

eugenics a pseudo-science that deals with the improvement of hereditary qualities of a race or breed (p. 483)

euro the basic currency shared by the countries of the European Union since 1999 (p. 903)

evolution the scientific theory that humans and other forms of life have evolved over time (p. 486)

excise tax a tax paid by the manufacturer of a product and passed on to those who buy the product (p. 155)

executive privilege principle stating that communications of the executive branch should remain confidential to protect national security (p. 841)

extermination camp a camp where prisoners were sent to be executed (p. 599)

F

fallout radioactive particles dispersed by a nuclear explosion (p. 674)

fallout shelter a shelter built with the intent to house and protect people from nuclear fallout (p. 674)

fascism a political system headed by a dictator that calls for extreme nationalism and racism and no tolerance of opposition (p. 585)

"favorite son" men who enjoyed the support of leaders from their own state and region (p. 188)

featherbedding practice of limiting work output in order to create more jobs (p. 687)

federalism political system in which power is divided between the national and state governments (pp. 111, 122)

feminism the belief that men and women should be equal politically, economically, and socially (p. 807)

feudalism political system in which powerful leaders gave land to nobles in exchange for pledges of loyalty and service (p. 19)

filibuster an attempt to kill a bill by having a group of senators take turns speaking continuously so that a vote cannot take place (p. 758)

fireside chats radio broadcasts made by FDR to the American people to explain his initiatives (p. 558)

fixed costs costs a company must pay regardless of whether or not it is operating (p. 320)

flapper a young woman of the 1920s who showed freedom from convention, especially in dress (p. 485)

flexible response the buildup of conventional troops and weapons to allow a nation to fight a limited war without using nuclear weapons (p. 725)

forage to search or raid for food (p. 258)

foreclose to take possession of a property from a mortgagor because of defaults on payments (p. 545)

fossil fuel a fuel formed in the earth from decayed plant or animal remains (p. 822)

franchise the right or license to market a company's goods or services in an area, such as a store of a chain operation (p. 693)

freedmen persons freed from slavery (p. 268)

Freedom Riders name given to a group of people who traveled to the South in 1961 to protest the South's refusal to integrate bus terminals (p. 755)

fundamentalist a Protestant evangelical Christian who believes in being saved from sins by being born again and making a personal commitment to follow Jesus Christ (p. 486)

G

general strike a strike involving all the workers in a particular geographic location (p. 472)

generation gap a cultural separation between parents and their children (p. 702)

glacier a huge ice sheet (p. 13)

glasnost a Soviet policy permitting open discussion of political and social issues and freer dissemination of news and information (p. 882)

global warming an increase in average world temperatures over time (p. 905)

gold standard a monetary standard in which one ounce of gold equaled a set number of dollars (p. 555)

goldbug a person who believes that American currency should be based on a gold standard (p. 378)

graduated income tax tax based on the net income of an individual or business and which taxes different income levels at different rates (p. 376)

graft the acquisition of money in dishonest ways, as in bribing a politician (pp. 273, 345)

grandfather clause a clause that allowed individuals who did not pass the literacy test to vote if their fathers or grandfathers had voted before Reconstruction began; an exception to a law based on preexisting circumstances (p. 382)

grassroots movement a group of people organizing at the local or community level, away from political or cultural centers (p. 886)

Great Awakening movement during the 1700s that stressed dependence on God (p. 69)

greenback a piece of U.S. paper money first issued by the North during the Civil War (pp. 245, 373)

gross national product the total value of goods and services produced by a country during a year (p. 308)

guerrilla armed band that carries out surprise attacks and sabotage rather than open warfare (pp. 449, 774)

guerrilla warfare a hit-and-run technique used in fighting a war; fighting by small bands of warriors using tactics such as sudden ambushes (p. 95)

guru a person with knowledge or expertise, especially a religious teacher and spiritual guide in Hinduism (p. 851)

H

habeas corpus a legal order for an inquiry to determine whether a person has been lawfully imprisoned (p. 246)

hacienda a huge ranch (p. 33)

hardtack a hard biscuit made of wheat flour (p. 254)

hawk someone who believed the United States should continue its military efforts in Vietnam (p. 787)

headright system in which settlers were granted land in exchange for settling in Virginia (p. 46)

hedgerow row of shrubs or trees surrounding a field, often on a dirt wall (p. 641)

hemispheric defense zone national policy during World War II that declared the Western Hemisphere to be neutral and that the United States would patrol this region against German submarines (p. 603)

heretic a dissenter from established church beliefs (p. 50)

hobo a homeless and usually penniless wanderer (p. 536)

holding company a company whose primary business is owning a controlling share of stock in other companies (p. 322)

Holocaust name given to the mass slaughter of Jews and other groups by the Nazis during World War II (p. 595)

homestead method of acquiring a piece of U.S. public land by living on and cultivating it (p. 293)

Hooverville nickname given to shantytowns in the United States during the Depression (p. 536)

horizontal integration the combining of competing firms into one corporation (p. 321)

I

Ice Age a period of extremely cold temperatures when part of the planet's surface was covered with massive ice sheets (p. 13)

immunity freedom from prosecution (p. 512)

impeach to formally charge a public official with misconduct in office (pp. 112, 124, 271, 841)

imperialism the actions used by one nation to exercise political or economic control over a smaller or weaker nation (p. 393)

implied powers powers not specifically listed in the Constitution but claimed by the federal government (p. 154)

impound to take possession of (p. 835)

impressment a kind of legalized kidnapping in which people are forced into military service (p. 164)

income tax a tax based on the net income of a person or business (p. 440)

indentured servant an individual who contracts to work for a colonist for a specified number of years in exchange for transportation to the colonies, food, clothing, and shelter (p. 59)

industrial union an organization of common laborers and craft workers in a particular industry (p. 327)

inflation the loss of value of money (pp. 106, 373, 844)

initiative the right of citizens to place a measure or issue before the voters or the legislature for approval (p. 421)

installment buying an item on credit with a monthly plan to pay off the value of the good (p. 534)

insubordination disobedience (p. 437)

insurrection an act of rebellion against the established government (p. 231)

interchangeable parts uniform pieces that can be made in large quantities to replace other identical pieces (p. 180)

internationalism a national policy of actively trading with foreign countries to foster peace and prosperity (p. 588)

Internet an electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world (p. 894)

interposition theory that a state should be able to intervene between the federal government and the people to stop an illegal action (p. 158)

iron curtain the political and military barrier that isolated Soviet-controlled countries of Eastern Europe after World War II (p. 658)

isolationism a national policy of avoiding involvement in world affairs (pp. 523, 587)

J

jazz American style of music that developed from ragtime and blues and which uses syncopated rhythms and melodies (p. 499)

Jim Crow laws statutes or laws created to enforce segregation (p. 382)

jingoisism extreme nationalism marked by aggressive foreign policy (p. 401)

joint committee a committee organized with members from both the House and Senate to work on specific issues (p. 125)

joint-stock company form of business organization in which many investors pool funds to raise large amounts of money for large projects (p. 44)

judicial review power of the Supreme Court to determine whether laws of Congress are constitutional and to strike down those that are not (pp. 127, 162)

juvenile delinquency antisocial or criminal behavior of young people (p. 709)

K

kachina a good spirit that the Pueblo people believed brought messages from the gods to their town each year (p. 15)

kamikaze during World War II, a Japanese suicide pilot whose mission was to crash into his target (p. 637)

L

- labor union** an organization of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests (p. 181)
- laissez-faire** policy that government should interfere as little as possible in the nation's economy (p. 310)
- land grant** a grant of land by the federal government especially for roads, railroads, or agricultural colleges (p. 317)
- letters of marque** licenses issued by Congress to private ship owners authorizing them to attack British merchant ships (p. 97)
- liberal** a person who generally believes the government should take an active role in the economy and in social programs but that the government should not dictate social behavior (p. 861)
- Liberty ship** basic cargo ship used by the United States during World War II (p. 614)
- limited war** a war fought with limited commitment of resources to achieve a limited objective, such as containing communism (p. 665)
- line of demarcation** north-south line of longitude through the Atlantic Ocean dividing lands in the Americas claimed by Spain and Portugal (p. 26)
- linkage** policy of improving relations with the Soviet Union and China in hopes of persuading them to cut back their aid to North Vietnam (p. 790)
- lockout** a company tool to fight union demands by refusing to allow employees to enter its facilities to work (p. 328)
- long drive** driving cattle long distances to a railroad depot for fast transport and great profit (p. 289)
- longhouse** large, rectangular building with barrel-shaped roofs covered in bark, used by some Native Americans (p. 16)
- Loyalist** American colonists who supported Britain and opposed the War for Independence (p. 85)
- lynching** an execution performed without lawful approval (p. 383)

M

- mandate** authorization to act given to a representative (p. 262)
- Manifest Destiny** idea popular in the United States during the 1800s that the country must expand its boundaries to the Pacific Ocean (p. 202)
- manorialism** economic system in which peasants provide services to a feudal lord in exchange for protection (p. 19)
- manumission** the voluntary freeing of enslaved persons (p. 102)

- margin** buying a stock by paying only a fraction of the stock price and borrowing the rest (p. 531)
- margin call** demand by a broker that investors pay back loans made for stocks purchased on margin (p. 531)
- martial law** the law administered by military forces that is invoked by a government in an emergency (p. 236)
- Marxism** theory of socialism in which a class struggle would exist until the workers were finally victorious, creating a classless society (p. 328)
- mass media** a medium of communication (as in television and radio) intended to reach a wide audience (p. 495)
- mass production** the production of large quantities of goods using machinery and often an assembly line (p. 515)
- massive retaliation** a policy of threatening a massive response, including the use of nuclear weapons, against a Communist state trying to seize a peaceful state by force (p. 676)
- maverick** a stray calf with no identifying symbol (p. 290)
- mercantilism** the theory that a state's power depends on its wealth (p. 65)
- microprocessor** a computer processor containing both memory and computing functions on a single chip (p. 893)
- military-industrial complex** an informal relationship that some people believe exists between the military and the defense industry to promote greater military spending and influence government policy (p. 680)
- minutemen** companies of civilian soldiers who boasted they were ready to fight on a minute's notice (p. 85)
- missile gap** belief that the Soviet Union had more nuclear weapons than the United States (p. 719)
- monopoly** total control of a type of industry by one person or one company (p. 321)
- moratorium** a suspension of activity (p. 524)
- most-favored nation** a policy between countries ensuring fair trading practices (p. 156)
- muckraker** a journalist who uncovers abuses and corruption in a society (p. 419)
- mudslinging** attempt to ruin an opponent's reputation with insults (p. 189)
- multinational corporation** large corporations with overseas investments (p. 693)

N

- napalm** a jellied gasoline used for bombs (pp. 644, 780)
- nationalism** loyalty and devotion to a nation (p. 450)
- nativism** a preference for native-born people and a desire to limit immigration (pp. 181, 340)