Vocabulary terms to know

| **Concept/Vocabulary Word** | **Definition** |
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| Civilization | A society with cities, a central government, job specialization, and social classes |
| Cultural Diffusion | The spread of ideas, customs, and technologies from one people to another |
| Dynasty | A series of rulers from a single family |
| Fertile Crescent | Region in the Middle East that was the birthplace of civilization |
| Neolithic Revolution | The shift from food gathering to food production via farming which allows for the growth of civilization |
| Nomads | People with no permanent home, who move from place to place in search of food, water, or pasture |
| Primary Source | A firsthand account of events written by people during the time period in which they occurred |
| Secondary Source | An account or retelling of an event by someone who was not present at the event |
| Theocracy | A government controlled by religious leaders |
| Concept/Vocabulary Word | Definition |
| Alliance | A formal agreement between two or more nations to aid and protect one another |
| Citizen | A person who owes allegiance to a country and is entitled to its protection. |
| City-state | A political unit with its own government structure that includes a municipality and its surrounding lands and villages. |
| Cultural Diffusion | The spread of ideas, customs, and technologies from one people group to another |
| Democracy | A government structure in which citizens participate in their government, usually through voting. |
| Dictator | A political leader with the absolute power and authority. |
| Empire | A group of countries or territories controlled by one ruler. |
| Republic | A government in which citizens chose elected officials to represent them. |
| Schism | A formal division of a religious or political group |
| Concept/Vocabulary Word | Definition |
| Deity | A god or goddess that is the subject of religious worship. |
| Heresy | Any words or actions that go against the accepted teachings or practices of a given religion. |
| Monotheism | A religion that centers around the worship of one deity. |
| Patriarchy | Social system in which leadership, privileges, and inheritance is passed through males from generation to generation. |
| Polytheism | A religion that centers around the worship of multiple deities. |
| Sect | A subgroup or division of a larger religion. |
| Caste System | Social hierarchy in which classes are ascribed to individuals and social mobility does not exist. |
| Cultural Diffusion | The spread of customs, ideas, and technologies from one civilization to another. |
| Feudalism | Social system in which the wealthy own land and the people who live on the land work for the landowner in exchange for protection. |
| Matriarchy | Social system in which leadership, privileges, and inheritance is passed through females from generation to generation. |
| Nomadism | A way of life, forced by a scarcity of resources, in which groups of people continually migrate to find pastures and water. |
| Chivalry | A code of behavior for knights in medieval Europe, stressing ideals such as courage, loyalty, and devotion |
| Crusade | A prolonged, impassioned struggle for what is believed to be a just cause |
| Excommunication | Banishment from the Catholic Church, generally due to heresy |
| Feudalism | A political system in which nobles are granted the use of lands that legally belong to their king, in exchange for their loyalty, military service, and protection of the people who live on the land |
| Pilgrimage | A journey to a place considered sacred for religious purposes |
| Scholasticism | Medieval way of thinking that tried to bring together reason and faith in studies of religion |
| Counter Reformation | The Roman Catholic Church's reaction to the Protestant Reformation in which they reaffirmed doctrinal beliefs and eliminate corruption. |
| English Reformation | Creation of the Protestant Anglican Church in England as a result of conflict between the papacy and Henry VIII. |
| humanism | The emphasis on the importance of individuals, their potential, and their achievements. |
| indulgence | A pardon issued by a religious authority that released a person from the punishments associated with their sins. |
| Protestant Reformation | Period of history in which challenges to the authority of the Catholic church resulted in the creation of a new sect of Christianity. |
| Renaissance | Period of history during which renewed interest in classical culture led to far-reaching changes in art, learning, and views of the world. |
| secularism | The view that the present well-being of mankind should predominate over religious considerations in civil or public affairs. |
| vernacular | The use of common dialects instead of Latin in printed materials making information more accessible to the masses |
| Counter Reformation | The Roman Catholic Church's reaction to the Protestant Reformation in which they reaffirmed doctrinal beliefs and eliminate corruption. |
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| Indulgence | A pardon issued by a religious authority that released a person from the punishments associated with their sins. |
| Printing Press | A device invented by Johannes Gutenberg that increased the speed at which printed materials could be produced |
| Protestant Reformation | Period of history in which challenges to the authority of the Catholic church resulted in the creation of a new sect of Christianity |
| mercantilism | The policy of a nation seeking an increase in wealth and power by establishing a favorable balance of trade. |
| Colonization | A system where one country extends its control over another area, especially for economic benefit |
| Columbian Exchange | The transfer of plants, animals, disease, and technology between the New World and Europe. |
| Commercial Revolution | The expansion of trade and competition among nations caused by the discovery of the New World |
| Mercantilism | Policy of creating a favorable balance of trade by exporting more than you import |
| Middle Passage | Part of the Triangular Trade system on which slaves from Africa were brought to the New World |
| Triangular Trade | Trade system between the Europe, Africa, and the New World |
| Absolute Monarchy | System of government in which a king or queen has complete authority and unchecked power |
| Constitutional Monarchy | System of government in which a king or queen has power that is limited by the law |
| Divine Right | Idea that an absolute monarch derives their power and authority from God. |
| Limited government | The idea that certain restrictions should be placed on government to protect the natural rights of citizens |
| Glorious Revolution | The establishment of a constitutional monarchy in Britain in the late 17th century as a result of the Enlightenment period. |
| Laissez-faire Capitalism | Idea by Smith that government should not interfere with economics and business. |
| Natural Rights | Idea by Locke that all people are guaranteed by birth to the rights of life, liberty, and property. |
| Popular Sovereignty | Idea by Rousseau that political power lies with the people who can create, alter, or abolish the government. |
| Rule of Law | Idea that the law and its consequences apply to all citizens including government officials. |
| Scientific Revolution | Era in history in which thinkers began to experiment, observe, and analyze the natural world. |
| Separation of Powers | Idea by Montesquieu that government power should be divided among branches of government in order to prevent an abuse of power. |
| Social Contract | Theory by John Locke that individuals give up certain rights in order for a government to protect them. |
| The Enlightenment | Era in history in which philosophers applied scientific reasoning to politics in order to analyze and challenge absolute rulers |
| bourgeoisie | Members of the French middle class who sought equality with the First and Second Estates, propelling the Revolution. |
| coup d'etat | An overthrow of the government. |
| nationalism | An intense love for one's country. |
| Old Regime | The division of French society into three social classes established prior to the French Revolution. |
| salutary neglect | Britain's policy of allowing the colonies virtual self-rule in exchange for economic benefits |
| Capitalism | Economic system in which individuals control the factors of production |
| Communism | Economic system in which the government controls the factors of production |
| Assimilation | A policy in which a nation forces or encourages a subject people to adopt its institutions and customs |
| Imperialism | A policy in which a strong nation seeks to dominate other countries politically, socially, and economically. |
| Nationalism | An extreme love for one's country. |
| Paternalism | The policy of treating subject people as if they were children by providing for their needs but not giving them rights |
| Social Darwinism | A social theory which states that the level a person rises to in society and wealth is determined by their genetic background |
| Civil Disobedience | A method of protest that advocates for non-violence |
| Nationalism | An extreme love for one's country that unites its population |
| Racial Hierarchy | Idea that races can be ranked according to the degree to which they are civilized |
| Unification | Act of combining smaller countries into one large country, generally with a shared language or heritage |
| Militarism | The policy of building up a strong armed forces and stockpiling weapons to prepare for war |
| Propaganda | Media designed to influence a person's behavior or thoughts. |
| Total War | The channeling of a nation's entire resources into the war effort. |
| Totalitarianism | Government structure in which a leader has control over all aspects of society, both public and private. |
| Appeasement | Policy of giving into the demands of an aggressor in order to avoid war |
| Depression | Economic condition characterized by low business production and high unemployment |
| Fascism | Government ideology that promotes loyalty to the state and military supremacy |
| League of Nations | Ineffective international peacekeeping organization established after WWI |
| Allied Powers | In WWII, a group of nations including the United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States |
| Appeasement | The policy of giving in to an aggressor's demands in order to prevent conflict. |
| Axis Powers | In WWII, a group of countries led by Nazi Germany, the Kingdom of Italy (however, in the final years, only its northern part, as the Italian Social Republic) and the Empire of Japan. |
| Containment | Policy of attempting to prohibit the spread of communism worldwide. |
| Genocide | Systematic attempt to annihilate an entire population. |
| Iron Curtain | symbolized the ideological and physical boundary dividing Europe into two separate areas from the end of World War II in 1945 until the end of the Cold War in 1991 |
| Total war | Strategy in which a nation channels all its resources toward the war effort |
| Intifada | Uprising or resistance, specifically of Palestinians against Israeli occupation of Gaza strip and the West Bank. |
| Non-state actor | An organization with influence (political, economic, etc) that operates outside the control of a specific country or state. |
| OPEC | Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - an intergovernmental organization of 12 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its member countries. |
| Revolution | Overthrow of a government. |
| Terrorism | The calculated use of violence (or threat of violence) against civilians in order to attain goals that are political, religious, or ideological in nature |
| Carbon footprint | A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by consuming fossil fuels. Can be calculated for a person, group, country, etc. |
| Global interdependence | Nations relying on each other and trading products, innovations, ideas, technologies, etc. |
| Global warming | The graduate increase in the average temperature of the world and other climate changes. |
| Kyoto Protocol | International agreement with the goal of reducing the causes of climate change and stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations. |
| Sanctions | Penalties applied to countries or groups of countries to try to change their policies. They can be economic, military, technological, etc. |
| Social networking | Using specific websites for the purpose of communicating and connecting to other people, typically by posting messages, photographs, videos, or chatting. |
| Water scarcity | When demand for water exceeds supply in a certain region or area |