

Glossary

Some words in this book have been respelled to help you pronounce them. Respelled words have been adapted from *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*; *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*; and *Random House Dictionary*.

Blue words are defined in the margins.

Black words are Academic Vocabulary terms.

A

abolitionist a person who supported abolition, or the ending of slavery

accumulate to increase in quantity or size over time

acknowledge to recognize; to show that something is seen or accepted

acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

a disease that attacks the immune system, making it much harder for the body to fight illness

acquisition the act of getting or obtaining something

acquit to declare a person innocent of a crime or wrongdoing

adapt to change in order to adjust to a new condition or environment

advocate to support an interest or a cause

agrarian a person who favors an agricultural way of life and government policies that support agricultural interests

ally a nation that joins another nation in some common effort, such as fighting a war

ambitious having a desire to be successful or powerful

American Revolution the struggle of the colonies in North America to gain their independence from Great Britain

American System a proposal to the government that called for taxes on imports, federally funded transportation projects, and a new national bank

annex to add a territory to a country. Such an addition is called an annexation.

Appomattox Court House a village in Virginia that was the site of the Confederate surrender to Union forces under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant

arms race a competition to develop and manufacture more and more powerful weapons

Articles of Confederation the first written plan of government for the United States. A confederation is an association of states that cooperate for a common purpose.

assert to state firmly

assimilation the process by which immigrants or other newcomers acquire the attitudes, behaviors, and cultural patterns of the society around them

atomic bomb an immensely powerful weapon whose violent energy comes from splitting the atom (the basic unit of matter)

authority the power or right to control or command

authorize to grant permission for something

B

baby boom a large increase in the number of babies born in proportion to the size of a population

Bill of Rights a formal listing of the basic rights of U.S. citizens

black codes laws passed in 1865 and 1866 in the former Confederate states to limit the rights and freedoms of African Americans

blacklist a list of people or groups who are under suspicion for something and are thus excluded from certain opportunities

black power the call by some civil rights activists, beginning in the mid-1960s, for African Americans to have economic and political power, with an emphasis on not relying on nonviolent protest

blockade a closing off of an area to keep people or supplies from going in or out

bond a government certificate that pays interest; selling bonds is a way for the government to raise money temporarily for some public purpose

boycott to refuse to buy one or more goods from a certain source. An organized refusal by many people is also called a boycott.

Brown v. Board of Education the 1954 Supreme Court ruling declaring that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional

brutality harsh, cruel, or violent treatment of another person

C

capitalism an economic system based on the private ownership of farms and businesses

cash crop a crop, such as tobacco, sugar, and cotton, raised in large quantities and sold for profit

casualty a person or thing injured or destroyed

cease to stop doing something

charter a formal document issued by the king that outlined a colony's geographic boundaries and specified how it would be governed

checks and balances the system that allows each branch of government to limit the powers of the other two branches

civil rights the rights guaranteed by the Constitution to all people as citizens, especially equal treatment under the law

civil servant an employee of the government

civil service a branch of governmental service other than the military, in which individuals are employed based on merit

civil war a war between opposing groups of citizens from the same country

civilized well organized and socially developed

Cold War the global struggle for power and influence between the United States and the Soviet Union that followed World War II

colony a new settlement or territory established and governed by a country in another land

Columbian Exchange the exchange of plants, animals, diseases, and people across the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the Americas

committed to agree or pledge to support someone or something

Common Sense a pamphlet published in 1776 by Thomas Paine that persuaded many American colonists to support independence

communism an economic system based on the idea that farms and businesses should be owned in common by the workers who do the labor

compensation payment given to someone to offset, or make up for, a loss or injury

Compromise of 1850 the agreements made in order to admit California into the Union as a free state. These agreements included allowing the New Mexico and Utah territories to decide whether to allow slavery, outlawing the slave trade in Washington, D.C., and creating a stronger fugitive slave law.

Confederacy another name for the Confederate States of America, made up of the 11 states that seceded from the Union

conform to obey established rules and patterns

confront to meet, especially in a challenge

conquistadors Spanish soldier-explorers, especially those who conquered the native peoples of Mexico and Peru

conservation preservation and protection of a natural resource to prevent overuse, destruction, or neglect

constitution a written plan that provides the basic framework of a government

Constitutional Convention a meeting held in Philadelphia in 1787 at which delegates from the states wrote the U.S. Constitution

consumer goods products intended for personal use by consumers, such as cars, refrigerators, and vacuum cleaners

containment the U.S. policy of fighting the spread of communism by limiting it to countries where it already existed

Continental army the American army during the American Revolution

contract a written agreement signed by two or more parties, which binds those parties to do what is stated in the agreement

contradiction a difference between two statements or situations that means they cannot both be true

controversial when many people have strong opinions on a subject, causing conflict and disagreement

conventional usual or traditional; accepted by most people

convert to change a person's religious beliefs so they accept a different or new religion

coordinate to organize things or people so they work well together

corporation a business that is owned by many investors

cotton gin a hand-operated machine that cleans seeds and other unwanted material from cotton

counterculture a way of life that runs counter to or against society's traditional culture

coureurs de bois French fur trappers who learned many skills from the American Indians with whom they worked and lived

credit an arrangement in which the consumer buys something now with borrowed money and pays off the loan over time

crisis a dangerous moment with a high chance of an unwanted result

crucial very important or necessary

cultural region an area in which a group of people share a similar culture and language

culture a people's way of life, including beliefs, customs, food, dwellings, and clothing

D

D-Day June 6, 1944, the day that the Allied invasion of German-occupied France began

debate to formally discuss an issue

Declaration of Independence the document written to declare the American colonies as an independence nation, free from British rule

Declaration of Sentiments a formal statement of injustices suffered by women, written by the organizers of the Seneca Falls Convention. Sentiments means "beliefs" or "convictions."

defendant a person who is required to defend himself or herself in a legal action. An example is an accused person who is put on trial for a crime.

deforestation the clearing away of forests

democracy a system of government in which the power to govern belongs to the people

democratic ruled by the people. In a democracy, the power to govern belongs to the people.

denounce to declare to be blameworthy or evil

depression a period when economic activity decreases and many people do not have jobs

deprive to withhold or take away something

derive to get from

devote to give time, money, or effort to help a person or cause

dictate to control, or order how something should be done

dictator someone who rules with absolute power, often harshly

diplomacy the art of conducting negotiations with other countries

discriminate to treat a person or group unfairly

discrimination unequal treatment based on a person's race, gender, religion, place of birth, or other arbitrary characteristic

disillusion to cause to stop believing that something is good, important, or true

dispute a strong disagreement

distinct noticeably different

diverse a group of people or things with obvious differences among them

divine heavenly or godlike

domestic relating to issues within a country

domesticated plants or animals that live and breed in a human environment; tame

dominate to be most noticeable within a group

double jeopardy putting a person on trial more than once for the same crime

drastically extreme or sudden

Dred Scott decision a Supreme Court decision in 1857 that held that African Americans could never be citizens of the United States and that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional

due process the concept that the government must follow clear rules and act reasonably as it carries out the law

E

economy the way a society organizes the manufacture and exchange of things of value, such as money, food, products, and services

efficient capable of producing results without wasting materials, time, or energy

Eighteenth Amendment an amendment added to the Constitution in 1919 that prevented the making, sale, or transporting of alcoholic beverages; repealed by the Twenty-First Amendment in 1933

Electoral College the group established by the Constitution to elect the president and vice president. Voters in each state choose their electors.

eliminate to put an end to or get rid of

eloquent to express ideas or feelings in a way that is moving and well-spoken

Emancipation Proclamation an order issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declaring slaves in the Confederate states to be free

embargo a government order that forbids trade with another country

emerge to come into existence or become more noticeable

emphasize to give special meaning or importance to something

English Bill of Rights an act passed by Parliament in 1689 that limited the monarch's power by giving certain powers to Parliament and listing specific rights of the citizens

Enlightenment the "Age of Reason" in 17th- and 18th-century Europe. Enlightenment thinkers emphasized using rational thought to discover truths about nature and society.

enrich to make richer; enhance

ensure to make sure or certain

entrepreneur a person who assembles and organizes the resources necessary to produce goods and services. Entrepreneurs are willing and able to take the risks involved in starting and managing a business.

environment all of the physical surroundings in a place, including land, water, animals, plants, and climate

environmentalist a person who is actively concerned with protecting the environment

espionage the practice of spying or using spies to obtain information

evident easily seen or understood

executive branch the part of government that carries out, or executes, the laws

exert to put out effort to make something happen

expansionism the policy of expanding a nation's territory or economic influence

explicit leaving no question as to meaning or intent

F

fascism a political philosophy or system marked by strong central authority that places the nation above individual rights and freedoms

faction a group of people within a larger group who have different ideas from the main group

federalism the constitutional system that shares power between the national and state governments

The Federalist Papers a series of essays written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay in support of the ratification of the Constitution by the states

Fifteenth Amendment a change to the Constitution, ratified in 1870, declaring that states cannot deny anyone the right to vote because of race or color, or because the person was once a slave

finances the money that a person, company, or nation has, and how it is managed

folk art art made by ordinary people (as opposed to trained artists) using traditional methods

forty-niner a person who joined the rush for gold in California in 1849

Fourteenth Amendment a change to the Constitution, ratified in 1868, granting citizenship to anyone born in the United States and guaranteeing all citizens equal protection of the law

framework a basic set of ideas used to develop a larger plan

Freedmen's Bureau an agency established by Congress at the end of the Civil War to help and protect newly freed black Americans

frontier unexplored wilderness at the edge of the country

fugitive a person who flees or tries to escape (for example, from slavery)

function the use or purpose of something

fundamental basic

G

Gettysburg Address a speech by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 at the site of the Battle of Gettysburg in memory of the Union soldiers who had died trying to protect the ideals of freedom upon which the nation was founded

Great Awakening a revival of religious feeling and belief in the American colonies that began in the 1730s

Great Compromise the plan of government adopted at the Constitutional Convention that established a two-house Congress. In the House of Representatives, representation from each state is based on state population. In the Senate, each state is represented by two senators.

Great Migration beginning during World War I, the movement of millions of African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North and Midwest in order to take jobs in industry

Great Society President Lyndon Johnson's domestic reform program from 1965 to 1969, which focused on social welfare improvements, with the War on Poverty as its centerpiece

guarantee to make something sure or certain

H

habeas corpus the right of an accused person to appear in court so a judge can determine whether he or she is being imprisoned lawfully

Harlem Renaissance a period of creativity among African American artists, writers, and musicians centered in Harlem during the 1920s

Holocaust the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews and other minority groups by the Nazis

homesteader a farmer who is given a plot of public land, or homestead, in return for cultivating it

hostage a person forcibly held by someone who demands that certain things be done before the captured person is freed

hostility unfriendly or angry feelings or behavior

I

ignorant lacking knowledge

immigrant a person who moves from one country to another. Such a movement is called immigration.

immigration the action of leaving one country to permanently live in another

impact to have a direct effect on a person or thing

impeach to charge a government official with an offense committed while in office

imperialism the policy of extending a nation's power by gaining political and economic control over other countries

impose to put in place by authority, such a law, tax, or punishment

independence freedom from control by another government or country

individualism to act based on one's own beliefs

industrialist a person whose wealth comes from the ownership of industrial businesses and who favors government policies that support industry

Industrial Revolution the dramatic change in economies and cultures brought about by the use of machines to do work formerly done by hand

inferior of less importance, value, or quality

inflation a rise in prices caused by an increase in the supply of money and a resulting decline in its value

ingenious an especially original, intelligent, or clever idea

initial at the beginning

initiative a process that allows citizens to propose and pass laws directly without the state legislature

innovation a new idea, method, or invention

integration the blending of people of all races as equals; the opposite of segregation

interest group an organization that actively promotes the view of some part of the public on specific issues in order to influence government policy

internal inside or within

Internet a network that allows computers in locations around the world to share information

internment camp a prison camp where people are forcibly confined

interstate commerce trade and other business dealings between two or more states

intervene to become involved in something in order to influence what happens

intolerance unwillingness or refusal to accept or respect persons of different races or backgrounds or opinions and beliefs different from one's own

intuition to know or understand based on feeling, not fact

invest to give money to a company or bank, or to buy something, in order to make a profit later

isolated separated or set apart from other people or things

isolationism a policy of avoiding political or military agreements with other countries

issue to supply or make available

J

Jacksonian Democracy the idea that the common people should control the government

Jim Crow laws laws enforcing segregation of blacks and whites in the South after the Civil War

judicial branch the part of government, consisting of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts, that interprets the laws

judicial review the power of the Supreme Court to decide whether laws and acts made by the legislative and executive branches are unconstitutional

justifiable done for a good reason

K

Kansas-Nebraska Act an act passed in 1854 that created the Kansas and Nebraska territories and abolished the Missouri Compromise by allowing settlers to determine whether slavery would be allowed in the new territories

L

labor union an organization that brings together workers in the same trade, or job, to fight for better wages and working conditions

laissez-faire a theory that economies work best when there is minimal involvement from government

legacy a person's or a group's impact on future generations

legislative branch the lawmaking part of government, called the legislature. To legislate is to make a law.

leisure time spent not working

Lewis and Clark expedition a journey made from 1804 to 1806 by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the territory gained in the Louisiana Purchase

liberal supporting ideas of freedom, change, and progress

liberate to free

Lincoln-Douglas debates a series of political debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, who were candidates in the Illinois race for U.S. senator, in which slavery was the main issue

loose construction a broad interpretation of the Constitution, meaning that Congress has powers beyond those specifically given in the Constitution

M

Magna Carta an agreement made in 1215 listing the rights granted by King John to all free men of the kingdom

majority rule a basic principle of democracy that says laws are passed by majority vote and elections are decided by a majority of the voters

manifest destiny the belief that it was America's right and duty to spread across the North American continent

manual using human effort, not electricity or other power

Marshall Plan a U.S. aid plan designed to promote economic recovery in Europe after World War II

mass production the use of interchangeable parts and assembly lines to make large quantities of identical goods

Mayflower Compact an agreement that Pilgrims wrote and signed describing how they would govern themselves in the Americas

mercantilism an economic policy in which nations tried to gain wealth by controlling trade and establishing colonies

Mexican-American War the war with Mexico from 1846 to 1847 that resulted in Mexico ceding to the United States a huge region from Texas to California

migrate to move from one place and establish a home in a new place. A move of a large number of people is called a migration, and the people are called migrants.

militant being willing to use strong, extreme, and sometimes violent methods to achieve something

militarism a policy of glorifying military power and military ideas and values

militia a small army made up of ordinary citizens who were trained to fight in an emergency

missionary a person who travels to a territory or community in order to make converts to his or her religion

Missouri Compromise an agreement made by Congress in 1820 under which Missouri was admitted to the Union as a slave state and Maine was admitted as a free state

monopoly a company that controls all production and sales of a particular product or service

Monroe Doctrine President James Monroe's declaration in 1823 that the Western Hemisphere was no longer open to European colonization

Mormon a member of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, founded by Joseph Smith in 1830

motive a reason for doing something

mutual shared

N

Nat Turner's Rebellion a slave rebellion led by Nat Turner that took place in Virginia in 1831

National Grange an agricultural organization formed in 1867 and committed to the economic and political interests of farmers

nationalism devotion to a national or ethnic identity, including the desire for independence from rule by foreign countries

nativism an attitude of resentment and superiority toward foreign-born people

natural resource useful material found in nature, including water, vegetation, animals, and minerals

natural rights rights common to everyone, as opposed to those given by law

neutral not supporting either side of an argument, dispute, or war

neutrality a policy of not choosing sides in a dispute or war between other countries

New Deal the set of programs adopted under the Roosevelt administration to combat the Great Depression of the 1930s

Nineteenth Amendment an amendment added to the Constitution in 1920 that extended voting rights to women

nonviolent resistance peaceful protest or noncooperation with authorities to achieve social or political goals

Northwest Ordinance a law passed by Congress in 1787 that specified how western lands would be governed

Northwest Territory a region of the United States bounded by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and the Great Lakes. The region was given to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

nullify to refuse to recognize a federal law. This action by a state is called nullification.

O

obstruct to slow or block the movement or progress of something

oppression the feeling of being weighed down or held back by severe and unfair force

optimistic to be hopeful of a positive outcome or that good things will happen in the future

Oregon Trail an overland route that stretched about 2,000 miles from Independence, Missouri, to the Columbia River in Oregon

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) an association of major oil-producing nations, founded in 1960 with the aim of gaining control over oil prices and production

P

Parliament the lawmaking body of England, consisting of representatives from throughout the kingdom

passive not active

passport a document issued by a citizen's home government that identifies a person and permits travel to other countries

pension a sum of money paid to a retired person, usually on a monthly basis

perpetual continuing forever

persecute to cause a person or group to suffer

petition a formal, written request made to an official person or organization

plantation a large area of privately owned land where crops were grown through the labor of workers who lived on the land

platform a statement of the policies favored by a political party or candidate

pogrom an organized and violent persecution of a minority group

political machine a group that keeps political power by controlling the activities of a political party, such as elections

popular sovereignty the idea that the government's authority comes from the people

Populist Party a political party, organized in 1892 by leaders of the Farmers' Alliances, that supported such reforms as an eight-hour workday and government-owned railroads

proclaim to announce publicly

profit money earned by a business after subtracting its operation costs. It provides an incentive for individuals to take the risks that come with starting a business.

Progressive movement a social and political movement in the early 1900s that focused on improving conditions in American life

prohibit to forbid by authority, such as a law or treaty

prohibition a legal ban on the production and sale of alcoholic beverages

propaganda information or ideas spread by a group or government to promote its cause or ideas or to damage an opposing cause or idea

proprietor owner

prospect the chance that something will happen

prosperous wealthy

proxy war a war in which the superpowers backed different sides, which acted as substitutes (proxies) for the superpowers themselves

pursue to follow, as in a goal or purpose

Q

quota a limit based on numbers or proportions, such as the proportion of a country's population allowed to immigrate to the United States

R

racism the belief that one race is superior to another

radical relating to or supporting extreme change

rancho a land grant made by the Mexican government, used mostly for raising cattle and crops

ratify to formally approve a plan or an agreement. The process of approval is called ratification.

rebel to fight against a government or another authority

rebellion a violent attempt to resist or overthrow the government or another authority

recall a process by which citizens can vote an elected official out of office before his or term is over

Reconstruction the period of time after the Civil War in which Southern states were rebuilt and brought back into the Union

Red Scare lasting from 1919 to 1920, a campaign launched by the federal government to arrest communists and other radicals who promoted the overthrow of the U.S. government

referendum a process in which voters approve or reject laws passed by a legislature

reform to make change in order to bring about improvement, end abuses, or correct injustices

reformer someone who works to make change in order to bring about improvement, end abuses, or correct injustice

refugee a person who flees his or her home or country to escape war, persecution, or other dangers

regulation the enforcement of laws that control conduct or practices; for example, government regulations control the way goods, food, and drugs are produced and sold to the public

reinforce to use additional support to make something stronger

reinforcement something that increases strength with additional support

reluctant to have hesitation or an unwillingness to do something

repeal to take back, or to cancel, a law

republic a country governed by elected representatives

reservation an area of land set aside by the federal government for the use of an American Indian tribe

resolution a statement of a formal decision agreed on by a group

resolve to find a solution for

resourceful good at finding ways to solve problems

restore to make something as it was before

restricted controlled or limited

retain to continue to keep

revise to change in order to improve

revolt a violent action in opposition to a government or law

rights powers or privileges that belong to people as citizens and that cannot or should not be taken away by the government

rigid difficult to change

Roosevelt Corollary President Theodore Roosevelt's claim that the United States could intervene to preserve peace and order in the Western Hemisphere and protect U.S. interests

rural relating to the country, as opposed to the city

S

scandal an occurrence that causes shock and upset because of behavior that is morally or legally wrong

secede to withdraw from an organization or alliance

Second Great Awakening a revival of religious feeling and belief from the 1800s to the 1840s

sedition the crime of encouraging rebellion against the government

segregation the social separation of groups of people, especially by race

self-incrimination giving testimony that can be used against oneself

Seneca Falls Convention the gathering of supporters of women's rights in July 1848 that launched the movement for women's right to vote

separation of powers a key constitutional principle that divides the functions of government among three branches, legislative, executive, and judicial, to prevent any one branch from gaining too much power

Seventeenth Amendment an amendment added to the Constitution in 1913 that requires the direct election of U.S. senators by popular vote

signify to mean or represent

sit-in a form of peaceful protest in which people occupied seats in a segregated facility

Sixteenth Amendment an amendment added to the Constitution in 1913 that allowed the federal government to set an income tax

slavery the treatment of people as property. People who are denied freedom in this way are said to be enslaved.

slave trade the business of capturing, transporting, and selling people as slaves

so-called commonly described as

social Darwinism the theory that people and societies compete for survival, with the fit becoming wealthy and successful while the weak struggle to survive

spiritual a religious folk song of African American origin

spoils system the practice of rewarding political supporters with government jobs

stabilize to become steady, to become or create a state or condition that is not easily changed or likely to change

states' rights theory the theory that rights not specifically given to the federal government by the Constitution remain with the states

status the position of a person, either socially or professionally

stereotype to characterize someone based on a group they belong to

stimulate to encourage activity or growth

strategy an overall plan, such as for winning a war

stress a factor that causes bodily or mental tension

strict construction a narrow interpretation of the Constitution, meaning that Congress has only those powers specifically given in the Constitution

subsidy money or other things of value, such as land, that a government contributes to an enterprise considered to benefit the public

suffrage the right to vote

surveillance close watch kept over someone or something, especially by a detective or investigator

sympathetic understanding or agreeing with the feelings or situation of another person

T

tariff a tax imposed by the government on goods imported from another country

technique a specialized method used to achieve a desired result

technological resulting from improvements in knowledge, equipment, or methods

temporary for a limited, often short-term, period of time

territory a region of land; also, a region designated by Congress and organized under a governor

terrorism unlawful violence carried out against non-military targets in order to create fear and advance political goals

Texas War for Independence the 1836 rebellion of Texans against Mexican rule that resulted in Texas becoming an independent nation

Three-Fifths Compromise an agreement made at the Constitutional Convention stating that enslaved persons would be counted as three-fifths of a person when determining a state's population for representation in the House of Representatives

Thirteenth Amendment a change to the Constitution, ratified in 1865, abolishing slavery in the United States

tolerate to put up with

totalitarian a governing system in which a ruling elite holds all power and controls all aspects of society, allowing no opposition and often maintaining power with the use of terror and secret police

Trail of Tears the removal of Cherokee Indians from Georgia to Indian Territory in 1838 and 1839

transcendentalism a philosophy emphasizing that people should transcend, or go beyond, logical thinking to reach true understanding, with the help of emotions and intuition

transcontinental railroad a railroad that crosses a continent

trust a group of corporations that unite in order to reduce competition and control prices in a business or an industry

tyranny the unjust use of government power. A ruler who uses power in this way is called a tyrant.

U

Underground Railroad a secret network of free blacks and whites who helped thousands of slaves escape to free states and Canada

Union the United States as one nation united under a single government. During the Civil War, "the Union" came to mean the government and armies of the North.

United Nations an international organization founded in 1945 to promote peace, security, and cooperation among the world's nations

urban relating to cities

urbanization the growth of cities

V

vague not clearly defined

violation to break an established rule or law

vital necessary for the existence of something

voluntarily done willingly, without being forced

W

war crime a violation of internationally accepted practices related to waging war

war on drugs the actions undertaken by the Reagan administration to fight drug use in the United States, including harsher laws against illegal drugs and efforts to reduce drug smuggling

warrant an order from a judge that authorizes police or other officials to take a certain action, such as searching someone's property

Washington's Farewell Address George Washington's parting message to the nation, given in 1796, in which he warned of threats to the nation's future

Whiskey Rebellion a revolt by farmers in 1794 against an excise tax on whiskey

Wilmot Proviso a proposal made in 1846 to prohibit slavery in the territory added to the United States as a result of the Mexican-American War

Y

yellow journalism the practice of publishing sensational and often exaggerated news in newspapers in order to attract readers and increase sales