

Voluntary State Curriculum  
SOCIAL STUDIES GLOSSARY

Abolitionists	Advocates who were in favor of abolishing or ending in slavery during the 1800's. Some consider this group as early Civil Rights activists.
Affirmative Action	A plan or program to remedy the effects of past discrimination in employment, education, or other activity and to prevent its reoccurrence
Amendment (Constitutional)	Changes in, or additions to, a constitution. In the United States proposed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by Congress at the request of two thirds of the state legislatures. Ratified by approval of three-fourths of the states.
AmeriCorps	A network of national service programs that engage Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment
Anti-Federalist	Those persons who opposed the ratifications of the Constitutions in 1787-1788
Apartheid	A South African policy of complete legal separation of the races, including the banning of all social contacts between blacks and whites
Appellate Jurisdiction	The authority of a court to review decisions of inferior (lower) courts
Arbitration	In common law, arbitration was not a favored form of settlement, and agreements to arbitrate were generally declared void. In labor law, arbitration has become a major means of settling disputes.
Articles of Confederation	First constitution of the United States, 1781 Created a weak national government, replaced in 1789 by the Constitution of the United States.
Assimilation	The absorption of a minority ethnic group into the culture of a larger population
Authority	The right to control or direct the actions of others; legitimized by law, morality, custom, or consent
Autonomy	The right of self-government; independence
Balanced Budget	A budget in which revenues and expenditures are equal
Barriers to Trade	Interferences with the free exchange of resources, goods, and services between and among countries, including tariffs, quotas, standards, licenses, subsidies, and embargoes

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BCE	An abbreviation for Before Common Era (formerly BC) used in giving dates before the year in which Jesus Christ is believed to have been born
Bicameral	A legislative body composed of two chambers
Bills of Attainder	A legislative act that inflicts punishment without a court trial
Breach of Contract	A party's failure to perform some contracted for or agreed upon act to his failure to comply with a duty imposed by law, which is owed to society
British Constitution	Unlike our Constitution, the British Constitution is not one written document. The British Constitution consists of written documents, such as historic charters, court cases, and acts of Parliament and unwritten customs and practices. The written "law of the constitution" includes the Magna Carta, English Petition of Rights, and the English Bill of Rights.
Budget Deficit	Yearly shortfall between revenue and spending
Budget Surplus	An amount by which income exceeds expenditures
Buyer	An individual or group of people who purchase resources, goods, and/or services.
Cabinet	Secretaries of the executive departments, the Vice-President, and other top officials that help make decisions and policy
Capitalism	An economic system providing free choice and individual incentive for workers, investors, consumers, and business enterprises
Capital Resources	The goods that are manufactured and constructed by people and used to produce other goods and services, including but not limited to factories, warehouses, roads, bridges, machinery, ports, dams, and tools; also called capital goods (Money is not a capital resource.)
CE	An abbreviation for Common Era (formerly AD) used in giving dates after the year in which Jesus Christ is believed to have been born
Charter	A city's basic law, its constitution; a written grant of authority from the king
Checks and Balances	Constitutional mechanisms that authorize each branch of government to share powers with the other branches and thereby check each other's activities. For example, the president may veto legislation passed by Congress; the Senate must confirm major executive appointments; and the courts may declare acts of Congress unconstitutional.

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Citizen	A member of a political society who therefore owes allegiance to the government and is entitled to its protection and to political rights
Citizenship	Membership in a community such as a college or a business or membership into a nation with legal rights and responsibilities as a citizen of that nation
City-State	An autonomous state consisting of a city and surrounding territory
Civil Disobedience	A refusal to obey a law, usually on the ground that it is morally unjust, or to protest a government policy. Civil disobedience is a form of non-violent resistance against a law or policy.
Civil Law	All law that does not involve criminal matters. Civil law may refer to the body of laws prescribed by the supreme authority of the state, as opposed to natural law. Civil law usual deals with private rights of individuals, groups, and businesses.
Civil Liberty	Civil rights differ in theory, at least from Civil Liberties in that Civil Rights are positive in nature, and civil liberties are negative in nature; that is, civil liberties are immunities from governmental interference or limitations on governmental action (such as those embodied in the First Amendment) which have the effect of reserving rights to individuals.
Civil Rights	Protections and privileges given to all United States citizens by the Constitution and Bill of Rights
Civil Rights Act (1964)	An act of Congress designed to protect the rights of individuals to fair treatment by private persons, groups, organizations, businesses, and government
Civilization	A culture that has developed systems of specialization, a written language, arts, sciences, religion, and government
Command Economy	An economic system in which economic decisions to answer the basic economic questions of “what,” “how,” and “for whom” are made by an authority such as a feudal lord or government agency
Common Good	That which benefits society as a whole; health, safety, and welfare. Also known as public good
Common Law	The body of unwritten law, which originated in England and was later applied in the United States. Based on judicial precedent rather than statutory laws, which are legislative enactments; it is to be contrasted with civil law. Common law is generally derived from principles rather than rules; it does not consist of absolute, fixed, and inflexible rules, but rather of broad and comprehensive principles based on justice, reason, and common sense.

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Communism	A political and economic system in which most or all land and businesses are controlled by the government
Compromise	An adjustment of opposing principles or systems by modifying some aspect of each
Concurrent Jurisdiction	Power shared by federal and State courts to hear certain cases
Concurrent Powers	Powers that both the national government and the states have
Concurring Opinion	Written explanation of the views of one or more judges who support a decision reached by a majority of the court but wish to add or emphasize a point that was not made in the majority decision
Consent of the Governed	John Locke’s ideas that the government gets its right to govern from the people. Thomas Jefferson included this principle in the Declaration of Independence.
Constituents	All persons represented by a legislator or other elected official
Constitution	A set of customs, traditions, rules, and laws that set forth the way a government is organized and operated
Constitutionalism	Basic principle that government and those who govern must obey the law; the rule of law
Consumer	An individual or group who uses resources, goods, and services to satisfy economic wants
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	A measure of the overall price level in the economy
Consumption	The use of resources, goods, and services to satisfy economic wants
Contract	The writing of a document containing an agreement. There is a branch of law that deals with formal agreements between parties.
Criminal Case	A case in which a defendant is tried for committing a crime as defined by the law
Culture	A dynamic system which enables people to satisfy their wants, needs, beliefs and values; A learned behavior of people, which includes their belief systems and languages, their social relationships, institutions or organizations, and their material goods — food, clothing, buildings, tools, and machines
Decision-making Process	A process used to solve a problem in social studies including; identify a problem, explain the pros and cons of alternate choices, make a decision based on the choices available, and identify the opportunity cost of the choice made

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De Facto Segregation	Segregation that exists, even if no law requires it.
Defendant	In a civil suit, the person against whom the plaintiff brings a court action; in a criminal case, the person charged with the crime
Deflation	A decrease in the overall price level in an economy
De Jure Segregation	Segregation by law, with legal sanction
Delegate	Representative; lawmaker who views him or herself as the agent of those who elected him or her and votes accordingly, regardless of his or her personal opinions
Delegated Powers	Powers expressly granted to the national government by the Constitution. These powers, found in Article I, section 8, include the authority to provide the common defense, to coin money, and to regulate commerce.
Demand	The different quantities of a resource, good, or service that will be purchased at various possible prices at a given point in time; Demand is generally presented as a schedule of prices and quantities. It can also be represented graphically as a demand curve.
Democracy	A form of government in which political control is exercised by all people, either directly or through their elected representatives
Demographics	Using vital statistics of human populations, as size, growth, density, and distribution to make decisions or set policy, such as identifying consumers
Depression	A period of low economic activity and widespread unemployment
Distribution	The movement, transfer, or disbursement of goods and services from the point of production to the point of consumption; also the allocation of resources, goods and services among consumers
Diffusion	The spread of people, ideas, technology, and products across space and through time
Direct Democracy	A form of democracy in which all or most citizens participate directly by either holding office or making policy. The town meeting, in which citizens vote on major issues, is an example.
Discount (interest) rate	The interest rate the Federal Reserve System charges member banks for overnight loans.
Discrimination	Prejudice, usually based on race, religion, class, sex, or age.
Dissenting Opinion	Written explanation of the views of one or more judges who disagree with (dissent from) a decision reached by a majority of the

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court

Double Jeopardy	Part of the Fifth Amendment that says that no person can be put in jeopardy of life or limb twice; once a person has been tried for a crime, he or she cannot be tried again for the same crime.
Due Process Clause	Part of the Fourteenth Amendment that guarantees that no state can deny basic rights to its people. Due Process of Law The right of every citizen to be protected against arbitrary action by the government
Economic Growth	Growth that occurs when increasing amounts of goods and services are produced over the long term; generally measured as GDP (gross domestic product) or GDP per capita and reported on a quarterly and annually. Economic growth is a goal for which economies strive in order to improve the material standard of living of the society.
Economic Incentives	Factors that motivate and influence economic behavior. Examples of positive incentives are profit and other financial or material rewards. Examples of negative incentives are fine.
Economic Institution <sup>5</sup>	The formal and informal structures which guide or characterize economic activity in a society, which may include but are not limited to households, families, corporations, government agencies, banks, labor unions, cooperatives, stock exchanges, the use of money, collective bargaining, traditions, controlling values and beliefs, and systems of property ownership
Economic Resources	The natural, human, and capital resources that are used to produce goods and services; also called factors of production
Economic Sanctions	Economic penalties applied by one country or group of countries on another for economic, political, or other reasons. Economic sanctions can include tariffs, duties, quotas, embargoes, and other monetarily damaging penalties.
Economic System	The institutions, laws, activities, controlling values, and human motivations that collectively provide a framework for economic decision-making of individuals and groups in a society; the organizing structure a society chooses to answer the basic economic questions of what to produce, how (and how much) to organize resources to produce goods and services, and for whom to produce (who gets the goods and services). All modern economic systems are a mix of tradition, command, and market decision-making.
Economic Wants	Human needs and desires that can be satisfied by consuming goods and services, including but not limited to such needs as hunger, thirst, protection from the elements, and good health and such desires as entertainment and a pleasing physical appearance; sometimes described as survival wants and luxury wants
Economics	The study of how people, individually and in groups (families, businesses, governments, organizations) choose to use their relatively scarce productive resources to satisfy their wants
Elastic Clause	The clause in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution that gives Congress the right to make all laws, “necessary and proper” to carry out the powers expressed in the other clauses in Article I

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Elector	Member of a party chosen in each state to formally elect the President and the Vice-President
Electoral College	A body of electors chosen to elect the President and Vice President of the United States
Electoral Vote	The official vote for President and Vice-President by electors in each state
Embargo	An order prohibiting trade with another country
Emancipation Proclamation	The Emancipation Proclamation (1863) declared all slaves residing in areas in rebellion against the Union to be free. The proclamation did not affect the status of slave-holding states that remained in the Union. Lincoln issued the proclamation as a fit and necessary war measure of suppressing “rebellion” and “an act of justice.”
Eminent Domain	The power of the government to take private property for public use
Enumerated Powers	The expressed powers of Congress that are itemized and numbered 1-18 in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution See expressed powers.
Entitlements	See Social Insurance.
Environment	Everything in and on earth’s surface and its atmosphere within which organisms, communities, or objects exist
Entrepreneur	An individual or group who takes the risk to start a new business or introduce a new good or service into the marketplace in the hope of earning a profit
Equilibrium Price	The price at which the quantity supplied equals the quantity demanded for a resource, good, or service; also called the market-clearing price
Equality of Opportunity	An equal chance for all persons to participate in such areas as education, employment, and political participation
Equal Protection Under the Law	The idea that no individual or group may receive special privileges from nor be unjustly discriminated against by the law
Equality of Condition	Equality in all aspects of life, such as personal possessions, living standards, medical care, and working conditions
Equity	Most commonly thought of as “justice,” however, equity developed as a separate body of law in England in reaction to the inability of the common law courts to Provide a remedy for every injury.

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Establishment Clause	This clause separates church and state. The clause in the First Amendment that says the government may not establish an official religion.
Ethnic Persecution	The expulsion, imprisonment, or killing of ethnic minorities by a dominant majority group
European Union	An organization of European nations that establishes the legal European citizenship and sets economic and political policies of its member nations. The European Union also includes the free movement of goods, peoples, services, and capitals between members, nations, and their citizens.
Exchange Rate	The price of one country's currency in terms of another country's currency
Exclusionary Rule	Evidence gained as the result of an illegal act by police cannot be used against the person from whom it was seized.
Exclusive Jurisdiction	Power of federal courts alone to hear certain cases*
Exclusive Powers	Those powers that can be exercised by the National Government alone
Executive Agreement	A pact made by the President directly with the head of a foreign state; a binding international agreement with the form of law but which (unlike a treaty) does not require Senate consent
Executive Order	A rule issued by the President that has the force of Law
Executive Power	The powers to execute, enforce, and administer law
Export	A good or service sold to an individual, business, or government in another country
Ex Post Facto Law	A law applied to an act committed before the law's passage. Such a law violates the Constitution of the United States that states that neither Congress nor any state shall pass an ex post facto law; these provisions have held applicable only to criminal statutes.
Expressed Powers	Powers directly expressed or stated in the Constitution by the founders. Also known as delegated and enumerated powers
Externalities	The positive or negative effects that result when the production or consumption of a good or service affects the welfare of people who are not the parties directly involved in a market exchange. Providing education is an example of providing a service that has positive externalities (positive side effects) for people in a community who do not have children in school. Flood control as a side effect of the construction of a dam to generate electric power is another example of a positive externality as is the increase in one's property value that comes from living next door to someone who has a very well-kept house and a beautifully landscaped lawn. Second-hand smoke, other air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution are examples of negative externalities - negative side

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effects that affect the welfare of people who didn't buy or sell the cigarettes or who may not buy the products produced by the companies that cause the air, water, or noise pollution. The noise generated by the teenage band that practices at the house next door to your house - a band that you never pay to see perform the songs they practice at your neighbor's house - is an example of a negative externality that you incur.

Factors of Production	See Economic Resources.
Federal System	A system in which sovereignty is shared so that in some matters the national government is supreme and in others the state regional, or provincial governments are supreme
Federalism	A form of political organization in which government power is divided between a central government and territorial subdivision
Federalists	Supporters of a stronger central government who advocated ratification of the Constitution. After ratification, they founded a political party supporting a strong executive and Alexander Hamilton's economic policies.
Federal Reserve System	The nation's central bank. See monetary policy.
Felony	A generic term used to distinguish certain high crimes from minor offenses known as misdemeanors; crimes declared to be such by statute or as true crimes by common law
Feudalism	A system for organizing and governing society based on land and service; found in Europe in the Middle Ages
Filibuster	The use of long speeches to prevent a vote on a bill in the Senate
Fiscal Policy	A course of action that seeks to achieve socioeconomic goals by affecting the level of taxes and governmental expenditures in the economy. In the U.S., fiscal policy is largely the responsibility of the President and the U.S. Congress and on the state level, the Governor and the General Assembly.
Foreign Policy	Politics of the federal government directed to matters beyond United States borders, especially relations with other countries.
Formal Amendment	Change or addition that becomes part of the written language of the Constitution itself through one of four methods set forth in the Constitution
Framers of the Constitution	Group of delegates who drafted the United States Constitution at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787
Free Enterprise System	An economic system characterized by private (individual and business) ownership of economic resources and goods and in which spending and capital goods; investments that are determined by private decision rather than by state control and are determined in a free market

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Free Trade	Exchange of resources, goods, and services without barriers of trade
Full Faith and Credit Clause	Constitution's requirement that each State accept the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State
General Assembly	The state legislative body in the state of Maryland consisting of the Senate and the House of Delegates
Geographic Characteristics	Physical and human characteristics of a place or region
Geographic Tools	Devises used to compile, organize, manipulate, store, report, or display geographic information, including maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, aerial and other photographs, satellite-produced images, geographic information systems, and computer databases, as well as other software
Geography	An integrative discipline that brings together the physical and human-made dimensions of the world in the study of people, places, and environments. Its subject matter is earth's surface and the processes that shape it, the relationships between people and the environment and the connections between people and places.
Gerrymandering	The drawing of electoral district lines to the advantage of a party or group
Goods	Physically tangible objects that can be used to satisfy economic wants, including but not limited to food, shoes, cars, houses, books, and furniture
Grand Jury	The formal device by which a person can be accused of a serious crime. See Indictment.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	The total dollar value of all final goods and services produced within a country's borders in a given time period
Gross National Product (GNP)	The total dollar value of all final goods and services produced by a country's citizens, businesses, and governments, both inside and outside of the country's borders, in a given time period (For example, a Ford automobile assembled in Mexico would count in GNP because Ford is a U.S. company, but it would not count in GDP because its final assembly was done outside of the U.S.)
Human-made Features	A sub-category of human characteristics of places and regions that include features on the earth's surface constructed by people, including but not limited to village, town, city, building, roads, airports, canals, dams, port, bridges, and monuments
Human Characteristics	Traits that are used to describe the peoples of places, past and present; their religion, language, settlement pattern, economic activity, political system, and their modification of the environment
Human Development Index	The Human Development Index (HDI), published annually by the UN, ranks nations according to their citizens' (HDI) quality of life rather than strictly by a nation's typical economic measures. The criteria for calculating rankings include life expectancy, educational attainment, and adjusted real income.

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Human Resources	The health, strength, talents, education, and skills that humans can use to produce goods and services: also called human capital
Immigrant	Those people legally admitted as permanent residents of a country
Implied Powers	Those delegated powers of the National Government that are suggested by the expressed powers; those “necessary and proper” to carry out the expressed powers
Import	A good or service purchased from an individual, business, or government in another country
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
Indictment	A formal complaint before a grand jury that charges the accused with one or more crimes
Inferior Courts	The lower federal courts, beneath the Supreme Court. A decision from an inferior court is subject to review by another court, which is referred to as a Superior Court.
Inflation	An increase in the overall price level in an economy
Informal Amendment	A change made in the Constitution not by actual written amendment but by the experience of government, including (1) the passage of laws by Congress; (2) Actions taken by the President; (3) Supreme Court decisions; (4) the activities of political parties; and (5) custom
Inherent Powers	Powers that the National Government may exercise simply because it is a government
Initiative	The right, power, and procedure by which citizens can propose a law by petition and ensure its submission to the electorate
Integration	The process of bringing a group into equal membership in society
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	This is an international organization of 184 countries established to promote monetary cooperation and exchange stability. The organization also fosters economic growth and high levels of employment and provides temporary financial assistance.
Institution	A significant practice, relationship, or organization in a society, culture or economy
Interdependence	The condition in which events in one part of the community, state, nation, or world or one sector of the economy affects events in another part or sector; occurs as a result of the loss of self-sufficiency which accompanies specialization and, hence, the need to exchange resources, goods and services with other producing and consuming units
Interest Groups	An organized body of individuals who share some goals and try to influence public policy to meet those goals

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Investment	The process of using savings or resources to increase the economy's productive capacity; investment in capital goods occurs when savings are used to finance the production of new capital goods and/or new technology to increase productivity; investment in human capital or human resources occurs when the health, education and training of the population are increased.
Involuntary Servitude	Forced labor; in the past this included the enslavement of Africans in the Americas
Isolationism	The views that the United States should withdraw from world affairs, limit foreign aid, and avoid involvement in foreign wars
Jim Crow Laws	Laws that separate people on the basis of race; aimed primarily at African Americans after the Civil War
Judicial Power	The power to interpret laws, to determine their meanings, and to settle disputes within the society
Judicial Review	The power of the courts to determine the constitutionality of the actions of the legislative and executive branches of government. The precedent for Judicial Review was established in the 1803 case of Marbury v. Madison.
Jurisdiction	The authority of a court to hear a case. See appellate and original jurisdiction.
Jury	See Petit Jury.
Justice	Fairness, the idea that every person deserves to be treated fairly. James Madison saw justice as the end sought by government and civil society.
Land Use	The way in which humans use the earth's surface. Uses are classified as urban, rural, agricultural, forested, etc., with more specific sub-classifications useful for specific purposes.
Law of Demand	The price and quantity demanded of a resource, good, or service are inversely related, other things being equal. As price increases, quantity demanded falls. As price decreases, quantity demands rises.
Law of Supply	The price and quantity supplied of a resource, good, or service are directly related, other things being equal. As price decreases, quantity supplied decreases.
Legend	Synonymous with map key; used to explain the symbols on a map
Legislative Power	The power to make a law and to frame public policies
Libel	False and malicious use of printed words

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Liberty	The ability to enjoy all the rights granted by the United States Constitution and a particular states' constitution, as well as other rights such as the right to earn a living, the right to acquire knowledge, the right to marry, etc.
Limited Government	Basic principle of American government that states that government is restricted in what it may do and that each individual has rights that government cannot take away
Litigation	A judicial contest through which legal rights are sought and enforced
Location	The position of a point on the earth's surface expressed by means of a grid (absolute) or in relation (relative) to the position of other places
Lobbyist	A person who represents a special interest group and tries to influence the legislators
Local/State powers	In the Constitution, power is divided between the national government and the 50 state governments, state governments determine the authority over local governments.
Magna Carta	A document drawn up by English nobles in 1215 that spelled out certain rights and limited the King's power
Majority Rule	A principle of democracy that asserts that the greater number of citizens in any political unit should select officials and determine policies
Manifest Destiny	A mid 19th-century belief in the inevitability of the United States expansion to the Pacific Ocean
Map Elements	Essential components of a map such as the title, author, date, compass rose, scale, legend, border, grid, source information, and index
Market	An arrangement wherein buyers and sellers can exchange resources, goods, and services. A market may be a physical place such as a store or an auction gallery, or it may occur through other arrangements such as a telephone and Internet transactions; a market is said to exist whenever or wherever a buyer and seller enter into an exchange.
Market Economy	An economy in which decisions of what, how, and for whom are decided in markets through the interaction of buyers and sellers.
Market Failures	Markets work best when they are reasonably competitive, when buyers and sellers have access to sufficient reliable information, when resources are relatively mobile and free to move from one use to another in response to changing conditions and when market prices reflect the full costs and benefits incurred in producing and exchanging goods and services. Market "failures" occur when there are significant deviations from these conditions.

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Inadequate Competition: A lack of an adequate number of buyers and sellers to help assure that scarce resources will be allocated to their most productive uses. Monopoly, oligopoly, monopolistic competition, and cartel market situations are examples of this market failure.

Inadequate Information: A lack of sufficient information about market conditions to allow consumers, workers, and business managers to make informed decisions. Lack of knowledge of available jobs by those who are unemployed and lack of knowledge about products and product alternatives by consumers are examples of this market failure. Public Goods: see Public Goods. Externality: See Externality.

Resource Immobility: The inability to shift productive resources from a less efficient to a more efficient use. Labor without the skills to do available jobs and obsolete machinery and equipment are examples of conditions or situations that cause resource immobility.

Market Shortage	See Shortage.
Media	The different means of communicating information to reach large audiences
Medicaid	A social program that gives the states money to help those who cannot afford to pay for their hospital bills
Medicare	A social program that helps pay for medical care for the elderly
Mercantilism	A theory that a state's power depends on its wealth
Migration	The act or process of people moving from one place to another with the intent of staying at the destination permanently or for a relatively long period of time
Minority Rights	A general term used to refer to people who are under-represented, under-served, and generally have fewer numbers and less power than the majority ruling class of people
Miranda Rule	The rule pronounced in <i>Miranda v Arizona</i> , that confessions are inadmissible in a criminal prosecution if the police do not advise the suspect in custody of certain rights before questioning.
Misdemeanor	A class of criminal offenses consisting of those offenses less serious than felonies and which are sanctioned by less severe penalties
Mixed Economy	An economy which relies on a combination of traditional decision making, market decision making, and command decision making in order to answer the basic questions of what, how, and for whom

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Mixed Market Economy	An economic system, which primarily relies on the forces of supply and demand to determine what is produced, how it is produced and for whom it is produced, but also uses a variety of government interventions to cope with macroeconomic stability and market failures. No real world economy is a pure form of a traditional, a command or a decentralized market economy Every existing economy uses a different “mix” of allocating mechanisms - - traditional, command and market —to answer the basic economic questions; and each has somewhat different institutions, controlling values and motivating forces at work that affect the operation of the economy.
Monetary Policy	A course of action that seeks to affect the amount of money and credit available in the economy and the cost of the credit (interest rates) in order to help the economy grow, keep prices stable and keep employment at a high level In the United States, monetary price is the responsibility of the Federal Reserve System; tools of monetary policy include open market operations, adjustments in reserve requirement ratios held on deposits and changes in the primary credit rate (discount rate) charged to financial institutions by the Federal Reserve Banks.
Monetary System	The way people in an economy choose to use money to exchange goods and services
Money	That which is accepted as payment in the exchange of resources, goods, and services; also serves as a unit of account, permitting its use in pricing resources, goods, and services; serves as a store of value for purchasing in the future, serves as a standard of value to allow comparison of the actual or perceived value of resources, goods, and services
Movement	In geography, the interaction across earth that connects places. This interaction occurs with flows of human phenomena, such as goods, people, and ideas.
North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	An agreement that removed trade restrictions among the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to increase free cross-border trade
Nation	A cultural concept for a group of people bound together by a strong sense of shared values and cultural characteristics, including language, religion, and common history
Nation-State	A country
National Debt	The total amount of money owed by the national government plus the interest that must be paid on this borrowed money
National Budget	The yearly financial plan for the national government, listing anticipated revenues and expenditures
Nativism	The practice of hostility toward immigrants

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Natural Hazard	A process or event in the physical environment that has consequences harmful to humans, such as earthquake, hurricane, tornado, flood
Natural Resources	The renewable, and nonrenewable gifts of nature that can be used to produce goods and services, including but not limited to land, water, animals, minerals, trees, climate, soil, fire, seeds, grain, and fruits
Nonviolent Civil Disobedience	A philosophy of opposing a law one considers unjust by peacefully violating it and allowing oneself to be punished as a result
Opinion of the Court	A Supreme Court decision written by one or more justices in the majority to explain the decision in a case
Opportunity Cost	The foregone benefit of the next best alternative when an economic decision is made. If the class chooses to go to the library to work on their computer skills instead of having recess, then opportunity cost of the choice is having recess.
Original Jurisdiction	The power of a court to hear a case first, before any other court
Preponderance of Evidence	General standard of proof in civil cases. Where it is more convincing to the trier of fact than the opposing evidence
Prosecutor	A person who prepares and conducts the prosecution of persons accused of crime. It is usually a public official but in some instances involving minor offenses, it may a private attorney.
Presumption of Innocence	In criminal law, the principle that a person is innocent of a crime until he is proven guilty. Its primary manifestation is the constitutional requirement that the prosecutor establishes the defendant's guilt by proof beyond a reasonable doubt.
Petitioning	A formal written application requesting a court for a specific judicial action, as an appeal. A formal written document requesting a right or a benefit from a group or individual in authority
Perjury	The act of lying under oath
Physical Features	A subcategory of physical characteristics of places and regions derived from the physical environment, including but not limited to landforms (mountain, hill, plain, plateau, valley, beach, desert, island, peninsula and marsh) and continents, and bodies of water (ocean, river, creek, bay, lake, sea)
Physical Characteristics	Traits that are used to describe the natural environment of the place. Physical or natural characteristics may be related to climate (e.g., polar), vegetation (e.g., rainforest), soil (e.g., prairie), landform (e.g., mountain), and body of water (e.g., bay).

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Places	Parts of the Earth's surface, large or small, that has been given meaning by and for humans. They include: continents, islands, countries, regions, states, cities, neighborhoods, villages, rural areas, and uninhabited areas. Places usually have names and boundaries.
Plaintiff	In civil law, the party who brings a suit or some other legal action against another (the defendant) in court
Plea Bargaining	The process whereby the accused and the prosecutor negotiate a mutually satisfactory disposition of the case
Political Party	Any group, however loosely organized, that seeks to elect government officials under a given label
Policy	A definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions. Governments, non-governmental organizations, or other groups may set policy.
Political Action Committees (PAC)	An organization formed to collect money and provide financial support for political candidates
Politics	Activities associated with the control of public decisions among a given people and in a given territory, where this control may be backed up by authoritative and coercive means. Politics refers to the processes conflicts regarding the use of these means.
Polytheism	The belief in many gods, this was a more common belief before the Middle Ages and the unification of the Christian Church.
Popular Sovereignty	The rule by the people. Basic principle of the American System of government that asserts that the people are the source of any and all governmental power and that government can exist only with the consent of the governed.
Poverty	Sometimes classified as a market failure - but not a failure of the market in the true sense of the market as an allocation mechanism. Poverty that results from a lack of adequate human, natural, and/or capital resources to sell in the marketplace in order to earn an income is not necessarily a failure of the market as an allocation mechanism.
Preamble	A statement in a constitution that sets forth the goals and purposes of government
Precedents	These are previous court decisions upon which are recognized as authority for the disposition of authority for the disposition of future cases. In common law, precedents were regarded as the major course of law.
Price	What is paid to buy a resource, good, or service, and what is received when a resource, good or service is sold
Primary Source	A first-hand account of an event, such as a government document, diary, or a letter

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Prime Minister	The highest-ranking member of the executive branch of a parliamentary government as in Japan and Great Britain
Principle	A basic rule that guides or influences thought or action
Privileges and Immunities Clause	Constitution's stipulations (Article IV, Section 2) that all citizens are entitled to certain "privileges and immunities," regardless of their state of residence; no State can draw unreasonable distinctions between its own residents and those persons who happen to live in other states.
Probable Cause	Reasonable grounds; a reasonable suspicion of crime
Procedural Due Process	The procedures and the methods of governmental action
Procedural Justice	The fairness of how information is gathered or decisions made; relating to a series of steps followed in a regular definite order by a court or other law-administering bodies
Process of Incorporation (Incorporation Doctrine)	The process of incorporating, or including, most of the guarantees in the Bill of Rights into the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause
Producer	An individual or group who combine economic resources to make goods and/or services
Production	The act of creating goods and services by combining economic resources
Productivity	The amount of output that is produced per unit of input; usually expressed in terms of output per unit of time
Proprietorships	Grants from a mother country for ownership of land to a colonial group of people or business with the prerogative of establishing a government and distributing land to others legally
Protectionism	A policy of using barriers to trade that may limit the free flow of goods, services, and resources
Public Goods	Goods that cannot be withheld from would-be consumers who do not pay and whose consumption by one consumer does not reduce their usefulness to others. National defense, streetlights, flood control, and mosquito abatement are examples of public goods. We typically ask government to provide public goods and pay for them with taxes because private businesses are not likely to provide goods that cannot be withheld from would-be consumers who refuse to pay for them. Some goods that only partially meet these two criteria are also considered appropriate goods for government to provide, such as education, libraries, roads, bridges, police protection, and fire protection.
Public Policy	Government responses to public issues; all of the goals a government sets

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Racism	The practice of prejudice or discrimination against someone because of his or her race and the belief that one race is superior to others
Ratification	Formal approval; final consent to the effectiveness of a constitution, constitutional amendment, or treaty
Reasonable Doubt	This refers to the degree of certainty required for a juror to legally find a criminal defendant guilty. These words are used in instructions to a jury in a criminal trial to indicate that innocence is to be presumed unless the guilt is very clear.
Recession	A downward turn in business activity
Redistricting	To set up new district lines after reapportionment is complete
Referendum	Process in which a measure passed by a legislature is submitted to the voters for final approval or rejection
Region	An area with one or more common characteristics of features, which give it a measure of homogeneity and make different from surrounding areas
Regulatory Agencies	Governmental jurisdictions or departments that issue laws, ordinances, and other regulations that design and construction must comply with, such as the administrative units, Federal Communications Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, that have responsibility for monitoring and regulating ongoing economic activities
Regulatory Policy	A course of action that seeks to correct for certain market failures and to achieve certain socioeconomic goals directly through legislation and indirectly through the creation of regulatory agencies that address particular failures or goals
Relative Distance	The amount of separation between two places. When using a map, relative distance is found by measuring the length of a line between two places.
Reapportionment	Redistribution of political representation of the basis of population changes, usually after a census
Repeal	Recall; to cancel an act or law
Republic	A government in which citizens have the rights to choose their leaders
Reservation	Public land set aside by a government for use by Native American tribes
Reserved Powers	Those powers that the Constitution does not grant to the National Government and does not, at the same time, deny to the states

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Revenue Sharing	Form of federal monetary aid under which Congress gave a share of federal tax revenue, with virtually no restrictions, to the states, cities, counties, and townships
Reverse Discrimination	Discrimination against the majority group
Right of Association	The right to associate with others to promote political, economic, and other social causes
Rule of Law	The principle in which the law applies to government officials as much as to ordinary citizens
Saving	The condition that exists when individuals, businesses, and the economy as whole do not consume all current income
Scale	The measure of distance on a map as it compares to actual distance on the earth's surface (See map elements)
Scarcity	The condition that results from the imbalance between relatively unlimited economic wants and the relatively limited resources, goods, and services available to satisfy those wants.
Search Warrant	A court order authorizing a search
Sectionalism	The practice of having regional and specific political, social, and economic preferences and alliances with a section of a country, i.e., during the American Civil War, sectionalism created differences too great for the union to survive.
Sedition	The crime of attempting to overthrow the government by force or to interrupt its lawful activities by violent acts
Segregation	The separation of or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group from the rest of society
Seller	An individual or group who exchange resources, goods, or services for monetary or non-monetary gain
Separate-but-Equal Doctrine	A constitutional basis for laws that separate one group from another on the basis of race
Separation of Powers	The division of governmental power among several institutions that must cooperate in decision-making
Services	Physically intangible actions that can be performed to satisfy economic wants, including but not limited to medical care, dental care, haircuts, education, police protection, fire protection, and national defense
Settlement Patterns	The spatial distribution and arrangement of human habitations, including rural and urban centers

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Shortage (Market Shortage)	In economics, a market situation in which the price is set below the equilibrium price, thus causing the quantity demand to exceed the quantity supplied
Slander	False and malicious use of spoken words
Smart Growth	Government policy in Maryland to address the issues of urban sprawl, urban decay, and environmental concerns such as the health of the Chesapeake Bay
Social Insurance	Government programs designed to help elderly, ill, and unemployed citizens
Social Security (Act)	A law requiring workers and employers to pay a tax; the money provides a monthly stipend for retired people.
Socioeconomic Goals	Broad social goals that relate to economics and guide individuals and society in making decisions; social economic goals will vary in priority from one country to another and from one time period to another, depending on the nature of the political, social, and economic goals of the society and the political, social, and economic conditions which exist at the time. For additional information, see the section at the end of the glossary that describes the goals in more detail.
Sovereign Nation	A nation that is independent of all others
Sovereignty	Supreme and absolute authority within territorial boundaries
Spatial Distribution	The distribution of phenomena on the earth's surface
Specialization	The production of a narrower range of goods and services than is consumed by an individual or group
Special Interest Groups	An organized body of individuals who share some goals and try to influence public policy to meet those goals
Standard of Living	The quantity of goods and services, such as health care, clean water, education, houses, apartments, telephones, food clothing, paved roads, and computers available in an economy
State	A body of people living in a defined territory; neither subordinate nor responsible to any other authority
State of Nature	The basis of natural right philosophy, state of nature is the hypothetical condition of people living together in a society.
Standards Burdens of Proof	This includes beyond a reasonable doubt in criminal and in civil law preponderance of the evidence.
Statutory Law	Law based on statutes, which are enacted to prescribe conduct, define crimes, create inferior governmental bodies, appropriate public monies, and in general to promote the public good and welfare

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Subpoena	An order for a person to appear and to produce documents or other requested materials
Substantive Due Process	The substance and the policies of governmental action
Supply	The different quantities of a resource, good, or service that will be offered for sale at various possible prices during a specific time period; supply is generally presented as schedule of prices and quantities; it can also be represented graphically as a supply curve. See laws of supply and demand.
Supreme Court	Highest court in the land, created by the Constitution
Surplus (Market Surplus)	A market situation in which the price is set above the equilibrium price thus causing the quantity demanded to be less than the quantity supplied
Sustainable Development	The development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
Symbolic Speech	Expression by conduct; communicating ideas through facial expressions, body language, or by carrying a sign or wearing an arm band
Tariff	A list or system of duties imposed by a government on imported or exported goods
Tax	Mandatory payment to the government
Thematic Map	A map representing a specific theme or topic; for example population density, climate, growing season, grain production, transportation routes, oil production
Tort	A wrongful act, other than breach of contract, for which an injured party has the right to sue
Totalitarian	A government that exercises dictatorial (authoritarian) power over nearly every aspect of human dignity
Trade	To engage in the exchange, purchase, or sale of resources, goods, or services
Trade Barriers	See Barriers to Trade.
Trade off	A situation that occurs when choices or decisions involve giving up (trading off) some of one thing to get more of something else

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Traditional Economy	A system wherein economic decisions that people and groups make to answer the basic economic questions of “what,” “for whom,” and “how” generally repeat the decisions made at an earlier time or by an earlier generation
Treason	Betrayal of one’s country; in the Constitution, by levying war against the United States or offering comfort or aid to its enemies
Treaty	A formal agreement between two or more sovereign states
Tyranny	A type of government in which all the power is held in the hands of one ruler, usually a military leader
Urban Sprawl	Sprawl is the spreading out of a city and its suburbs over more and more rural land at the periphery of an urban area. This involves the conversion of open space (rural land) into built-up, developed land over time.
Urban System	An interdependent set of urban settlements within a specified region
Unitary Government	A centralized system in which all powers of government belong to a single, central agency
Unconstitutional	Contrary to constitutional provision and so illegal, null, and void, and of no constitutional or legal force or effort
Veto	Chief executive’s power to reject a bill passed by a legislature; literally (Latin), “I forbid”
Voting Rights Act (1965)	The federal law passed in 1965 to effectuate the right of each citizen to vote under the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The law provides that no voting qualification prerequisite to voting shall be imposed by any state.
World Bank	A specialization of the United Nations. It is one of the world’s largest sources of development assistance with a primary focus on helping the poorest people and the poorest countries.
Writ of Assistance	Blanket search warrant with which British custom officials invaded private homes to search for smuggled goods
Writ of Certiorari	An order by a higher court directing a lower court to send up the record in a given case for review; from the Latin, meaning “to be more certain”
Writ of Habeas Corpus	A court order that prevents unjust arrests and imprisonment

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**FORMS OF GOVERNMENT**

Absolute Monarchy	Autocracy in which a king, queen, or emperor exercises supreme powers of government
Aristocracy	Members of noble families and class
Authoritarian	A form of government in which those in power hold absolute and unchangeable authority over the people; all dictatorships are authoritarian.
Autocracy	A form of government in which a single person holds unlimited political power
Anarchy	The absence of government; lawlessness; in some cases political disorder
Confederation	A form of political organization in which the sovereign states combine for specified purposes such as defense. The U.S. was a confederation from 1776 to 1788.
Constitutional Government	A government in which the powers of government are limited in practice by a written or unwritten constitution, which they must obey
Constitutional Monarchy	A monarch that has shared governmental powers with elected legislatures or serves mainly as ceremonial leader of a country
Democracy	A form of government in which the supreme authority rests with the people
Despotism	A government or political system in which the ruler exercises absolute power or authority
Dictatorship	A form of government in which the leader has absolute power and authority
Fascism	A political system headed by a dictator that calls for extreme nationalism and racism and no tolerance of opposition
Federal	A form of government in which powers are divided between a central government and several local governments
Liberal Democracy	A democracy, in general, that favors a more active federal government for regulating business, supporting social welfare, and protecting minority rights but who prefers less regulation of private social conduct
Monarchy	A form of government in which a sovereign ruler such as a king or a queen heads the country
Oligarchy	A form of government in which a small, usually self-appointed elite holds the power to rule
Parliamentary	A form of government in which the executive branch is made up of the prime minister, or premier, and that official's cabinet

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Presidential	A form of government in the executive and legislative branches is separate, independent, and coequal
Representative Democracy	System of government in which public policies are made by officials selected by the voters and held accountable in periodic elections
Secular Government	A system of political power not exercised by ecclesiastical bodies or the clergy. Contrasted with theocracy
Unitary	A centralized system in which all powers of government belong to a single, central agency

**Civil Liberties**

<u>Freedom and Security of the Person:</u>	Several of the Constitution's guarantees are intended to protect the right of every American to live in freedom to be free of physical restraints, to be secure in his or her person, and to be secure in his or her home.
<u>Freedom of Assembly and Petition:</u>	The Constitution protects the right of the people to assemble to express their views on public matters. It also protects the people's right to bring their views to the attention of public officials by such varied means as written petitions, letters, or advertisements, lobbying; or parades, marches, or other demonstrations.
<u>Freedom of Religion:</u>	The Bill of Rights provides first for the protection of religious liberty. The First and Fourteenth Amendments provide a "wall of separation between church and state" and prohibit any arbitrary interference by government in the "free exercise" of religion.
<u>Freedom of Speech and the Press:</u>	The guarantees of free speech and press in the First and Fourteenth Amendments serve two fundamentally important purposes: 1) to guarantee each person a right of free expression and 2) to guarantee to all persons a full, wide-ranging discussion of public affairs.
<u>Rights of the Accused:</u>	The law intends that any person who is suspected or accused of a crime must be presumed innocent until proven guilty by fair and lawful means. Laws prohibit unjust arrests and imprisonment, punishment without a court trial, and being tried twice for the same crime, and provides the right to speedy and public trial, a trial by jury if accused of a federal crime, and the right to an adequate defense. Suspects must be informed of their rights before questioning.

**Civil Rights Laws & Policies**

<u>Affirmative Action:</u>	A plan or program to remedy the effects of past discrimination in employment, education, or other activity and to prevent its reoccurrence
<u>Civil Rights Act of 1964:</u>	Safeguarded the right to vote and outlawed discrimination in the areas of public accommodation, programs that receive federal funding, and employment

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- Civil Rights Act of 1968: With minor exceptions, forbids anyone to refuse to sell or rent a dwelling to any person on grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or disability.
- Voting Rights Act of 1965: The law passed in 1965 to effectuate the right of each citizen to vote under the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The law provides that no voting qualification prerequisite to voting shall be imposed by any state.

**BROAD SOCIOECONOMIC GOALS OF THE UNITED STATES**

- Economic Freedom: Marketplace freedom for producers, consumers, savers, borrowers, investors, workers, and entrepreneurs to make choices
- Economic Efficiency: Undertaking only those economic actions that result in additional benefits that exceed additional costs in order to obtain maximum benefits from using limited resources
- Economic Equity: Application of concepts of fairness and right vs. wrong to economic policy, generally viewed in terms of how a policy affects the distribution of income and wealth and in terms of equality of opportunity (not equality of results)
- Economic Security: Protection against economic risks over which individuals may have little or no control
- Full Employment: Using all of the economy's resources to capacity; generally viewed in terms of use of human resources; generally allows 3-5% unemployment
- Price Stability: Absence of inflation or deflation; generally allows 2-4% inflation
- Economic Growth: Producing increasing amounts of goods and services over the long term; generally measured by GDP and GDP per capita, the latter being the most meaningful because it measures growth in output relative to growth in population
- Other Goals: High-quality public education, national defense, environmental protection, exploration of space, high-quality medical care and others that arrive from time to time and over time