

Glossary

A

Aborigines native people of Australia (11)

absolute location an exact location on Earth, expressed using latitude and longitude (1)

absolute monarchy a form of government where the sovereign has all the power (2)

acid rain rain with increased acidity that is caused by air pollutants and other environmental factors (5) (6); clouds or rain droplets that are acidic (10)

algal bloom a rapid increase in algae that can cause the eventual death of plant and animal life in the area of the bloom (10)

alliances agreements between countries to defend each other in case of attack (6)

al-Qaeda a group of Muslim extremists who were responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on U.S. targets (9)

American Civil War the conflict between the North and the South, fought from 1861 to 1865; it resulted in the end of slavery in the United States (9)

ANZUS security treaty a 1951 treaty that serves as the foundation of defense and security cooperation between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States (11)

archaeologist a scientist who studies ancient artifacts to learn about early people (13)

Articles of Confederation the first plan of government for the United States, adopted in 1781; it was not very effective and was replaced by the U.S. Constitution in 1787 (9)

assimilate to absorb into a cultural tradition (8)

authority direction or ordering by another person (3)

autobahn Germany's freeways (6)

autocracy a form of government where the ruler has absolute, or total, power (2)

autonomy the right of self-government (11)

Aztec an empire that was centered in what is now Mexico, whose capital city was built on islands in a lake where Mexico City is today (12)

B

balanced budget a plan for how money will be used in which expenses do not exceed income (16)

Berlin Wall a wall built by East Germany to separate the communist part of Berlin from the free sections (6)

bilateral two-sided (10); involving two sides (15)

Bilateral Presidential Commission an association created by Russian and U.S. presidents in 2009 dedicated to improving organization between the countries, identifying areas of cooperation, and working on joint projects to strengthen stability between the countries (7)

bilingual speaking two languages (10)

blackout a time when all electricity to a region is cut off; a common occurrence in Cuba where energy resources are scarce (14)

Bolsa Família a program in Brazil in which poor families with children receive additional money from the government and agree to keep their children in school and take them for regular health checks (15)

Bolsheviks the group of communists, led by Vladimir Lenin, who executed the czar and his family, reorganized the country, and renamed it the Soviet Union during the Russian Revolution that began in 1917 (7)

bond an instrument where an investor lends money to the government or a company that will be paid back with interest on a specified date (16)

border region the areas of a country which share a border with a neighboring country (13)

Brazilian real the currency of Brazil, introduced in 1994 (15)

brazilwood a wood that was harvested in Brazil to make crimson and purple dyes; also called paubrasilia (15)

Brexit the move of United Kingdom voters in 2016 to leave the European Union; a combination of the words *British* and *exit* (5)

British-American Business Council of Georgia an organization that promotes trade between Georgia, the other states, and the United Kingdom (5)

British Commonwealth of Nations the group of independent nations that were formerly colonies of the United Kingdom (5) (8)

British pound (£) the currency of the United Kingdom (5)

budget a plan for how money will be used (16)

Bundesrat the upper house of the German Parliament; members are appointed by the individual states (6)

Bundestag the lower house of the German Parliament; members are elected by citizens of the states (6)

C

capital goods tools used in the production of goods and services (3)

census complete count of a population (9)

certificate of deposit (CD) a type of saving where money must be left in place for the full time specified; it usually has a higher interest rate than a savings account (16)

chancellor the head of government in Germany who takes care of day-to-day business of the nation; the chief executive of the German government and head of the military (4) (6)

charitable giving making gifts of money or goods to help other people (16)

checks and balances a system that prevents any of the three branches of U.S. government from dominating the other branches; it helps ensure that no single person or group will be able to violate the rights of other Americans (9)

Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station a nuclear power plant in Ukraine that exploded in 1986, causing a loss of life and poisoning the land and water (7)

choice an option (3)

Christianity the religion that studies the life and follows the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible (4)

civic life an aspect of life that looks at how citizens' decisions affect the local community and its decisions (1)

civil rights movement a struggle, mainly during the 1960s, when activists fought against unjust treatment that excluded African Americans from voting, left them vulnerable to violence, and ignored their economic and educational needs (9)

clear-cutting cutting all the trees in a given area (10)

Cold War a period after World War II when countries threatened to attack each other with nuclear weapons (4); the period of distrust and misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and its former (World War II) allies in the West, particularly the United States (6)

Columbian Exchange the exchange of goods, people, ideas, plants, animals, and diseases between the Old World (Europe) and the New World (the Americas) (12)

command economy an economy where government planning groups make the basic economic decisions (3)

Commonwealth Games a sporting event for members of the British Commonwealth that is similar to the Olympic Games; they are held every four years in different cities around the world (8)

Commonwealth Parliament the elected legislative body of Australia (11)

compulsory required (13)

confederation government a system where local governments hold all the power and the central government is weak and depends on the local governments for its existence (2)

Congress the legislative branch of the U.S. government; it consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives (9)

conquistadors conquerors; Spanish soldiers who conquered native people in the New World (12)

consequences outcomes (1)

constituency the people who vote for an elected official (11)

constitutional monarchy a form of government that has a sovereign as its head of state with limited power (2); a type of government where the monarch's power is limited by a constitution (5); a type of government that has a monarch as the head of state and traditional symbolic leader of the country, but has a constitution that sets up the organization of the government, explains the rights of its citizens, and limits the monarch's power (10)

consumer a person who satisfies a need or want by buying a good or service (3)

Consumer Price Index (CPI) an economic indicator that measures prices (3)

contest a competition (3)

contiguous adjoining, as do the "lower 48" states in the United States (15)

corruption dishonest behavior, often in government or business dealings (7)

coup a sudden overthrow of a government by a country's military leaders or another small, powerful group (15)

credit an arrangement by which a buyer can take possession of something now and pay for it in the future, usually with interest (16)

credit history the record of a person's payments on loans (16)

credit score a number assigned to a person that indicates his or her capacity to repay a loan (16)

Crusades military expeditions sent by different popes between 1096 and 1272 to capture important religious lands from the Muslim Turks (4)

Cuban convertible peso (CUC) the type of currency in Cuba that Americans must buy with U.S. dollars (14)

Cuban Missile Crisis a 1962 event in which Cuba gave the Soviet Union permission to build a missile-launching complex with missiles that could reach the United States; U.S. President John F. Kennedy demanded the missiles' removal (14)

Cuban peso (CUP) the currency within Cuba (14)

currency the money people use to make trade easier (3) (11)

czar the ruler of Russia until the revolution of 1917 (7)

D

debit card a card used to transfer money instantly from a checking account to a person or business (16)

decision a determination reached after consideration (1)

Declaration of Independence one of the founding documents of the United States, proclaimed on July 4, 1776; a statement of rights, the proper purposes of government, and limits of government (9)

deficit a shortfall (often in a budget) (6)

deforestation clearing an area of forests (7) (15)

demand the quantity of a good or service consumers are willing to buy (3)

democracy a form of government where citizens have the power in choosing their leaders (2)

depression a severe economic turndown (4)

dictator a person who rules with total authority, often in a harsh way (12)

dictatorship a form of government where one person controls the entire country (2)

domestic having to do with one's own country (1)

dominion a self-governing nation of the British Commonwealth of Nations other than the United Kingdom that acknowledges the British monarch as chief of state (10)

drug cartel a criminal drug-trafficking organization (12) (13)

E

economic continuum a range between different economic possibilities (3)

economics the study of how decisions are made about how to allocate, or distribute, limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants (1)

economist a person who studies the economy (3)

electorate an area of Australia that has an equal number of voters as other electorates; people who live in each electorate vote for a person to represent them in parliament (11)

embargo a government order stopping trade with another country (3) (11); stopping trade altogether (10) (14)

embassy the official residence and offices of an ambassador (5) (14)

emigration leaving one country to live in another (14)

empire a country that rules a number of territories (4)

entrepreneur a person who brings together natural, human, and capital resources to produce goods or services (10); a person who has creative, innovative ideas about new goods or services that people might want, or better ways to produce existing goods or services (11)

entrepreneurship the ability to organize, manage, and take on the risks of a business or enterprise (3)

environment surroundings (1)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the U.S. government agency, founded in the early 1970s, that monitors the environment and makes sure people and companies are following laws designed to keep the country clean (9)

essential expenses needs (16)

ethnic group a category of people grouped together because they have a common ancestry, language, or culture (9)

euro (€) the currency of the European Union (4) (6)

European Union (EU) a political and economic union of 27 European countries with over 448 million people (4)

exchange rate the price of one nation's currency in terms of another nation's currency (3)

executive branch the branch of government that enforces, or carries out, the laws passed by the legislative branch (2)

expenses costs related to a business (3); the spending of some income for various needs and wants (16) See also **fixed expense**, **variable expense**.

F

factors of production things needed to produce goods and services; natural resources, capital goods, human resources, and entrepreneurship (3)

Federal Assembly the legislature of the Russian Federation (7)

federal government a form of government where power is shared among different levels of government (2); a government where power is divided between national and state and local governments (10) (13) (15)

Federation Council the legislative house of the Russian Federation that represents the government of the states; it has two representatives from each state who are appointed by the states for five years (7)

financial investment putting money into things like stocks and bonds as a way to make money in the future (16)

financial sector businesses like banks, insurance companies, and real estate (10)

First Amendment the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that ensures freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly, and petition; part of the Bill of Rights (9)

first-come/first-served allowing a resource to the first person who chooses (3)

fixed expense an expense that costs the same every month (16)

force allowing the strongest to win (3)

French and Indian War a war fought in North America from 1754 to 1763; as a result of the British victory over France, Canada became part of the British Empire (8)

G

Gadsden Purchase an 1853 United States land purchase negotiated by Mexican President Santa Anna and U.S. Ambassador James Gadsden; the United States purchased land in southern Arizona and New Mexico for \$10 million, which set the northern border of Mexico where it is today (13)

geography the study of our surroundings (1) See also **human geography**, **physical geography**.

Germanic language a language group found in northwestern and central Europe that has the most European native-speakers; languages include English and German (4)

globalization the development of an increasingly worldwide economy (1)

goods tangible items (things you can touch) (3)

government the people and institutions in a society that have the authority to make, carry out, and enforce laws and settle disputes (1); the system by which a country is organized (2)

Great Depression a time of poor economic conditions during the 1930s (4) (9)

Great Smog of 1952 fog mixed with smoke that hung over London and affected transportation, crime, and health (5)

Great War (World War I) the war that began in Europe in 1914 between the Central Powers and the Allied Powers; it was later called World War I (4)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) the total value of the final goods and services produced within a country in one year (3) (10) (11)

growing season the number of days between the last killing frost in the spring and the first killing frost in the fall (10)

gross income total amount of money earned without taxes taken out (16)

Gulf Stream the current that moves warm water along the coast of North America and crosses the Atlantic Ocean; it warms Ireland and the western coasts of England, Scotland, and Wales (5)

H

head of government the person in charge of the day-to-day business of running the country (2)

head of state the chief public representative of a country, such as a president or monarch. This person may or may not serve as head of government, depending on the country. (2)

history the story of the successes and failures from the past that shaped our world today (1)

Holocaust a systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews and other groups the Nazis considered inferior in countries Germany controlled (4); Hitler's strategy to systemically kill every Jewish man, woman, and child under Nazi rule (6)

House of Commons the lower house of the British Parliament made up of members who are directly elected by voters for five-year terms; it controls the budget and has more legislative power than the House of Lords (5)

House of Lords the upper house of the British Parliament made up of members who are appointed by the monarch upon recommendation by the prime minister (5)

human geography a description of a place using characteristics that include languages spoken, customs practiced, and belief systems (1)

human resources people who produce goods or services (3)

humid continental climate a climate (long-term weather pattern) that has warm to hot summers and cold winters (10)

hydroelectric power electric power created by moving water (7)

I

Inca an empire that developed in the Andes Mountains of South America (12)

income money taken in; the source could be a gift or prize, money earned for performing a task, an allowance, earnings at a job, or earnings from an investment (3) (16)

indigenous native (8) (10) (11)

Industrial Revolution the major change in the economy marked by the introduction of power-driven machinery (5)

inflation a continual increase in the price of goods and services (3)

interest money paid regularly by a bank to the account holder for money being saved (16)

investment money spent on something with the goal of making a profit (16) See also **financial investment**, **real investment**.

Iron Curtain the line separating the Eastern Bloc and Western Bloc countries during the Cold War (4)

Islam the religion of the teachings of the prophet Muhammad; its followers are called Muslims (4)

islet a small island (14)

issue a problem that needs to be solved (1)

isthmus a narrow strip of land connecting two landmasses (12) (13)

J

Judaism a religion that began with the founding father Abraham around 2000 BC (4)

judicial branch the branch of government that is in charge of a country's courts and that settles disputes among citizens and between citizens and the government (2)

L

Länder the states of Germany (6)

latitude an imaginary line that measures a location's distance north or south of the Equator (1)

League of Nations an organization created after World War I with help from U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, through which countries could discuss problems and find solutions without going to war; it was not successful because the United States did not join (9)

legislative branch the branch of government that creates the laws of a country (2)

life expectancy the average life span of an individual (13)

Life Peerages Act a law, introduced in 1958, to include members of professions and more women in the British House of Lords (5)

literacy the ability to read and write (10) (11)

literacy rate percentage of the population over the age of 15 that can read and write

longitude an imaginary line that measures a location's distance east or west of the prime meridian (1)

lottery a random, luck-driven choice (3)

M

market economy an economy where decisions are made at an individual, rather than a government, level (3); an economy where individuals and corporations own most of the businesses and farms (13)

marketplace the world of trade or economic activity (9)

Maya a civilization that developed in Central America on the Yucatán Peninsula that reached its peak around 2,000 years ago (12)

Mérida Initiative a partnership between the United States and Mexico to address violence and crime while strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights (13)

mestizo people of Cuba who are of mixed European and indigenous heritage (14)

Mexican peso the currency of Mexico; one of the oldest traded currencies in the world (13)

migration movement from one locality to another (12)

militarism using strong armies and threats of war (4)

monolith the visible part of a single, large rock sticking out of the earth (11)

monopolist a person in the Mexican government who wants to control an enterprise (13)

monotheism belief in a single god (4)

Monroe Doctrine a policy declared by U.S. President James Monroe; it stated that rivalries and wars of countries in the Old World should not affect the freedom and independence of countries in the New World (12)

mortgage a home loan (16)

mutual fund an investment where a professional manager puts together money from many investors and buys many different stocks and bonds (16)

N

National Assembly of People's Power the legislative branch of the Cuban government; it consists of 470 members who are all from the Communist Party (14)

National Congress the legislative branch of government in Mexico (13); the legislative branch of government in Brazil (15)

national debt the total outstanding borrowings of a country's government (15)

National Health Service (NHS) the health care system in the United Kingdom that provides comprehensive and free health care to all British citizens (5)

nationalism the love of one's country (4)

natural resource something that comes from Earth or nature that is useful to humans (3) (10) (11)

Nazi Party the National Socialist Party, led by Adolf Hitler, which came to power in Germany during the 1930s (4) (6)

needs basic things necessary for all humans, like air, food, clothing, and shelter (3)

New Testament the part of the Christian Bible that tells of the life and teachings of Jesus (4)

net income amount of the check that remains after taxes and deductions are taken out (16)

nomadic moving from place to place (11)

non-essential expenses wants (16)

nonrenewable unable to replenish itself (3)

normalization restoring relations between countries to a normal condition (14)

North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) a joint U.S.-Canadian air force command responsible for detecting aircraft and space vehicles that could threaten the continental airspace (10)

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) a 1994 trade agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. It was replaced in 2020 by the United States - Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA) (10)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) a mutual defense alliance formed in 1949 by Western European countries and the United States and Canada (4) (10)

O

oligarchy a form of government where a political party or other small group makes all the major decisions (2)

opportunity cost the value of the next best alternative a person does not choose (3)

options choices (1)

outback Australia's dry interior (11)

overdraft what happens when a check is not backed up by enough money in the bank; a "bounced check" (16)

P

parliamentary democracy a form of government where citizens can vote for a representative from the political party that represents their views and the party with the most seats in parliament picks the head of government (2); a type of government in which citizens elect members of parliament (MPs) who in turn elect the prime minister who leads as head of government (10)

Parliament of Great Britain the single governing body for England and Wales and Scotland established in 1707 (5)

Pentagon the building outside Washington, DC, that is headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense; it was damaged during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks (9)

Permanent Joint Board on Defense a defense arrangement between Canada and the United States (10)

personal characteristic allowing a resource to a person based on particular traits (3)

personal finance decisions individuals make in the management of their money (16)

personal life an aspect of life that includes decisions people make about their own personal interests (1)

pharmaceuticals medical drugs (9)

philanthropy the act of giving money for charitable purposes (16)

phosphorus a chemical used in fertilizer, pesticides, toothpaste, detergents, and explosives; it can cause algal blooms in lakes (10)

physical geography a location described by characteristics that include landforms, climate, vegetation, and other natural characteristics (1)

plateau a broad flat area of high land (13)

political science the study of different types of governments (1)

politics a process through which people with different opinions are able to reach decisions together that are agreed to and enforced (1)

pope the Bishop of Rome, who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church (12)

president one type of executive office for a country; may serve as head of government, head of state, or both (6)

presidential democracy a form of government where citizens elect the president as head of government separately from the legislature (2) (15)
See also **presidential system**.

presidential system a system of government in which a president heads the executive branch of government and is considered the head of government (9)

price the cost of a good or service to the consumer (3)

prime minister one type of executive leader for a country who is chosen by parliament to be head of government (5)

producer a person or group of people who use resources to make goods or provide services (3)

profit the amount left after costs are subtracted from a price (3)

propaganda ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread to help a cause, a political leader, or a government (4)

protectionism government protection of a country's industries from foreign competition (7)

Q

quota a specific limit placed on the number of imports that may enter a country (3) (11); a limit on goods to be traded (10)

Quran the holy book of Islam that contains revelations recorded by Muhammad (4)

R

real investment putting money into something physical such as real estate (land or a house) or equipment (16)

recession a decline in the economy (12)

relative location a location described by where it is in relation, or compared, to somewhere else (1)

renewable able to replenish itself over time (3)

reparations monies paid by the losing country to the winners to make up for damages done in war (6)

repossess to take back possession of something (16)

representative democracy a system of government through which citizens elect representatives to vote on laws and lead the country (9)

resource allocation the way things are distributed (3)

Roaring Twenties a period after World War I when the U.S. economy did very well (9)

Romance language a language group found in southern and western Europe; languages come from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire, and include French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish (4)

ruble (₽) the currency of the Russian Federation (7)

S

scarcity the situation that exists when there is unlimited demand but not enough supply of a good or service (1); the situation when people and societies try to satisfy unlimited wants with limited resources (3)

Scottish Parliament a unicameral legislative body that was restored in 1997 (5)

Scramble for Africa the period between 1885 and 1910 when European countries divided control of the African continent among themselves (4)

self-sufficient able to exist without outside help (15)

separatists people of the Canadian province of Quebec who wanted Quebec to be an independent country (10)

serfs Russians in the time of the czars who were bound to the land as workers in a feudal system (7)

services work or activities people perform, often for a fee (3)

sharing dividing a resource (3)

slag leftover rock from the smelting (refining) process (10)

Slavic language a language group found in central and eastern Europe; languages include Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian, which generally use a different alphabet (4)

smog a combination of smoke and fog (13)

sovereignty the right of a group of people to be free of outside interference (2)

Spanish-American War a conflict between Spain and the United States that began in 1898 when the USS Maine was blown up in Havana harbor; after this brief war, Spain lost control of Cuba (14)

specialization when a country focuses on producing the goods and services they can make best and trading for what they are unable to produce (1); becoming an expert in one part of a larger business or market (3); when countries concentrate on producing goods for which they have abundant resources (10)

standard of living how well or how poorly a person or group of persons live in terms of having their needs and wants met (3)

standards limits and rules set by the government in regards to imports and domestic goods (3)

State Duma the legislative house of the Russian Federation that is elected by the citizens; its 450 members control the budget and make laws (7)

stock an ownership share in a company (16)

Stolen Generations Australian government programs from 1910 into the 1970s that removed Aboriginal children from their families and sent them to white families and church-run institutions for cultural reprogramming (11)

subsidy giving money to certain businesses so they can continue to compete with imports (3)

supply the quantity of a good or service available for sale (3)

surplus money left over (often refers to a budget) (6)

T

tariff a tax on imports (3) (10) (11)

temperate refers to a climate that is not extremely hot or extremely cold (9)

territory any land within Australia's national border that is not claimed by one of the states (11)

Torah the holy book of Judaism that contains the history of the Jewish people and laws to live by (4)

trade the voluntary exchange of goods and services among people and countries (1) (3)

trade-off a choice to have less of one thing to get more of something else (3)

trade surplus a situation where a country exports more than it imports (10)

traditional economy an economy that depends on agriculture and bartering, where decisions are often made based on long-held customs, beliefs, or habits (3)

Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) a political body that seeks to increase cooperation between the United States and the European Union by promoting economic growth through trade and job creation (6)

Treaty of Tordesillas a treaty of 1494 that established a line of demarcation between lands to be controlled by Spain or by Portugal (15)

Treaty of Versailles treaty at the end of World War I requiring Germany to pay reparations to the Allies (6)

tributaries streams that flow into larger streams or rivers (15)

tropical rain forest woodland with high annual rainfall and very tall evergreen trees (13)

Tropic of Capricorn the latitude that is 23.5° south of the Equator; the southernmost latitude reached by the overhead sun (15)

U

unemployment when a person does not have a job but has been actively looking for work and is currently available for work (3)

unitary government a form of government where the central (national) government holds almost all the power (2); a system in which power is organized from a strong central government that controls each of the smaller units in the country (14)

United States Congress See **Congress**.

United States Constitution one of the founding documents of the United States, written in 1787; it set up our nation's framework for government (9)

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade agreement that replaced NAFTA (10)

United States Supreme Court the highest court of the United States; it is made up of nine justices (judges) (9)

V

values what is most important to a person (1)

variable expense an expense that costs different amounts every month (16)

viceroys a ruler of New Spain (colonial Mexico) who was chosen by the Spanish monarch (13)

voluntary trade exchange of goods between countries where each country gets what it needs (15)

vote a formal expression of opinion (3)

WXYZ

wants things that would make lives more comfortable or enjoyable (3)

Warsaw Pact an alliance of Eastern European countries formed in 1949 to counteract the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (6)

welfare state a country where the government guarantees people certain benefits when they are unemployed, poor, disabled, elderly, or sick (6)

World Trade Center buildings in New York City that collapsed during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks (9)