

Unit: 1. INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

VOCABULARY

accountability	the character of being responsible to the people; being answerable to others
activism	action taken to strengthen or weaken a political ideal
aristocracy	government by privileged citizens or the upper class
atrocities	an appallingly terrible act
autocracy	one person has complete control over all branches of government
authority	the power and/or right to enforce obedience and make decisions over a group
bureaucracy	a system of leaders who carry out the work of the government through departments
collaboration	working in a unified intellectual effort on a joint project
commerce	the business and exchange of goods by purchase, trade, or sale
communism	a political system of collective ownership, the population is of one class
Communist Manifesto	written by Marx urging to overthrow the upper classes; textbook for communism and socialism
Congress	elected legislative body of a country
Constitution	set of laws and guidelines laid out for the proper governing of a country
culture	human thought and lifestyle within a certain time period or place
Das Kapital	written by Karl Marx promoting the working class uprising; a text for Marxism and Communism
democracy	rule by the people, originally an Aristotelian term that meant bad "people-run" government
dictator	leader who has total control over a country, and is unrestrained by law

dissenter	one who disagrees or has a difference of opinion
divine laws	instructions and guidelines for life believed to have been delivered by God
electoral districts	local geographic boundaries within the which the citizen votes
ethics	system of moral values and good conduct
federal	government formed by a union of smaller groups (states) in agreement
foreign exchange student	pupils who go to another country to study its culture for a set amount of time, usually a year
free enterprise system	system in which the government allows the citizen to own and operate private business
general election	the people of the country voting for the members of the House of Commons
government	system of authority over a group of people
habeas corpus	order to bring an arrested person to court and decide whether the imprisonment is legal
House of Commons	oversees law and tax legislation; the more powerful of the two houses of Parliament
House of Lords	contains the High Court; the "upper house"; composed of the lords temporal and spiritual
House of Representatives	one of the two houses of Congress in a Presidential government
humanistic	secular, promoted during the Renaissance; putting emphasis on man's will
impeachment	charging of a public official of a crime or misdeed before a judging body of officials

imports	goods brought into a country or state for the purpose of trade
Institutional Revolutionary Party	ruling political party in Mexico from 1929 to 2000.
insubordination	act of disobedience
intangible	that cannot be felt by touching, immaterial
judiciary system	system of courts and the upholding of the laws of the land
jurisdiction	right to exercise authority
Khmer Rouge	Communist regime in Cambodia that brutally seized power in 1975 and controlled the country until 1979
legislation	proposed law
legislature	body of elected officials that is empowered to make laws for a country
license	authorization by law
loathe	to hate or abhor
majority	largest percentage of the whole body which, by vote, controls the direction of legislation
medieval	at the time of the Middle Ages (A.D. 500-1500 approx.)
minority party	smaller party with not as much political clout or election support
monarchy	hereditary rule by one person alone; usually a king, queen, or emperor
morality	character of being in agreement with the standards of right conduct
Of Reformation in England	John Milton's writing on the preference of a commonwealth over a monarchy
oligarchy	selfish group leadership, as defined by Aristotle
override	to surpass a veto
Palace of Westminster	meeting site of both Houses of the British Parliament
parliamentary	government with a Prime Minister and two houses of Parliament elected by the people

philosopher	person who is learned in the study of thought and conduct
pluralism	form of government where the public has input in the various areas of interest of the country
policy	governmental course of action
polity	Aristotle's definition of a good government run by the people
presidential	government headed by a President; two houses of Congress elected by the people (American)
Prime Minister	leader of the majority party in the House of Commons
principles	basic rule or standard
Renaissance	revival of art and learning arising between the 14th and 16th centuries
regulate	to control, adjust or govern according to a system
republic	country whose government is controlled by the elected representatives of the population
revolutionary	one who tries to create radical change in government and existing political structure
socialism	system where political power and property is to be shared by the whole population
social scientist	one who studies individual relationships within society and relationships to society
sovereignty	supremacy of rule; higher authority
tangible	that can be felt by touching, material
tariffs	systems of taxes placed on imports or exports of a country
The Prince	publication written by Machiavelli which tells of maintaining power even by evil means

totalitarianism	government where the authorities require complete obedience and total submission
tyranny	unjust governmental authority; oppressive power
unrelenting	inflexible; refusing to yield
utilities	service to the public such as gas, telephone, water, or electric power
veto	rejection of a bill passed by the legislature
welfare state	country in which the government assumes a large share of the social caretaking of the people
workfare	System where a person receives welfare benefits by showing proof of working in a regular job.

[Vocab Arcade](#)

Lesson 1

[Take a look at our Federal government's home base: The White House.](#)

Lesson 5

[Click here to get information about the British House of Lords and House of Commons.](#)

[The British version of the White House: 10 Downing Street.](#)

Lesson 7

[Click here to get more Web information about the life of Aristotle.](#)

<http://www.senate.gov/>

<http://www.house.gov/>