# **World History Terms A Z**

Abd al-Rahman III Islamic ruler in Spain who held a countercaliphate and signed from 912 to 961 CE.

shorigines Original, native inhabitants of a region, as opposed to invaders, colonizers, or later peoples of mixed ancestry,

absolute monarchy Form of government where one body, usually the monarch, controls the right to tax, judge, make war, and coin money. The term elliphened obsolutists was often used to refer to state monarchies in seventeenthand eighteenth-century Europe.

acid rain Precipitation containing large amounts of sulfur, mainly from coal-fired plants.

adaptation Ability to alter behavior and to innovate, finding new ways of doing things.

African National Congress (ANC)
Multiracial organization founded in 1912
in an effort to end racial discrimination
in South Africa.

Afrikaners Descendants of the original Dutch settlers of South Africa; formerly referred to as Boers.

Agones Athletic contests in ancient Greece.

Ahmosis Egyptian ruler in the southem part of the country who ruled from 1550 to 1525 BCE; Ahmosis used Hyksos weaponry-horse chariots in particularto defeat the Hyksos themselves.

Ahura Mazda Supreme God of the Persians believed to have created the world and all that is good and to have appointed earthly kings.

AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) Virus that compromises the ability of the infected person's immune system to ward off disease. First detected in 1981, AIDS was initially stigmatized as a "gay cancer," but as it aptead to heterosexuals, public awareness about it increased. In its first two decades, AIDS killed 12 million people.

Akbarnamah Mughal intellectual Abulfazl's Book of Akbar, which attempted to reconcile the traditional Sufi interest in the inner life within the worldly context of a great empire.

Alaric II Visigothic king who issued a simplified code of innovative imperial law.

Alexander the Great (326-323 sct)
Leader who used novel tactics and new
kinds of armed forces to conquer the Persian Empire, which extended from Egypt
and the Mediterranean Sea to the interior
of what is now Afghanistan and as far
as the Indus River valley. Alexander's
conquests broke down barriers between
the Mediterranean world and Southwest
Asia and transferred massive amounts of
wealth and power to the Mediterranean,
transforming it into a more unified world
of economic and cultural exchange.

Alexandria Port city in Egypt named after Alexander the Great. Alexandria was a model city in the Hellenistic world. It was built up by a multiethnic population from around the Mediterranean world.

Al-Khwarizmi Scientist and mathematician who lived from 780 to 850 cz and is known for having modified Indian digits into Arabic numerala.

Allied powers Name given to the alliance between Britain, France, Russia, and Italy, who fought against Germany and Austria-Hungary (the Central powera) in World War I. In World War II the name was used for the alliance between Britain, France, and America, who fought against the Axia powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan).

allomothering System by which mothers relied on other women, including their own mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends, to help in the nurturing and protecting of children.

alluvium Area of land created by river deposits.

American Railway Union Workers' union that initiated the Pullman Strike of 1894, which led to violence and ended in the leaders' arrest.

Amnesty International Nongovernmental organization formed to defend "prisoners of conscience"-those detained for their beliefs, race, sex, ethnic origin, language, or religion.

Amorites Name that Mesopotamian urbanites called the transhumant herders from the Arabian desert. Around 2300 BCE, the Amorites, along with the Elamites, were at the center of newly formed dynasties in southern Mesopotamia.

Amun Once insignificant Egyptian god elevated to higher status by Amenemhet (1991-1962 BCE). Amun means "hidden" in Ancient Egyptian; the name was meant to convey the god's omnipresence.

Analects Texts that included the teachings and cultural ideals of Confucius.

anarchism Belief that society should be a free association of its members, not subject to government, laws, or police.

Anatolia Now mainly the area known as modern Turkey; in the sixth millennium BCE, people from Anatolia, Greece, and the Levant took to boats and populated the Aegean. Their small villages endured almost unchanged for two millennia.

ancestral worship Religious practice in which the living honor their dead ancestors through performative rituals, under the belief that the dead intervene with their powers on behalf of the living.

Angkor Wat Magnificent Khmer Vaishnavite temple that crowned the royal palace in Angkor. It had statues representing the Hindu pantheon of gods.

Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) Anticolonial struggle in South Africa between the British and the Afrikaners over the goldrich Transvaal. In response to the Afrikaners' guerrilla tactics and in order to contain the local population, the British instituted the first concentration camps. Ultimately, Britain won the conflict.

animal domestication. Gradual process that occurred simultaneously with or just before the domestication of plants, depending on the region.

annals Historical records. Notable annals are the cuneiform inscriptions

G-1

World history terms A-Z encompass a vast array of concepts, events, figures, and movements that have shaped human civilization. Understanding these terms is crucial for anyone interested in the complex tapestry of our past. This article will explore significant terms from A to Z, providing definitions and context for each entry. From ancient civilizations to modern political movements, this comprehensive guide aims to enhance your understanding of world history.

# **Agrarian Society**

An agrarian society is one that is primarily focused on agriculture as the main means of subsistence. These societies often develop around fertile land and rely on farming and livestock rearing. Key characteristics include:

- Reliance on crop production
- Structured social hierarchies
- Development of trade and markets

## **Absolutism**

Absolutism is a political doctrine where a single ruler holds absolute power over the state and its people. This form of government was prevalent in Europe during the 16th to 18th centuries, notably under monarchs like Louis XIV of France.

B

## **Barter System**

The barter system is an ancient method of exchange where goods and services are traded directly for other goods and services without using money. This system was the foundation of early economies but had limitations, including the need for a double coincidence of wants.

# **Byzantine Empire**

The Byzantine Empire was the continuation of the Roman Empire in the eastern Mediterranean region after the fall of Rome in 476 AD. It thrived for over a thousand years, known for its rich culture, art, and the preservation of Greek and Roman knowledge.

C

## **Colonialism**

Colonialism refers to the policy of acquiring and maintaining control over foreign territories, often involving the settlement of colonizers and exploitation of resources. Major colonial powers included Britain, France, and Spain, impacting millions of indigenous populations worldwide.

### Cold War

The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States following World War II. It was characterized by ideological conflict, arms races, and proxy wars without direct military confrontation.

### D

## **Democracy**

Democracy is a system of government in which power is vested in the people, who exercise that power directly or through elected representatives. The concept has evolved through history, with ancient Athens often cited as one of the earliest forms of democracy.

### **Decolonization**

Decolonization is the process by which colonies gain independence from colonial powers. This movement gained momentum after World War II, leading to significant social, political, and economic changes, especially in Africa and Asia.

# E

# **Empire**

An empire is a large political structure that extends its dominance over various territories and peoples, often through conquest or colonization. Notable empires include the Roman Empire, the British Empire, and the Ottoman Empire.

## **Enlightenment**

The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in the 17th and 18th centuries emphasizing reason, individualism, and skepticism of traditional authority. It influenced various fields, including politics, philosophy, and science, and laid the groundwork for modern democratic thought.

### **Feudalism**

Feudalism was a social and economic system prevalent in medieval Europe, characterized by the exchange of land for military service. Key components included:

- Lords granting land (fiefs) to vassals
- Serfs working the land for protection
- A hierarchical structure of power

### **Fascism**

Fascism is a far-right authoritarian ultranationalist political ideology that emerged in the early 20th century. It is characterized by dictatorial power, suppression of dissent, and a strong emphasis on nationalism, as seen in regimes like Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany.

## G

## Genocide

Genocide is the deliberate and systematic extermination of a particular group of people based on their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or race. Notable examples include the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Armenian Genocide.

## Guild

A guild was a medieval association of craftsmen and merchants formed to protect the interests of its members. Guilds played a significant role in the economic and social life of towns, regulating trade practices and maintaining quality standards.

## H

## Hellenistic Period

The Hellenistic Period (323-30 BC) followed the conquests of Alexander the Great, marked by the spread of Greek culture across the Mediterranean and

Near East. This era saw advancements in science, philosophy, and the arts, blending Greek and Eastern influences.

### Humanism

Humanism is a Renaissance intellectual movement that emphasized the value of human beings, individualism, and critical thinking. It marked a departure from medieval scholasticism and focused on classical texts and the study of humanities.

### Ι

## **Imperialism**

Imperialism is the policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization or military force. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw a surge in imperialist activities, particularly among European powers in Africa and Asia.

### **Industrial Revolution**

The Industrial Revolution was a period of profound economic and technological change that began in the late 18th century. It shifted economies from agrarian to industrialized, leading to urbanization, changes in labor, and significant advancements in technology.

## J

## **Judaism**

Judaism is one of the oldest monotheistic religions, centered around the belief in one God and the teachings of the Hebrew Bible. Its history has profoundly influenced Western civilization and the development of Christianity and Islam.

## Justinian Code

The Justinian Code, or the Corpus Juris Civilis, was a collection of laws and legal interpretations compiled under the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. It served as a foundation for legal systems in many Western countries.

### Karl Marx

Karl Marx was a German philosopher and economist whose theories on socialism and communism have had a lasting impact on political thought. His seminal works, including "The Communist Manifesto" and "Das Kapital," critique capitalism and advocate for class struggle.

## Kievan Rus

Kievan Rus was a federation of Slavic tribes centered around the city of Kiev from the 9th to the 13th centuries. It is considered a precursor to modern-day Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, playing a crucial role in the cultural and political development of the region.

L

# Legislation

Legislation refers to laws enacted by a governing body. The process of creating laws is fundamental to governance and can take various forms, such as statutes, regulations, and ordinances.

## Libertarianism

Libertarianism is a political philosophy that emphasizes individual liberty, free markets, and minimal government intervention in personal and economic affairs. It advocates for civil liberties and personal responsibility as fundamental principles.

M

## **Mercantilism**

Mercantilism is an economic theory that dominated European policy from the 16th to the 18th centuries. It posits that a country's wealth is measured by its stock of precious metals and advocates for a positive balance of trade.

# **Manifest Destiny**

Manifest Destiny was a 19th-century doctrine that justified American expansion across North America. It reflected the belief that the United States was destined to expand its territory, often at the expense of Native American populations.

### N

### **Nationalism**

Nationalism is a political ideology that emphasizes the interests and culture of a particular nation, often prioritizing national sovereignty and independence. It has been a driving force behind many independence movements and conflicts throughout history.

### **Neolithic Revolution**

The Neolithic Revolution, also known as the Agricultural Revolution, marks the transition from nomadic hunter-gatherer societies to settled agricultural communities. This shift, which began around 10,000 BC, led to the development of cities and complex societies.

## 0

# Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire was a vast and powerful state that lasted from the late 13th century until the early 20th century. Centered in modern-day Turkey, it was known for its cultural diversity, military prowess, and significant contributions to art and architecture.

# **Oligarchy**

Oligarchy is a form of government in which power rests with a small number of people, often distinguished by wealth, family ties, or military control. Oligarchies have existed in various forms throughout history, often leading to social inequality and unrest.

# **Plague**

The term "plague" refers to infectious diseases that can cause widespread mortality. The Black Death, which struck Europe in the 14th century, is one of the most infamous plagues, resulting in the deaths of millions and significantly altering European society.

### **Protestant Reformation**

The Protestant Reformation was a religious movement in the 16th century that

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What does the term 'Ancient Rome' refer to?

Ancient Rome refers to the civilization that originated from the city of Rome and expanded to become one of the most powerful empires in history, lasting from the 8th century BC until the fall of the Western Roman Empire in AD 476.

## What is 'Feudalism'?

Feudalism is a social and economic system that dominated medieval Europe, characterized by the exchange of land for military service and labor, where lords owned large estates and vassals served them.

# What does 'Renaissance' signify in world history?

The Renaissance signifies a cultural revival in Europe from the 14th to the 17th century, marked by a renewed interest in art, science, and the classical knowledge of Ancient Greece and Rome.

## What is the 'Cold War'?

The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies, lasting from the end of World War II in 1947 until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

# What does the term 'Colonialism' refer to?

Colonialism refers to the practice of acquiring and maintaining control over foreign territories, often involving the settlement of colonizers and exploitation of resources, particularly prominent from the 15th to the 20th centuries.

## What is 'The Enlightenment'?

The Enlightenment was an intellectual and philosophical movement in the 17th and 18th centuries that emphasized reason, individualism, and skepticism of traditional authority, greatly influencing modern political and educational systems.

## What does 'The Silk Road' refer to?

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes that connected the East and West, facilitating not only the exchange of goods, such as silk and spices, but also cultural, technological, and religious interactions from around 130 BCE to the 1450s.

## What is 'Imperialism'?

Imperialism is a policy or ideology of extending a country's power and influence through colonization, military force, or other means, particularly prevalent from the 19th to early 20th centuries.

## What does 'The Industrial Revolution' entail?

The Industrial Revolution refers to the period from the late 18th to the early 19th centuries marked by major industrialization, technological innovation, and the shift from agrarian economies to industrialized ones, beginning in Britain.

## What is 'Globalization'?

Globalization is the process of increased interconnectedness and interdependence among countries, primarily in terms of economies, cultures, and politics, facilitated by trade, technology, and communication advancements.

#### Find other PDF article:

 $\underline{https://soc.up.edu.ph/50-draft/Book?trackid=fWa57-6847\&title=red-cross-phlebotomy-training-ma.p.df}$ 

# **World History Terms A Z**

#### Global Risks Report 2025 | World Economic Forum

Jan 15, 2025 · The Global Risks Report 2025 analyses global risks to support decision-makers in balancing current crises and longer-term priorities.

### The Future of Jobs Report 2025 | World Economic Forum

Jan 7, 2025 · Technological change, geoeconomic fragmentation, economic uncertainty,

demographic shifts and the green transition – individually and in combination are among the major drivers expected to shape and transform the global labour market by 2030. The Future of Jobs Report 2025 brings together the perspective of over 1,000 leading global ...

### The Future of Jobs Report 2025 - The World Economic Forum

Jan 7,  $2025 \cdot$  Learn how global trends like tech innovation and green transition will transform jobs, skills, and workforce strategies in The Future of Jobs Report 2025

### **Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 | World Economic Forum**

Jan 13,  $2025 \cdot$  The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, written in collaboration with Accenture, examines the cybersecurity trends that will affect economies and societies in the year to come. The report explores major findings and puts a spotlight on the complexity of the cybersecurity landscape, which is intensified by geopolitical tensions, ...

### The top global health stories from 2024 | World Economic Forum

Dec 17,  $2024 \cdot$  Health was a major focus in 2024, shaping global news and driving key discussions at the World Economic Forum. From climate change health impacts to the rise of antimicrobial resistance and improving health equity for women, here are 6 top health stories of the year.

#### Latest World News & Headlines - SBS

Read, watch or listen to the latest news and headlines from all around the world with SBS News.

### **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting**

World leaders from government, business, civil society and academia will convene in Davos to engage in forward-looking discussions to address global issues and set priorities. The call for bold collective action makes the meeting particularly relevant.

### Global Gender Gap Report 2025 - The World Economic Forum

Jun 11, 2025 · The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to benchmark progress towards gender parity across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership (Figure 1.1).

### Is AI closing the door on entry-level job opportunities? | World ...

Apr 30, 2025 · AI is reshaping the career ladder, putting entry-level roles at risk while widening global talent pools. Here's the job news to know, this International Workers' Day.

### World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

Jan 19, 2024 · The World Economic Forum provides a global, impartial and not-for-profit platform for meaningful connection between stakeholders to establish trust, and build initiatives for cooperation and progress.

### Global Risks Report 2025 | World Economic Forum

Jan 15,  $2025 \cdot$  The Global Risks Report 2025 analyses global risks to support decision-makers in balancing ...

### The Future of Jobs Report 2025 | World Economic Forum

Jan 7,  $2025 \cdot$  Technological change, geoeconomic fragmentation, economic uncertainty, demographic shifts and ...

### The Future of Jobs Report 2025 - The World Economic Forum

Jan 7, 2025 · Learn how global trends like tech innovation and green transition will transform jobs,

skills, ...

### Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 | World Economic Forum

Jan 13,  $2025 \cdot$  The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, written in collaboration with ...

### The top global health stories from 2024 | World Economic ...

Dec 17, 2024 · Health was a major focus in 2024, shaping global news and driving key discussions at the World ...

Explore essential world history terms from A to Z in our comprehensive guide. Enhance your knowledge and understanding of historical concepts. Learn more!

Back to Home