

## GLOSSARY (SELECTED TERMS)

Accident (historical): An event in human history that is unpredictable and/or beyond human control.

Agency: The ability to make one's own history.

Agrarian Empire: An empire built around, and specializing in, agriculture.

Agrarian: Economies that are centered around agriculture.

BCE: Before the Common Era, BC

Biological Old Regime: The material and natural conditions under which most people lived prior to the nineteenth century; agriculture and industry both dependent upon capturing solar energy flows.

Black Death: A virulent epidemic disease more commonly known as the bubonic plague, which in the mid-1300's killed tens of millions of people throughout Eurasia.

Bureaucracy: A body of non elected government officials with specialized functions.

Ca.: Short for 'circa,' meaning in or around a certain year or time frame, and usually used when specific dates are not certain.

Calico: Indian cotton textiles used to make nearly all domestic products like clothes and linens.

Capitalism: An economic system characterized by private ownership of capital, and by production, distribution, wages, and prices determined mainly by market factors.

CE: Common Era; AD.

Circa: About; used before an approximate date or figure.

Civilization: Societies characterized by cities, writing, and social class division.

Colombian Exchange: The ecological and biological encounter between the Old World and the New, with a legacy of delivering great amounts of New World foodstuffs to the Old World diets, and in turn leaving Old World diseases to a New World population that was highly susceptible to the diseases.

Commodity: Products exchanged via markets.

Conjuncture: When several otherwise independent developments come together in ways that interact with one another, creating a unique historical moment.

Contingency: Something that may happen as an adjunct to or as a result of something else.

Core: The center, metropolis of a system, where people, power, and wealth are concentrated and gathered from the periphery.

Cultural Values: Set beliefs, practices, and institutions of a particular culture.

Dar-al-Islam: Literally, 'the abode of Islam,' meaning the places where the Islamic religion is widely practiced.

Dearth: Scarcity or inadequate supply; especially of food.

Diffusionism: The belief in the spread of cultural elements from one area or group of people to another through contact.

Dynasty: A system of rule by a family and its direct descendants.

Empire: Political unit with a large amount of territory or a number of territories and peoples under a single sovereign ruler.

Encomienda: A parcel of land that Native Americans were assigned to work by Spanish colonial landlords.

Eurasia: The super-continent comprised of Asia and Europe.

Eurocentrism: Historical focus on European and Western Civilization. Studying the world only in how it relates to European and Western Civilization.

Four Necessities of Life: Food, clothing, shelter, and fuel.

Free Trade: The exchange of goods between different political units and peoples without government or artificial restrictions applied; contrast with mercantilism.

French Revolution of 1789: Symbolic for its goal of democracy and the universal rights of man.

Germ Theory of Disease: The scientific explanation that disease is spread by germs (either viral or bacterial), not other cultural (e.g. the wrath of the gods) or environmental means (e.g. "bad air").

Globalization: The contact and connection between human beings throughout the world through trade, travel, culture, and language.

Great Dying: An assortment of Old World diseases that brought on seventeen major epidemics in the New World during the sixteenth century, and served to reduce the native New World population by 90%.

Historical Narrative: History is written in the form of a narrative whereby the story, or history, is delivered with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Iconoclastic: Challenging set beliefs or institutions.

Industrial Capitalism: A capitalist economy dominated by industry.

Industrial Revolution: The transition from an agrarian, biological old regime economy, to one driven by coal, steam, and factory production.

Industrialization: The process of developing modern industry.

Inflation: Increase in volume of money relative to the amount of available goods and services resulting in a rise in prices.

Italian Renaissance: Period from the 14th century until the 17th century where most of Europe, most notably Italy, made the transition from medieval to modern times, represented by the art, writing, architecture, philosophy, and inventions of the period.

actions.

Linguistic: Of or relating to language or languages.

Little Ice Age: Period of abnormal cold in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Market Specialization: A particular region creating a specific item, or items, that it is best suited to produce and trading for items it can not, or is not, well suited to produce.

Master Narrative: The principal narrative that all other minor narratives of a certain history are linked or go to support.

Material World: That comprised of the efforts to secure the four necessities of life.

Mechanization: To make mechanical. To do or operate by machinery.

Mercantilism: An economic system used to increase the power and wealth of a nation by strict regulation of the economy through policies designed to protect domestic industry, foster domestic development, obtain and maintain foreign monopolies, and preserve silver or gold bullion.

Modern World: The world since 1400 CE; the period from 1400 to 1800 is often referred to as the Early Modern World.

Mongol: Member of any of a group of traditionally pastoral and historically warlike peoples of Mongolia.

Mono causal: Having a single cause.

Mythology: Myths dealing with the god, or gods, spirits, and legendary icons of a particular people.

Nation state. An independent political unit dominated by one nationality rather than multiple nationalities.

Nation(ality): A people with a common culture and language, but not necessarily with their own state.

National history: A particular form of telling history that is intended to glorify and unify a group of people within a nation.

Nationalism: The belief that a nation should have its own state; the celebration of that nation and its state, to the exclusion of others.

Nomad: A people, usual herders, who move seasonally to follow their herds, usually across grasslands.

Opium: A highly addictive narcotic drug derived from the dried juice of the opium poppy plant.

Paradox: A situation that may seem absurd or impossible but might in fact be true.

Peasant: Low status agriculturalist, usually tilling land they own or rent from others..

Pentimento: Term used when a painter changes his or her mind and paints over an existing painting or part of a painting; the process of that original painting showing through..

Periphery: Outside of the core.

Polycentric: A world without a single, dominating core; several cores.

Primogeniture: Exclusive right of inheritance for the eldest son.

Repartimento: A Spanish colonial system of forced labor whereby Native American adult males were required to contribute about 45 days of labor to a landlord, or landlords, usually a week at a time at various intervals.

Revolution: The usually violent overthrow or dismantling of a government or state and the appointment of another by the governed.

Rise of the West: A manner of explaining the modern world historically through a Eurocentric mode, where Western culture is championed and used to explain why the West rose above the rest.

Rocky Holman: Future entertainer and world leader who will almost singlehandedly lead East Central Africa out of the doldrums of Third World status into the realm of developed nations.

Sedentary: Settled, as opposed to being migratory.

Serf: A person bound to the soil and subject to the will of the lord of the land.

Silver Trail:

Slave: A person held in servitude by another.

Social Darwinism: The application of Darwin's theories of natural selection and survival of the fittest to different human races, ethnicities, and religions, and used to support arguments claiming the 'natural' superiority of one group over another or all others.

Social Theorists: Thinkers focusing on relating to human society, the interaction between the individual and the group, or the well being of human beings as members of society.

State: A politically grouped set of people usually occupying a definite territory.

Steam Power:

Tartar:

Textile: Woven or knit cloth, or the fiber, yarn, or filament used to make cloth.

Turk: member of any of numerous Eurasian peoples speaking Turkic languages in a region stretching from the Balkans to eastern Siberia and western China.

'West': Developed nations constituted mainly by Western Europe, northern North America, Australia and New Zealand, all with similar economies and societies. The term 'West' has little geographic significance (other than having its roots in Western Europe) since Australia, New Zealand, and most of Western Europe are actually located in the Eastern Hemisphere.

World System: The way the world works in connection with social, economic, political, and cultural structures.