

## Substantive concepts in history

This is a list of key concepts you need to understand in history and could apply to any unit you study from year 7 to year 11. You should learn these terms and their spelling. You will be tested on them over the course of the time you study history.

**Abbey-** a large monastery

**Abdicate:** run away or resign from a formal position (eg a monarchy)

**Abolition:** banning/put an end to something

**Activists:** people acting to bring about change (eg political or social)

**Agricultural-** things to do with farming

**Alliance:** an agreement between two or more parties to support each other

**Archbishop-** a powerful church leader

**Aristocracy:** the highest class in certain societies, typically comprising people of noble birth holding hereditary titles and offices.

**Archers-** members of the army who used long bows/cross bows to fire arrows at the enemy

**Army:** an organised military force equipped for fighting on land.

**Arms race:** a race between countries to build up the biggest army with the best weapons

**Assassinate:** to kill a public figure (eg politician or monarch)

**Authority:** the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience

**Authority:** a person or organisation which has political or administrative power and control.

**Autocracy:** a system of government by one person with absolute power.

**Baron-** a powerful lord who was granted land by the king

**Battle-** a single fight between two or more armies, it could last from a few hours to several days

**Border:** a line separating two countries.

**Boycott:** refuse to use or buy

**Campaign:** a series of military operations intended to achieve a goal, confined to a particular area, or involving a specified type of fighting.

**Campaign:** an organised course of action to achieve a goal e.g. win an election

**Capitalism:** an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

**Cavalry-** a section of an army on horseback usually leads the charge in a battle

**Censored:** controlled or banned

**Chivalry:** the medieval knightly system with its religious, moral, and social code.

**Church:** institutionalised religion as a political or social force.

**Church:** a building used for public Christian worship.

**Civil liberties:** the state of being subject only to laws established for the good of the community, especially with regard to freedom of action and speech.

**Civil Rights:** the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.

**Civil War:** a war between citizens of the same country.

**Civilian:** a person not in the armed services or the police force.

**Class:** a system of ordering society whereby people are divided into sets based on perceived social or economic status.

**Clergy-** all the people appointed to do religious duties e.g. priests, monks, nuns

**Colonialism:** the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

**Colony:** a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country.

**Communism:** a theory or system of social organisation in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.

**Conflict:** a prolonged armed struggle.

**Conquest:** taking control of a place or people by military force.

**Coronation:** the ceremony of crowning a sovereign

**Court:** the courtiers and household of a sovereign.

**Conservative:** averse to change or innovation and holding traditional values.

**Constitution:** a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organisation is acknowledged to be governed.

**Culture:** the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time.

**Democracy:** a system of government where the whole population has the right to vote for their government in regular elections

**Dictator:** a ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force.

**Dictatorship:** a form of government where a country is entirely controlled by one person

**Diplomacy:** the profession, activity, or skill of managing international relations, typically by a country's representatives abroad.

**Doctrine:** a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group.

**Earl:** a powerful noble man

**Earldom:** the territory governed by an earl.

**Economic sanction:** commercial and financial penalties applied by one or more countries against a targeted country, group, or individual

**Emperor:** a sovereign ruler of an empire.

**Empire:** an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch or a sovereign state.

**Enemy:** a person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.

**Excommunicated-** this is when someone is banned from going to church or being a part of the Christian religion- a terrible punishment usually given by the Pope, in the Middle Ages as it meant you would go to hell when you died.

**Export:** transporting and selling goods that are made in Britain abroad

**Famine:** extreme scarcity of food.

**Fascism:** a form of government which is a type of one-party dictatorship. Fascists are against democracy. They work for a totalitarian one-party state.

**Fascist:** a person or political party with extreme right-wing views (often including racism, nationalism, and complete obedience to authority)

**Feminism:** the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes.

**Feudal:** absurdly outdated or old-fashioned.

**Front line:** the land nearest the enemy, where the fighting takes place

**Fundamentalism:** a form of a religion, especially Islam or Protestant Christianity, that upholds belief in the strict, literal interpretation of scripture.

**General:** a commander of an army, or an army officer of very high rank.

**Gentry:** people of good social position, specifically the class of people next below the nobility in position and birth.

**Heir-** the next in line to the throne

**Heresy:** belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious (especially Christian) doctrine.

**Heretic:** a person believing in or practising religious heresy.

**Hierarchy:** a system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority.

**Holy war:** a war declared or waged in support of a religious cause.

**House of Commons-** representatives of ordinary people in Parliament

**Human rights:** the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans should be entitled

**Import:** when goods are brought into Britain from abroad

**Indoctrinated:** brainwashed into thinking a certain way

**Immigration:** the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.

**Imperialism:** a policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means.

**Industrialisation:** the development of industries in a country or region on a wide scale.

**Invade-** to bring an army into a country to try and control it

**Judiciary:** the judicial authorities of a country; judges collectively.

**King:** the male ruler of an independent state, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth

**Knights-** men who promised to fight for their lord

**Latin-** an ancient Roman language, still popular in the Middle Ages

**Liberal:** willing to respect or accept behaviour or opinions different from one's own; open to new ideas.

**Liberty:** the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's behaviour or political views.

**Limited Monarchy:** A government in which a monarch agrees to share power with a parliament and abide by a constitution; also known as a constitutional monarchy.

**Loyalty-** faithfulness; if a person promised loyalty, they promised to support someone

**Medieval / Middle Ages-** a period of time, usually from around AD 1000-1500

**Merchant:** a person or company involved in wholesale trade, especially one dealing with foreign countries or supplying goods to a particular trade.

**Middle Class:** the social group between the upper and working classes, including professional and business people and their families.

**Migration:** movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions.

**Military:** movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions.

**Minister:** a head of a government department

**Minority:** the number of votes cast for or by the smaller party in a government

**Minority:** a small group of people within a community or country, differing from the main population in race, religion, language, or political persuasion.

**Monarch-** the King or Queen

**Monarchy:** a form of government with a monarch at the head.

**Monastery-** A building where monks live

**Monk:** a member of a religious community of men typically living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

**Munitions:** weapons and ammunition

**Nation:** a large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular state or territory.

**Nationalism:** an extreme form of patriotism marked by a feeling of superiority over other countries.

**Nationality:** the status of belonging to a particular nation.

**Navy:** the branch of the armed services of a state which conducts military operations at sea.

**Neutral:** a country is neutral if it does not side with countries involved in a conflict

**Nobility:** the quality of belonging to the aristocracy.

**Nun:** a member of a religious community of women, typically one living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

**Pact:** a formal agreement between countries/nations, a treaty

**Parliament:** the body of Lords and Commons set up to rule the country in the UK

**Papacy:** the office or authority of the Pope.

**Patriot:** a person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors.

**Peace:** a state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended.

**Persecution:** the regular mistreatment of one group of people by another group

**Peasant:** a poor smallholder or agricultural labourer of low social status

**Pilgrimage:** a journey to a place of particular interest or significance.

**Political Party:** is defined as an organised group of people with at least roughly similar political aims and opinions, that seeks to influence public policy by getting its candidates elected to public office.

**Pope-** the head/leader of the Catholic Church

**Power:** the ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way.

**President:** the elected head of a republican state.

**Prime Minister:** the head of an elected government; the principal minister of a sovereign or state.

**Propaganda:** Information, usually false or misleading, given out to spread a certain point of view

**Public:** ordinary people in general; the community.

**Queen:** the female ruler of an independent state, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth.

**Racism:** prejudice or discrimination directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.

**Radical:** a person who advocates thorough or complete political or social reform; a member of a political party or part of a party pursuing such aims.

**Rearmament:** building up armed forces and increasing stocks of weapons

**Recession:** a period of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activity are reduced

**Reform:** make changes in (something, especially an institution or practice) in order to improve it.

**Regent:** a person appointed to administer a state because the monarch is a minor or is absent or incapacitated.

**Religion:** a particular system of faith and worship.

**Republic:** a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

**Resistance:** the use of force or violence to oppose someone or something.

**Retreating-** an army that is retreating is going back because they realise they cannot win the battle

**Revolt-** another word for rebellion or uprising

**Revolution:** a dramatic and wide-reaching change in conditions, attitudes, or operation.

**Rights:** a moral or legal entitlement to have or do something.

**Royal court:** A royal court or noble court is a place where an important ruler such as a king, prince or duke live. The building is often called a palace, but the "royal court" means not just the buildings but all the royal household

**Ruler:** a person exercising government.

**Saint-** a person who, after they have died, is considered by the Church to be especially good

**Slave:** a person who is the legal property of another and is forced to obey them.

**Socialism:** a political and economic theory of social organisation which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

**Society:** people living together in a more or less ordered community.

**Sovereignty:** the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.

**State:** a nation or territory considered as an organized political community under one government.

**Suffrage:** the right to vote in political elections.

**Tax:** a compulsory contribution to state revenue, levied by the government on workers' income and business profits, or added to the cost of some goods, services, and transactions.

**Terrorism:** the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

**Totalitarian:** relating to a system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state.

**Total war:** war that affected the whole country, not just the soldiers fighting but the people back at home

**Trade:** the action of buying and selling goods and services.

**Trade union:** an organised association of workers in a trade, group of trades, or profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests.

**Treason:** to do something against the monarch such as try and take over or kill them

**Treaty:** a formally concluded and ratified agreement between states.

**Tyranny:** cruel and oppressive government or rule.

**Usurper:** a person who takes a position of power or importance illegally or by force.

**Voyage:** a long journey involving travel by sea or in space.

**War:** a state of armed conflict between different countries or different groups within a country.

**Working Class:** the social group consisting of people who are employed for wages, especially in manual or industrial work.