

SECTION 3: GENERAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accountable: responsibility or capable of being held responsible for something; capable of being explained; being held to account, scrutinized, and being required to give an account or explanation.
Synonyms: answerable, culpable.

Aristocratic: the Ancient Greek term Aristocracy meant a system of government with "rule by the best."
Synonyms: nobility, upper class, elite

Autonomy: an autonomous being is one that has the power of self-direction, possessing the ability to act independent of the will of others and of other internal or external factors. Synonyms: freedom, liberty, self-determination.

Civil War: a war between factions of the same country; there are five criteria for international recognition of this status: the contestants must control territory, have a functioning government, enjoy some foreign recognition, have identifiable regular armed forces, and engage in major military operations. Oh, and the sides involved must really, really dislike each other. Sorry if I'm talking over your head here. =)

Class System: system of social stratification in which social status is determined by the family into which a person is born. Mobility between classes is possible but difficult.

Covet: a strong desire for something that does not belong to you. Synonyms: lust for, want.

Defenses of Quebec: based on his action at Montreal, I bet his preparations for the defense of Quebec City involved the sewing of a lot of peasant costumes.

Democratic: representing or appealing to or adapted for the benefit of the people at large; the term democracy indicates a form of government where all the state's decisions are exercised directly or indirectly by a majority of its citizenry through a fair elective process.

Elected Assembly: a group of people elected by others to meet together, openly discuss issues, and make decisions that affect the group.

First & Second Continental Congress: was the federal legislature (parliament) of the Thirteen Colonies and later of the United States from 1774 to 1789, a period that included the American Revolutionary War and the Articles of Confederation. There were a total of two Continental Congresses.

Grievance: a complaint about a (real or imaginary) wrong that causes resentment and is grounds for action.
Synonyms: injustice, injury.

Hegemony: is a state of dominance of one group over another with or without the threat of force. The dominant party can dictate terms of trade to its advantage; and frequently, the dominant group can even dictate the form of government a subdued state should have. The British Empire was an excellent example of a hegemonic state in the 19th Century. The United States in the 21st Century is likewise an excellent example of an extremely powerful state bending weaker states to its national interest.

Mayonaise: a disgusting white petroleum product that people often mistake for food. Synonyms: pure evil, heart attack food.

Mobocracy: a pejorative or negative term invented by British politicians to describe American-style democracy; a political system in which a mob is the source of control; government by the masses.

Neutrality: the refusal of a nation to take sides in a war between two or more other nations. Synonyms: by-standing, calm, unprejudiced.

Oligarchy: a form of government where most political power effectively rests with a small segment of society (typically the most powerful, whether by wealth, military strength, ruthlessness, or political

influence). The word oligarchy is from the Greek for "few" and "rule". Some political theorists have argued that all societies are inevitably oligarchies no matter the supposed political system. Synonyms: select, exclusive.

Paramilitary: a group of civilians organized in a military fashion (especially to operate in place of or to assist regular army troops). Iraq in 2009 provides an excellent example of the effectiveness of paramilitary groups. These groups tend to live among civilian (non-combatant) populations to prevent themselves from being detected. In so doing, paramilitary groups become almost impossible to destroy because their enemies never know who is a friend or who is an enemy. The use of such tactics led to the American defeat in Vietnam in the 1970s and the Soviet Union's defeat in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Pessimistic: generally, describes a belief that things are bad, and tend to become worse; or that looks to the eventual triumph of evil over good; it contrasts with optimism, the contrary belief in the goodness and betterment of things generally. Synonyms: cynical, dim view, gloomy outlook, teenager.

Representation: in democracies people elect "representatives" to "represent" them in a parliament (legislature). The elected representatives vote on the passage of new laws, taxes, etc. and give the voter an indirect say in the affairs of government. Typically people that pay taxes expect to have some say as to how their money should be spent. In the English oligarchical system, many people paid taxes but few had any say as to how the money was actually spent. This disconnect ultimately led to conflict between the Americans and British

Republic: a political system in which supreme executive decision-making power rests in a body of citizens who can elect people to represent them. Republics typically are led by presidents who possess significantly more power than prime ministers (as in the case of Canada). The power of a leader within a republic is limited by a constitution.

Romeo & Juliet: a play written by English playwright William Shakespeare. In the play, both Romeo and Juliet kill commit suicide because their respective families will not let them be together.

Rule of Law: a socio-legal state in which people collectively agree to the same set of rules; these rules apply equally to everyone at all times; even members of the government are subject to the same limitations as the humblest citizen; peace and order are often maintained by adherence to a written constitution which outlines rights, duties, obligations, and privileges; laws are adopted through an established procedure to safeguard against arbitrary rulings in individual cases.

Significant Political Influence: two-hundred years later in 1990, Brant's ancestors returned to a position of importance in Canadian history; it was at this time that the Oka Crisis occurred. The Mohawk at Oka, Ontario, were outraged when they learned that their traditional burial grounds were going to be bulldozed to make room for a new golf course. The Mohawk asked both the provincial and federal governments to stop the development but their protests fell on deaf ears. Therefore, the Mohawk took matters into their own hands and prevented the building of the golf course through armed resistance. The subsequent clash between the police/army and the Mohawk resulted in the death of one policeman. The Mohawk surrendered after a 78 day siege. The Oka Crisis drew worldwide attention to native land claims.

Urban Society: a city based society that tends to have different values than rural (country) based societies, I.e. Urban based societies tend to stress scientific knowledge more than rural; and rural societies tend to stress community as opposed to the urban centers that stress the importance of the individual. Synonyms: metropolitan, civic, public.

Worldviews: a way of looking at the world. Possible synonyms for this word are perspective and value-system. For example, the democratic worldview stresses individual rights and freedoms whereas the aristocratic worldview stresses tradition and ancient privilege for the nobility.