

Key Terms Merriam Webster Dictionary

Definition of *autocracy*

- 1** : the authority or rule of an autocrat
- 2** : government in which one person possesses unlimited power
- 3** : a community or state governed by autocracy

Definition of *capitalism*

: an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market

Definition of *communism*

1a : a system in which goods are owned in common and are available to all as needed

b : a theory advocating elimination of private property

2 *capitalized*

a : a doctrine based on revolutionary Marxian socialism and Marxism-Leninism that was the official ideology of the U.S.S.R.

b : a totalitarian system of government in which a single authoritarian party controls state-owned means of production

c : a final stage of society in Marxist theory in which the state has withered away and economic goods are distributed equitably

Definition of *democracy*

1a : government by the people *especially* : rule of the majority

b : a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections

2 : a political unit that has a democratic government

3 *capitalized*: the principles and policies of the Democratic party in the U.S.

4 : the common people especially when constituting the source of political authority

5 : the absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges

Definition of *fascism*

1 *often capitalized* : a political philosophy, movement, or regime (such as that of the Fascisti) that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition

2 : a tendency toward or actual exercise of strong autocratic or dictatorial control

Definition of *nationalism*

1 : loyalty and devotion to a nation *especially* : a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups

Definition of *patriotism*

: love for or devotion to one's country

Definition of *socialism*

1 : any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods

2a : a system of society or group living in which there is no private property

b : a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state

3 : a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done

Definition of *sovereignty*

1a : supreme power especially over a body politic

b : freedom from external control, autonomy

c : controlling influence

2 : one that is sovereign *especially* : an autonomous state

Definition of *totalitarianism*

1 : centralized control by an autocratic authority

2 : the political concept that the citizen should be totally subject to an absolute state authority