

# Glossary

<b>Anarchism</b>	A Utopian political theory that seeks to eliminate all authority and state rule in favour of a society based on voluntary cooperation and free association of individuals and groups.
<b>Aristocracy</b>	A form of government in which a few wise minorities rule under the law for the good of the community.
<b>Authoritarianism</b>	A system of government in which leaders are not subjected to the test of free elections.
<b>Authority</b>	A form of power based on consensus regarding the right to issue commands and make decisions.
<b>Balance of Power</b>	The distribution of power in a system such that no one state may overwhelm others.
<b>Behavioural Revolution</b>	The introduction of more empirical analysis into the study of government and politics.
<b>Bicameralism</b>	A system of government in which the two legislative bodies exist: an upper and lower house.
<b>Bipolar</b>	An international system in which there are two dominant powers.
<b>Bourgeoisie</b>	A Marxist term referring to those who own the means of production.
<b>Bureaucracy</b>	A type of administration characterized by specialization, professionalism and security of tenure.
<b>Capitalism</b>	An economic system in which ownership of the means of production and distribution is maintained mostly by private individuals and corporations.
<b>Charismatic Authority</b>	Authority based on the admiration of personal qualities of an individual.
<b>Citizenship</b>	Legal membership in a community known as a nation-state.
<b>Classical Liberalism</b>	A liberal ideology entailing a minimal role for government in order to maximize individual freedom.
<b>Coalition Government</b>	A parliamentary government in which the cabinet is composed of members of more than one party.
<b>Coalition</b>	An alliance between two or more political units in response to opposing forces.
<b>Code Civil</b>	The unique system of civil law used in Quebec.
<b>Code of Law</b>	A comprehensive set of interrelated legal rules.
<b>Coercion</b>	A form of power based on forced compliance through fear and intimidation.

<b>Communism</b>	A political ideology characterized by a belief in eliminating exploitation through public ownership and central planning of the economy.
<b>Conservatism</b>	A political ideology generally characterized by a belief in individualism and minimal government intervention in the economy and society; also a belief in the virtue of the status quo and general acceptance of traditional morality.
<b>Constituency</b>	A geographical unit with a body of electors who vote for a representative in an elected assembly.
<b>Constitution</b>	The fundamental rules and principles by which a state is organized.
<b>Constitutionalism</b>	The belief that governments will defer to the rules and principles enshrined in a constitution and uphold the rule of law.
<b>Convention</b>	A practice or custom followed in government although not explicitly written in the constitution or in legislation.
<b>Coup D'État</b>	A forceful and unconstitutional change of government, often by a faction within the military or the ruling party.
<b>Custom</b>	A generally accepted practice or behaviour developed over time.
<b>Despotism</b>	An individual ruling through fear without regard to law and not answerable to the people.
<b>Dictator</b>	In Roman law, an appointed individual given exceptional powers in times of crisis.
<b>Dictatorship of the Proletariat</b>	A revolutionary seizure of power by the 'vanguard' of society, the communist party, which then rules in the name of the working class.
<b>Direct Democracy</b>	A system of government based on public decisions made by citizens meeting in an assembly or voting by ballot.
<b>Distributive Laws</b>	Laws designed to distribute public goods and services to individuals in society.
<b>Elite</b>	A small group of people with a disproportionate amount of public decision-making power.
<b>Empirical</b>	Political analysis based on factual and observable data in contrast to thoughts or ideas.
<b>Episteme</b>	Greek word for knowledge that can be demonstrated by logical argument from first principles.
<b>Equality of Opportunity</b>	The equalization of life chances for all individuals in society, regardless of economic position.
<b>Equality of Result</b>	The equalization of outcomes of social and economic processes.
<b>Equality of Right</b>	Application of the law in the same way to all.
<b>Equality Rights</b>	A section of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (s. 15) that prohibits governments from discriminating against certain categories of people.
<b>Fascism</b>	The totalitarian political philosophy of the Mussolini government in Italy, which stressed the primacy of the state and leadership by an

	elite who embody the will and intelligence of the people; the term is sometimes more generally used for any totalitarian movement.
<b>Judicial Review</b>	The power of the courts to declare legislation unconstitutional ( <i>ultra vires</i> ).
<b>Judiciary</b>	The branch of government with the power to resolve legal conflicts that arise between citizens, between citizens and governments, or between levels of government.
<b>Jurisprudence</b>	The philosophy and analysis of law.
<b>Justice</b>	The virtue of protecting individuals' possessions within the acknowledged rules of conduct.
<b>Laissez-faire</b>	The non-intervention of the state in the economy.
<b>Law</b>	Enforceable rules of conduct.
<b>Legal Positivism</b>	A theory holding that law is the command of the sovereign.
<b>Legislature</b>	The branch of government responsible for making laws for society.
<b>Legitimacy</b>	Belief in the 'rightness' of rule.
<b>Liberal Democracy</b>	A system of government characterized by universal adult suffrage, political equality, majority rule and constitutionalism.
<b>Liberalism</b>	A political philosophy whose basic tenet is that each individual should have the maximum freedom consistent with the freedom of others.
<b>Libertarian</b>	Someone who believes in free will; alternatively, someone who upholds the principles of liberty of thought and action.
<b>Limited Government</b>	A state restricted in its exercise of power by the constitution and the rule of law.
<b>Lot</b>	A set of objects used in a method of random selection to secure a decision in deciding disputes, dividing goods and choosing people for an office or duty.
<b>Magna Carta (Great Charter)</b>	A document signed by King John in 1215, conceding that the king is subject to law.
<b>Majority Government</b>	A parliamentary government in which the party in power has over 50 per cent of the seats in the legislature (two-thirds majority).
<b>Minority Government</b>	A parliamentary government in which the government party has less than 50 per cent of the seats in the legislature.
<b>Mixed Economy</b>	An economy based on both private and public (government-controlled) enterprises.
<b>Monarchy</b>	Form of government in which a single person rules under the law.
<b>Multinational State</b>	Three or more nationalities co-existing under one sovereign government.
<b>Multiparty System</b>	A party system in which there are three or more major contenders for power.
<b>Nation</b>	Individuals whose common identity creates a psychological bond and a political community.

- National Interest**  
Interests specific to a nation-state, including, especially, survival and maintenance of power.
- Nationalism**  
The feeling of loyalty and attachment to one's nation or nation-state, and strong support for its interests.
- Nation-state**  
A state with a single predominant national identity.
- Natural Authority**  
Authority based on spontaneous deference to an individual's knowledge or social position.
- Neo Conservatism**  
An ideological term characterizing parties or politicians who not only advocate an end to government expansion, but believe in reducing its role via downsizing, privatization and deregulation.
- Normative**  
Political analysis based on values, commitments and ideas.
- Oligarchy**  
A form of government in which a minority rules outside the law.
- One-party-dominant System**  
A party system in which there are political alternatives but a single political party dominates the political process as a result of the overwhelming support of the electorate.
- Opposition**  
Those members of parliament who are not part of the government of the day.
- Parliamentary Sovereignty**  
The supreme authority of parliament to make or repeal laws.
- Patriarchy**  
The domination of society by men.
- Philosopher-king**  
Plato's view of the ideal individual who rules in the common interest and is directed by wisdom and virtue rather than the constraint of law.
- Plurality**  
A voting decision based on assigning victory to the largest number of votes, not necessarily a majority.
- Policy Community**  
The network of individuals and organizations deeply involved in a particular area of public policy.
- Political Economy**  
The study of the involvement by the state in the economy of the nation-state.
- Political Party**  
An organized group, based on certain principles that makes nominations and contests elections in the hope of influencing the personnel and policy of government.
- Political Philosophy**  
An area of political study based on historical, reflective and conceptual methods.
- Politics**  
A process of conflict resolution in which support is mobilized and maintained for collective action.
- Polity**  
A form of government characterized by popular sovereignty but exercised within a constitutional framework to prevent the oppression of the minority by the majority rule.
- Polls**  
Greek city-state.
- Polyarchy**  
Robert Dahl's term for pluralist forms of liberal democracy, in which there is competition between many different interests.

<b>Popular Sovereignty</b>	Supreme authority residing in the consent of the people.
<b>Power</b>	The ability to get other individuals to do as one wants them to do.
<b>Private Law</b>	Laws controlling relations between individuals.
<b>Proclamation</b>	The announcement of the official date a new law will take effect.
<b>Proletariat</b>	A Marxist term referring to those who sell their labour to the bourgeoisie; the working class.
<b>Proportional Representation (PR)</b>	An electoral system in which the share of seats won closely matches the share of popular votes received.
<b>Public law</b>	Laws controlling the relations between the state and individuals in society.
<b>Race</b>	A group of individuals differentiated through distinct physical characteristics and common ancestry.
<b>Realism</b>	A theory of international relations holding that struggles are resolved on the basis of power of conflicting parties.
<b>Reform Liberalism</b>	A liberal ideology which advocates a larger role for the state in providing equality of opportunity.
<b>Representative Democracy</b>	A system of government based on the election of decision-makers by the people.
<b>Residual Powers</b>	Those powers in a federal system of government not explicitly allocated in a constitution.
<b>Responsible Government</b>	A form of government in which the political executive must retain the confidence of a majority of the elected legislature or assembly, and it must resign or call an election if and when it is defeated on a vote of no-confidence.
<b>Rota</b>	A rotational order of people, duties to be done.
<b>Royal Assent</b>	The approval of a bill by the Crown.
<b>Rule of Law</b>	Belief that all actions, of individuals and governments are subject to an institutionalized set of rules and regulations.
<b>Scientific Socialism</b>	The term Marx and Engels used to stress that their ideology was based on analysis of class conflict.
<b>Separation of Powers</b>	The separation of powers between executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Montesquieu explained this theory in 'The Spirit of Laws'. In the United States, the presidential form of government is carried on this principle.
<b>Single-party System</b>	A party system in which there exists only one party and no political alternatives are legally tolerated.
<b>Single Transferable Vote (STV)</b>	A form of proportional representation in which electors vote for individuals rather than party lists, but they do so by ranking the candidates in their order of choice.
<b>Social Democrats</b>	Socialists emphasizing popular consent, peaceful change, political pluralism and constitutional government.

<b>Socialism</b>	A leftist political ideology that emphasizes the principle of equality and usually prescribes a large role for government to intervene in society and the economy via taxation, regulation, redistribution and public ownership.
<b>Social Justice</b>	The partial equalization of wealth and income to reach a more desirable outcome.
<b>Society</b>	A self-sufficient group of individuals living together under common rules of conduct.
<b>Sovereign</b>	The highest or supreme political authority.
<b>State</b>	A political term which refers to the combination of people, territory and sovereign government.
<b>State-centric</b>	An approach to international relations positing the sovereign state as the focus for understanding the nature and workings of the international system.
<b>Stateless Society</b>	A society visualized by the communists; one equality is attained where class difference is eliminated.
<b>Statute</b>	A specific piece of legislation.
<b>Subjects</b>	Members of a society who are not involved in the political process of that society.
<b>Syndicalism</b>	A variation of socialism in which workers own or control the factory or workplace.
<b>Totalitarianism</b>	A modern form of despotic rule in which the state undertakes to remake society according to an ideological design.
<b>Traditional Authority</b>	Authority based on birthright and custom.
<b>Tribe</b>	A community of people tied together by a myth of common ancestry.
<b>Two-party System</b>	A party system in which there are two credible contenders for power and either is capable of winning any election.
<b>Typology</b>	A broad classification scheme of governmental systems.
<b>Tyranny</b>	A form of government in which one person rules arbitrarily.
<b>Ultra Vires</b>	Term used to describe an action which exceeds the conferred constitutional powers of the actor. Literally, 'beyond the power'.
<b>Unitary System</b>	A system of government in which a single sovereign government rules the country.
<b>Unwritten Constitution</b>	An un-codified constitution established through traditional practice.
<b>Utopian Socialism</b>	Early-nineteenth-century socialism based on a universal appeal to reason.
<b>Veto</b>	The authorized power of a president to reject legislation passed by Congress.
<b>Welfare State</b>	The provision for redistributive benefits such as education and health services by the state.