

AP World History

“Must Know” Vocabulary Terms by Theme

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You do not need to define these terms but you do need to be utterly familiar with them. In the cases where I felt that there was some confusion as to what the possible definition would be I've tried to clarify in parentheses.

When multiple terms are listed divided by slashes (/) you might have this in a variety of forms across different eras/chapters.

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Theme #1: Human-Environment Interaction

Demography and disease

Demographic shifts - (e.g. fertility, birth rate, infant mortality, life expectancy)
Birth control
disease pathogens
epidemic diseases (e.g. tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, ebola, HIV/AIDS, influenza pandemic)
diseases associated with changing lifestyles (diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease)

Migration

Coerced and semi-coerced labor migration:
Push and pull factors
Manual laborers
Internal and external migrants

Patterns of settlement

Geography—desert, savanna, tropics, tundra, estuaries, steppes, fragile grasslands
Flora and fauna
Water control systems
Environmental diversity
Urbanization - Urban revival and growth
Nomadic, Pastoral, & Agricultural peoples
rural
urban

Environment

Agricultural/Neolithic Revolution
Pollutants
Atmosphere
Environmental Damage—Deforestation, Desertification, Silted rivers, Soil erosion, soil depletion
Rates of extinction

Technology

Pottery
Farming Technology - Plows, Yokes, qanat system
Woven textiles
Metallurgy—bronze, iron, steel
Transportation technology—Wheels and wheeled vehicles, Chariots, Saddles, Stirrups
Maritime technology—Cartography, Compass, astrolabe, Revised maps, Lateen sail, Caravels, Junk & Dhow ships, longships
Military technology—gunpowder / cannons, Compound bows, Iron weapons, Tanks, Airplanes, atomic bomb
Technological innovations (*Champa* rice varieties, chinampa field systems, *Waru waru* agricultural techniques in the Andean areas, improved terracing techniques, horse collar)

Theme #2: Culture (Development & Interaction of ...)

Religions

Monotheism
 Polytheism
 Buddhism
 Christianity
 Hinduism(s) / Vedic religion
 Islam
 Judaism
 semite, anti-semitic

Belief Systems, Philosophies, & Ideologies

Confucianism & Neoconfucianism
 Daoism
 Greco-Roman philosophy
 revelation
 deity / divine
 atheism
dharma
karma
 asceticism
 clergy
 doctrine
 reincarnation
 secular
 shaman
 syncretic / syncretism

Science and Technology

Energy technologies
 oil and nuclear power
 Reason
 empirical observation

The Arts and Architecture

Monumental architecture and urban planning (e.g. Pyramids, Ziggurats, Temples, defensive walls, streets and road, Sewage and water systems)
 Arts and artisanship (Elaborate weaving, Painting, Sculpture, Wall decorations, Courtly literature, Miniature paintings, Renaissance art, Wood-block prints)

Cultural

Languages—Turkic, Arabic
 Sports—Cricket
 Music and film - Reggae, Bollywood
 Literature - *Book of the Dead*, *Rig Veda*, *Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Popul Vuh*, *Confucius' Analects*, Kabuki, codices
 Systems of Record Keeping—Hieroglyphs, Pictographs, *Quipu*, Alphabets, Cuneiform
 globalization

Theme #3: Politics (State-building, Expansion & Conflict)**Political Structures and Forms of Governance**

bureaucracy

Political /state authority and autonomy -
centralized control/ governmentsstate consolidation, legitimization and expansion
of power

military professionals

political ideologies

bureaucracies/ *administrative institutions*

Collection of revenue

Warfare—casualties, tactics

Characteristics of Gov’t Forms & Leadership—
absolutism, communism, conservative,
constitutional monarchy, democracy,
dictatorship, empire, fascism, feudalism,
liberal, moderate, monarchy, radical, socialism,
totalitarian,**Diplomacy**

appeasement

Empires

Trading-post empires (Name 5 of each of these!)

Land empires

Maritime empires

Transoceanic empires

Diplomacy

Imperial conquests / Expansion

Indigenous homelands

Internal factors and external factors

Military

conscript/ -ion

coup d’état

Nations and nationalism

nation-states

nationalist ideologies

national aspirations

(imagined) national communities

Nation Building/State Building

Revolts and revolutions

Political and social discontent

Rebellions and protests

Dissent and resistance

movements of political reform

Regional, Transregional, and Global Structures and Organizations

transregional political organization

institutions of global governance

New international organizations (e.g. United
Nations, League of Nations, International
Criminal Court)Humanitarian organizations (e.g. UNICEF, Red
Cross, Amnesty International, Doctors Without
Borders, World Health Organization (WHO))

Theme #4: Economic Systems (Creation, Expansion & Interaction of ...)**Agricultural and Pastoral Production**

American Foods—Potatoes, Maize, Manioc
 Staple crops—wheat, rice, sorghum,
 Cash crops—Sugar, Tobacco
 Foods brought by African slaves—Okra, Rice
 agrarian

Trade and Commerce

Commercialization
 Commercial entrepreneurs and
 Luxury goods (Silk and cotton textiles, Porcelain,
 Spices, Slaves, Exotic animals)
 Commercial entrepreneurs
 Trade routes: Trans-Saharan caravan routes,
 Indian Ocean sea lanes, Mediterranean sea
 lanes, Silk Roads
 Caravan organization (Caravanserai, Camel
 saddles)
 Forms of credit and Monetization (Minting of
 coins, Use of paper money, Bills of exchange,
 Checks, Banking houses)
 Transoceanic shipping services
 Piracy
 Global integration - World economic network /
 world system
 blockade
 boycott
 cartel
 commodity
 credit / debit
 currency
 globalization
 guild
 mercantilism

Labor systems

Specialized professionals—merchants, artisans
 and warriors
 Free peasant labor or Peasant communities
 Craft production or guild organization
 Government-imposed labor taxes
 Family and household production
 Coerced labor - Indentured servitude, *Corvée*
 Unfree labor—Slavery, Convict labor, Chattel
 slavery
 Slave systems / slave trade
 abolition
 emancipation

Industrialization

Coal, iron and timber
 Steam engines / internal combustion engine / fossil
 fuels / coal and oil
 Steel / chemicals / electricity / precision machinery
 Developments in transportation and
 communication (Railroads, Steamships,
 Telegraphs, Canals)
 Increased Economic Productive Capacity
 corporation
 monopoly
 “Third” World

**“-Isms” —Capitalism, socialism,
communism**

proletariat / bourgeoisie
 capital / -ist
 entrepreneur
 laissez-faire / free market
 tariff / protectionism
 Keynesian economics / deficit spending

Theme #5: Social Structures (Development & Transformation of ...)**Gender roles and relations**

Polygamy vs. monogamy

Matrilineal vs. patrilineal

chivalry

feminism

Family and kinship

griots

Racial and ethnic constructions

racial ideologies

barbarian

Social and economic classes

aristocracy

brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya, shudra, dalit

clearly stratified social hierarchies

elites

political and economic elites and hierarchies

demography

eunuch