

Glossary

A

Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA) a Canadian-based Aboriginal communications society that uses Internet, radio, and print media to promote Aboriginal cultures

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) Aboriginal Canadian television network that produces programming by and for Aboriginal peoples

absolutism a political system in which power and the right to rule belong exclusively to the social elite

accommodation an inclusive approach that allows religious or ethnic groups to maintain their distinctive cultures within mainstream society

acculturation change as a result of contact with other cultural groups

agribusinesses large-scale agricultural businesses, such as factory farms or feedlots

anti-globalization the perspective of individuals and groups opposed to global trade agreements and their negative consequences for people in less developed countries, for the environment, and for peace

apartheid a policy of the South African government from 1948 to 1990 that denied rights to non-White citizens

arable land land that is good for farming

arbitrary detention depriving an individual of liberty without just cause

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) the national representative organization of the First Nations in Canada

assimilation the absorption of a minority group by a dominant group

austerity programs economic programs that aim to reduce government debt by increasing taxes and cutting social programs

B

bias an inclination that makes it hard to judge fairly

biodegradable capable of being decomposed by bacteria, thus reducing environmental pollution

boycott a consumer's refusal to purchase goods or services from a company because of disagreement with its corporate policies

Bretton Woods Agreement an agreement forged after the Second World War in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, by 44 countries to establish a system of rules, institutions, and procedures for the postwar global economy

C

Canadian Audio Visual Certification Office (CAVCO) the agency that judges Canadian content in Canada's broadcasting industry

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) Canada's national Anglophone public broadcaster of television and radio programming

Canadian Content (CanCon) the amount of Canadian participation in Canada's broadcasting industry in such areas as direction, writing, performance, cinematography, music composition, and so on

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) government agency responsible for administering foreign aid programs in less developed countries

Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) the public authority that regulates and promotes Canadian culture in the broadcast media

Canadien(ne) Francophones living in North America. In use mid-17th century until the early 20th century, as an expression of national identity.

capital-intensive production manufacturing in which most work is done by machinery

capitalism an economic system for increasing individual wealth, requiring a relatively free market, open competition, the profit motive, and at least some private ownership of the means of production

cartel a group of individuals or companies who combine forces to control the supply and pricing of a good or service

cartelize to combine forces for the purpose of controlling the supply and pricing of a good or service

centrally planned economic system a system under which government planners decide what goods to produce, and how many

civil rights the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Cold War a global economic and political competition, from 1946 to 1989, that divided the communist countries, led by the Soviet Union, against the Western capitalist democracies, led by the United States

collective identity the combination of beliefs, values, view of history, and language of a people

colony a territory that belonged to a European country, was ruled by the European government or its representative(s), and was completely subject to that European country

common market an agreement between or among countries that includes the free trade of goods and services and the free movement of capital and labour within the trading bloc

communism a planned economic system in which government owns all means of production and all people work for government-owned and government-run enterprises

comparative advantage a country's ability to produce a product or service with comparatively fewer resources than another country

conservation plans strategies to protect and preserve resources

Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990 international legislation outlining children's rights, which recognizes that all children have the right to grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, and in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality, and solidarity

containers standardized units for carrying freight that can be transferred directly to truck trailers or rail cars

co-operatives businesses owned jointly by their members, who share the profits equally

cosmopolitan reflecting many diverse cultures; worldly, sophisticated

cottage industries an early stage of economic development in which workers produce limited numbers of goods in their homes

criterion a measure by which to judge something or make a decision

Crown corporations government-owned companies (in Canada)

cultural contacts the interaction of diverse cultures and perspectives, which may result in changes in values, beliefs, and traditions

cultural revitalization a process through which unique cultures regain a sense of identity, such as through promoting heritage languages or reviving traditions and customs

cultural rights the right to participate in the cultural life of a community, including its arts and sciences, and the right to speak your first language

D

deforestation the destruction of forests by clearing or burning as a result of economic development, such as building roads or conversion to cropland, or through changes in earth's vegetation due to global warming

democracy a political system in which the law applies equally to all people; that holds free, fair, and frequent elections of candidates from at

least two parties; has an independent courts system; and permits the press and other media to function free of government control

demographics facts and figures related to populations, for example, the number of males and females who live in an area

depopulation the reduction of a population because of conflict, disease, loss of resources, cultural change, or assimilation

deregulation opening an industry to more competition by removing government regulations

desalination removal of salt from seawater, converting it to fresh water

desertification the spreading of deserts as a result of poor agricultural practices, droughts, and climate change due to global warming

direct business model a sales system that bypasses retail stores and sells its products directly (such as over the Internet) to customers

disaggregated divided into parts, as, for example, the First Nations were divided from one another by the Indian Act

disparity economic and social gaps among individuals, communities, or countries

displacement the involuntary dispersal of a people, especially from their homeland

dissenting different from the majority, as, for example, an opinion

E

economic the dimension of life that concerns the production and exchange of goods, services, money, and resources

economic nationalism concern about the impact of foreign investment on a country's economic independence and identity

economic rights the right to fair wages and safe working conditions

employment equity the principle of equal pay for equal work, or for work of equal value

empowerment increasing the political, social, or economic strength of individuals or groups

entrepreneurs people who take risks by launching business ventures in the hope of making a profit

equality rights the right to be free from discrimination

equalization payments tax money collected from all provinces by the federal government and then dispensed to distribute wealth more equally throughout Canada

Eurocentrism a belief that the European world view is superior to all others

European Union (EU) the world's largest and most powerful common market, which works to develop common foreign and security policies and to address other issues such as citizens' rights, job creation, regional development, and environmental protection

exchange rate the price at which one national currency can be purchased for another

exploitation the use of a person or group for selfish purposes

F

first language the first language a person learns as a child

First Nations Policing Policy policy put into effect by the Canadian government in June 1991, to improve the relationship between Aboriginal people and police by promoting safe and secure communities and providing First Nations people across Canada with professional, effective, culturally appropriate police services that are accountable to the communities they serve

fixed exchange rate the value of a country's currency as set by its government

floating exchange rates currency rates that are not fixed by government but instead find their own value on the foreign exchange market

foreign direct investment (FDI) investment in a country made by a foreign company

free market a market in which government would regulate nothing and all businesses and property would be privately owned

free market economy a system in which government does not intervene (or intervenes only minimally) in the production and control of goods and services

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) 1989 economic treaty between Canada and the United States that sought to promote trade by reducing tariffs and other barriers between the two countries

G

GDP Index a measure of a country's gross domestic product per capita, one of the criteria for the UN Human Development Index

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) an international agreement between 1947 and 1995 that aimed to reduce trade barriers among member countries

genetic modification (GM) technology that allows genes from one species to be introduced into another to produce a hardier or higher-yielding strain

genocide an act committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group

Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) a measure of sustainable prosperity that takes into account the value of non-economic positive factors such as volunteering and education, and negative factors such as pollution and crime

global village the idea, popularized by Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s, that the entire world and its inhabitants are becoming one large community interconnected by technology, particularly television

globalization the process that is making the world's citizens increasingly interdependent economically, socially, politically, environmentally, and technologically

gold standard a provision of the Bretton Woods Agreement that all printed money, such as a paper dollar, would be convertible to gold and could be cashed in at any time for that gold

Green Revolution period during the 1960s and 1970s when many traditional farming practices were replaced by technologies that created increased agricultural production in countries around the world

gross domestic product (GDP) the total value of goods and services produced in a country in a calendar year

gross domestic product (GDP) per capita the value in US dollars of all goods produced and services provided in a country's economy in one year, divided by the country's average population for the same year

Group of Eight (G8) an informal group of the eight major industrial democracies that meets at annual summits to discuss economic and foreign policies

H

homogenization a trend toward uniformity, as with world popular culture as a result of globalization

human capital the knowledge, skills, and talents that workers have

Human Development Index (HDI) the United Nations measure of a country's level of development based on GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth, adult literacy, and school enrollment

hybridization the blending of media and communications technologies resulting in new modes of expression and cross-cultural consumption

I

imperialism an association between peoples that intentionally benefits one people over another, often by laying claim to territories inhabited by Indigenous or non-Indigenous peoples, seizing land and resources through conflict and warfare, and imposing political control

Indigenous Television Network (iTV) Taiwanese television network, modelled after Canada's

APTN, that produces programming by and for Taiwan's Indigenous peoples

individual identity the traits that make up a person's sense of individuality

industrialization a stage of economic development that occurs when the place of production shifts from the home and small craft shops to large factories

Industrial Revolution the combination of social and economic changes brought about by the extensive use of machinery in production, especially in Great Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries

inflation a situation in which the amount of currency in circulation increases yet each unit of currency buys less

infrastructure systems such as electrical power, transportation, and communication that support economic activity

initiative an action or project, especially one intended to benefit a group or society generally

integration the incorporation of diverse minority groups into mainstream society

Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) UN agency that has identified several areas of concern for women globally, including violence, poverty, education and training, health, armed conflict, and women in power and decision making

intermarriage marriage between individuals from different cultural, ethnic, or religious groups

intermodal transportation a system in which several types of transportation are used to move freight, especially when the starting point and destination are far apart

International Monetary Fund international agency that works with the World Bank to bring stability to international monetary affairs and to help expand world trade

international monetary system a global network of institutions established by the Bretton Woods Agreement to promote international trade and the regulation of currency (money) among Western countries

international money markets markets in which funds loaned for a short time to businesses or governments are bought and sold, for example, short-term bonds and certificates of deposit

international trade the interchange of raw materials and manufactured goods among distant groups of people

internationalism the policy of countries working together for the common good regardless of race, religion, nationality, and so on

J

junta a dictatorship in which the military has overthrown a civil government

K

kleptocracy a government so corrupt that no pretense of honesty remains

knowledge economy the use of knowledge to produce economic benefits

Knowledge Index a measure of a country's adult literacy rate combined with school enrollment rates, one of the criteria for the UN Human Development Index

Kyoto Protocol international agreement that came into force on February 16, 2005, intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a means to combat climate change

L

labour-intensive production manufacturing in which most work is done by hand

language a method of human communication, either spoken or written, in which words are combined in an agreed way

Life Expectancy Index a measure of a people's life expectancy at birth, one of the criteria for the UN Human Development Index

M

- mandate** authority based on mutual agreement or support
- marginalization** the pushing of a group to the "margins" of society, where they hold little social, political, or economic power
- media consolidation** mergers of media transnationals that result in a concentration of ownership
- media convergence** see media consolidation
- media transnational** a mass media corporation that produces television programs, films, music, books, and so on in two or more countries
- megacities** urban centres with populations over 10 million
- mercantilism** from the 16th to the 19th centuries, a system of government-sponsored international business ventures designed to make European monarchs rich
- metropolises** very large cities
- minority group** an ethnic, linguistic, or religious group whose numbers are small compared with those of the dominant culture
- minority language** a language spoken by a minority of people in a country
- mission civilatrice** "civilizing mission," a policy of the French monarchy in the 16th and 17th centuries to establish Roman Catholicism and French culture among First Nations peoples in New France
- monoculture** the uniform global popular culture that results from globalization
- mutual fund** a company that combines its clients' money and invests it in a collection of stocks, bonds, and other securities

N

- National Energy Policy (NEP)** 1980 federal policy under which the government made oil companies in Alberta lower oil prices throughout Canada to protect Canadians from paying global market prices for oil and gas

- nationalize** the taking over of ownership by a government from private business
- Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)** group founded in 1974 to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of First Nations and Métis women within First Nation and Canadian societies
- network** a complex, interconnected system
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** 1994 treaty among Canada, the United States, and Mexico to improve trade by removing tariffs and other economic barriers

O

- official bilingualism** an official government policy under which a country or province recognizes two official languages, for example, English and French in Canada
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** international organization that works to meet the challenges of globalization, helping governments achieve sustainable economic growth while maintaining financial stability
- outsourcing** the hiring of one company by another to fulfill certain tasks in production

P

- pandemic** a worldwide epidemic
- paternalistic** characterized by treating or governing a people in a fatherly way, especially by providing for them without giving them rights and responsibilities
- perspective** a people's world view, one that has developed from its collective experience
- plebiscite** a direct vote in which the entire electorate can vote to express the will of the people; a non-binding referendum
- pluralistic society** a society in which a diversity of languages, beliefs, traditions, values, religions and

other aspects of culture are embedded as part of the foundations of the country; a society that respects and values the individual and collective opinions and identities of all people

point of view an individual's opinion about a matter, based on his or her personal experience

political the dimension of life that concerns governments' interactions with individuals, groups, and other governments

political rights the right to vote and to participate in government

political will the determination among political leaders to accomplish a goal

privatization the sale of government-owned industries and services to private businesses

privatize to enable the sale of government-owned industries and services to private businesses

protectorate an area that maintained its own sovereignty but was guided by a European country

public trust an essential, life-supporting resource for the benefit of everyone that should not be exploited for profit

Q

quality of life the conditions in people's lives

quotas proportional shares, such as those paid by member countries of the International Monetary Fund

R

ratify formally pass an agreement or treaty into law

recession a period of reduced economic activity lasting longer than two business quarters (six months)

redress an action intended to right past wrongs

referendum a binding vote in which the entire electorate votes to accept or reject a proposal

Residential Schools Boarding schools for the acculturation and assimilation of Aboriginal students, run by religious groups or government from the 1830s to the 1950s

retail operations businesses that sell goods and services to the public

rhetorical questions questions whose answers are obvious to the reader, used for emphasis in persuasive writing

S

secularism the complete separation between matters of state and religion

social the dimension of life that concerns societal and cultural institutions, such as individual, family, and community interactions, mass media, arts and entertainment, and trends in popular ideas and tastes

social rights the right to education and to adequate health care

socially responsible investing (SRI) an approach that considers social, environmental, and ethical criteria in choosing investments

Société Radio-Canada (SRC) Canada's national Anglophone public broadcaster of television and radio programming

society a group of people who form an ordered community centred on kinship, an ideology, a religion, or a particular world view

sphere of influence an economic agreement in which a European country owned exclusive trade and investment rights in a region of the Americas, Asia, or Africa

spirituality consideration of matters beyond the purely material

stakeholders people or groups that are affected by an issue and have something to gain or lose from it

standard of living a common measure of the quantity and quality of goods and services to which people have access

stewardship the obligation to maintain resources in a sustainable manner

subsidiaries companies controlled by a parent company

subsidies financial help given by government to help support an industry

SWOT analysis a tool that helps analyze situations and aids in decision making, based on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

T

tariff a tax imposed on imports to increase their price and thus reduce competition with domestic products

totalitarian a political system under which individuals are totally subordinate to the decisions of the state

trade liberalization the process of reducing barriers to trade

traditions the customs of a family or culture

transnationalism the creation of political, social, cultural, and economic links between geographic locations around the world

transnationals corporations that operate in two or more countries; also, people who are citizens of more than one country

tsunami an extremely large ocean wave caused by an undersea earthquake or volcano

U

unionized an industry or business in which employees have formed a union to negotiate on

their behalf with management in such matters as pay, working conditions, hours, and benefits

Universal Declaration of Human Rights the basis of UN policy since 1948 that defines the human rights to which every person on the globe is equally entitled (political, civil, equality, economic, social, and cultural rights)

universalization of popular culture the production by media transnationals of the majority of television programs, films, magazines and so on that are consumed by a vast world audience

urbanization the growth of towns and cities, as people migrate from rural areas in search of work and other opportunities

W

World Bank an agency of the United Nations that in practice is independent and controlled by its 184 member countries, which provides loans to less developed countries that are in financial difficulty

World Trade Organization (WTO) international organization founded in 1995 that works to improve trade relations among the world's countries, especially by removing tariffs and other barriers to trade