

Glossary

A

accommodation A process that occurs when people from different cultures come into contact and accept and create space for one another. The customs, traditions, technologies, beliefs and languages of both cultures may be affected.

acculturation The cultural changes that occur when two cultures accommodate, or adapt to, each other's worldviews.

apartheid An Afrikaans word that refers to a policy of segregating and discriminating against non-whites in South Africa.

assimilation A process that occurs when the culture of a minority group is absorbed by another culture. The cultural identity of the minority group disappears as its members take on the identity of the other culture.

B

basic needs People's basic physical needs include food, clothing, shelter, and water, but they also have social needs, such as family and friends, and emotional needs, such as a sense of belonging and being loved.

biodiversity Variety in plant and animal species.

blood oil Oil that is obtained through violence and bloodshed.

boreal forest An environmentally sensitive sub-Arctic region that consists of mostly coniferous trees, such as spruce, fir, and pine.

C

capitalism An economic system that advocates free trade, competition, and choice as a means of achieving prosperity.

civil society A sector of society made up of non-government and non-business groups. Civil society includes community groups, non-governmental organizations, faith-based groups, and universities.

collective A group to which a person belongs and identifies with.

communism An economic and political system whose purpose is to eliminate class distinctions. Everyone would work for the benefit of all and would receive help as he or she needs it.

compare To find similarities and differences.

connotation The emotional associations people attach to a word or phrase.

consensus General agreement.

containerization The transporting of goods in standardized shipping containers.

context Circumstances or surroundings.

contrast To find differences between or among things or ideas.

cross-cultural communication Communication that occurs among people of different cultures.

cultural content laws Laws passed by a government to prevent a group's cultural identity — including its artists, performers, songs, movies, and literature — from being overwhelmed by the media of a more dominant culture.

cultural diversity Variety in cultures and identities.

cultural mosaic A society that is made up of many distinct cultural groups.

cultural pluralism The idea that a variety of peoples are free to affirm and promote their customs, traditions, beliefs, and language within a society.

cultural revitalization The process of affirming and promoting people's individual and collective cultural identity.

D

deindustrialization The reduction in or loss of industries.

denotation The dictionary meaning of a word or phrase.

depopulation A reduction in population caused by natural or human-made forces.

digital divide The gap that separates people who do — and do not — have access to up-to-date digital technology.

E

ecological footprint The area of the earth's surface necessary to sustain the level of resources a person uses and the waste she or he creates.

economic depression A period of low economic activity accompanied by high levels of unemployment.

economic globalization The spread of trade, transportation, and communication systems around the world in the interests of promoting worldwide commerce.

economies of scale Savings that are achieved by producing, using, and buying things in large quantities.

effect A noun meaning “result” or a verb meaning “brought about” or “caused.”

enemy alien A label assigned during World War I and World War II to people from countries that were at war with Canada. The rights of enemy aliens were sometimes restricted, and some were even interned in camps.

ethnocentrism A word that combines “ethnic” and “centre.” It refers to a way of thinking that centres on one’s own race and culture. Ethnocentric people believe that their worldview is the only valid one.

Eurocentrism A form of ethnocentrism that uses European ethnic, national, religious, and linguistic criteria to judge other peoples and their cultures.

F

flag of convenience A flag flown by ships when they are registered in a country that is not the country of their owner.

foreign aid Money, supplies, and other goods, as well as expertise, given by one country to another.

free trade The trade that occurs when two or more countries eliminate tariffs and taxes on the goods and services they trade with one another.

G

gacaca courts Community courts established in Rwanda to try low-level officials and ordinary people accused of taking part in the Rwandan genocide. The purpose of these courts was to speed up the process of bringing to justice those who had participated in the genocide and to encourage reconciliation.

gender gap The social, economic, and political differences that separate men and women.

general consensus Agreement that occurs when most, or even all, members of a group agree.

genocide The mass killing of human beings, especially a targeted group of people.

genuine progress index (GPI) A system that measures the sustainability, well-being, and quality of life of a country and its people.

global climate change Small but steady changes in average temperatures around the world.

grand exchange A trading process that began when Christopher Columbus brought seeds, fruit trees, and livestock to the Americas, where they were cultivated and became staples. In return, native North American species were exported to Europe. This exchange expanded to include different countries and products around the world.

gross domestic product (GDP) The value of all the goods and services a country produces in a year. GDP is often used to measure the strength of a country’s economy.

gross national income (GNI) The amount of money earned by everyone in a country.

H

historical globalization A period that is often identified as beginning in 1492, when Christopher Columbus made his first voyage to the Caribbean, and ending after World War II, when the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as superpowers.

homogenization The erasing of differences. When this term is applied to people, it often refers to the erasing of cultural differences so that peoples become more and more similar.

human trafficking A crime that occurs when people seeking a better life in a new country are preyed on by criminal organizations that help them immigrate illegally, then force them to work in substandard conditions or in criminal activities.

hybridization The combining of elements of two or more different things to create something new.

I

imperialism One country’s domination over another country’s economic, political, and cultural institutions.

inalienable Referring to rights that cannot be taken away or transferred.

Indian Act First passed by the Canadian Parliament in 1876 and amended several times since then, this act continues to define who is — and is not — a status Indian. Early versions of the act banned some traditional practices of First Nations cultures and allowed only those who renounced Indian status to vote in federal elections.

Industrial Revolution The period between about 1750 and 1850, when work became mechanized and began to occur in factories. The Industrial Revolution brought about dramatic economic, social, and cultural change.

ingenuity gap The gap between people's need for new and innovative solutions to problems and their ability to supply those solutions.

K

knowledge economy Businesses and individuals who use research, education, new ideas, and information technologies for practical purposes.

L

labour standards Measures that protect workers.

legacy Something that has been passed on by those who lived in the past.

M

market economy An economy in which government regulations are reduced to a minimum and businesses are free to make their own decisions.

media concentration The gathering of ownership of newspapers and other media in the hands of a few large corporations.

media convergence The use of electronic technology to integrate media such as newspapers, books, TV, and the Internet.

mercantilism A policy followed by European imperial powers from the 16th to the 19th century. In colonies, trade was strictly controlled to benefit the economy of the imperial power.

multiculturalism An official Canadian government policy founded on the idea that Canadian society is pluralistic — made of many culturally distinct groups who are free to affirm and promote their own cultural identity.

N

non-governmental organization (NGO) An organization established by groups of people to work toward specific goals and to gain public support in achieving these goals. NGOs depend on volunteer

workers and donations, but they may also receive grants or contracts from governments. They may influence government policies at national and international levels.

O

outsourcing A business strategy that involves reducing costs by using suppliers of products and services in countries where labour is cheaper and government regulation may be less strict.

overgeneralizing Drawing a conclusion based on too little information.

P

pandemic An epidemic that spreads around the world and poses a serious threat because of people's ability to travel farther and faster than ever before.

pop culture A short form for "popular culture," which is the culture of the people. This term often refers to current cultural trends that are spread by commercial mass media.

privatization The selling of a public service, such as electricity delivery or health care, to a private company so that the service is no longer owned by the government.

propaganda Ideas and information spread for the purpose of achieving a specific goal.

Q

Quiet Revolution A period of intense social, political, and economic change in Québec. During this period, which lasted from about 1960 to 1966, Québécois began to assert their rights and affirm and promote their language and culture.

R

reparations The act of making amends for wrongdoing. Reparations may include payments made by a defeated enemy to countries whose territory was damaged during a war.

residential schools Boarding schools where First Nations children were gathered to live, work, and study. These schools were operated or subsidized by the Canadian government as an important element of the government's assimilation policy. The last residential school closed in 1996.

role model Someone to whom others look as an example to emulate.

rough consensus An agreement that involves most people in a group.

S

sanction A penalty. Often an economic penalty, such as a trade boycott, taken to pressure a government to agree to carry out certain actions or follow certain rules.

status Indian A First Nations person who is registered according to the provisions of the Indian Act and is therefore eligible to receive specific benefits.

stereotyping Placing people in categories according to preconceived beliefs about how members of a particular group think or behave.

stewardship Accepting responsibility for ensuring that the earth's resources remain sustainable.

sustain To provide the basic necessities needed to support life.

sustainability The degree to which Earth is able to provide the resources necessary to meet people's needs.

sustainable development Development that meets people's needs in the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

sustainable prosperity Practising stewardship of the environment and resources so that future generations are able to achieve prosperity.

T

trade liberalization A process that involves countries in reducing or removing trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, so goods and services can move around the world more freely.

transnational corporation A company that is based in one country while developing and manufacturing its products, or delivering its goods and services, in more than one country. Also called a multinational corporation.

U

universalization The spread of culture, trends, customs, and practices around the world.

V

virtual community A community made up of people who may never have met in person but who interact via the Internet in chat rooms and blogs, through instant messaging, or through social networking sites.