

# Glossary

**aboriginal title** Claims by Aboriginal people to lands that their ancestors inhabited.

**age structure** The composition of the population of a country based on the age groups of the population.

**Agenda 21** The statement of action to promote *sustainable development* agreed to by heads of state who met at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

**agglomeration** A concentration of industries or other *economic activities* in one place.

**agribusiness** An agricultural business where operations include growing, storing, processing, and distributing food, and may be owned by a business corporation, a family, or an individual.

**Allies** In World War I, Britain, France, and Russia. In World War II, the term was applied to Britain, France, the countries of the British Commonwealth, and after 1941, the USSR.

**amending formula** The process by which changes can legally be made to the Canadian Constitution.

**appeasement** The granting of concessions in order to maintain peace.

**aquifer** A underground layer of rock that allows water to flow through it. If the flow of water is stopped by a layer of *impermeable* rock, the aquifer holds underground water supplies (see *groundwater*).

**arable** Land that is used for farming.

**armistice** An agreement by warring parties to end hostilities.

**assimilation** Adoption, often by a minority group, of the customs and language of another cultural group so that the original culture disappears.

**autonomy** The power to govern oneself and make one's own decisions.

**Axis** The alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II.

**baby boom** The increase in *birth rate* that occurred after World War II.

**balance of power** The situation, especially before World War I, in which the strong nations of Europe attempted to remain of equal strength militarily and in their alliances.

**basic activities** Economic activities such as the mining of ore or public administration that support a community and serve a larger community outside the local area.

**Battle of the Atlantic** The struggle during World War II between the *Allies* and *Axis* powers to control the supply route for the Allies across the Atlantic Ocean.

**biodiversity** The variety of living forms or species on the planet.

**biosphere** The area of Earth that supports life. It consists of two parts: the atmosphere, the thin layers of gases and water vapour that surround the Earth; and the lithosphere, or Earth's crust, the layer on which we live.

**biotechnology** The use of biological processes, particularly the "engineering" of genetic material in plant and animal cells, for industrial, agricultural, or other purposes.

**boreal** The coniferous or needle-leaf forest that lies between the treeless tundra and the mixed deciduous and coniferous forest to the south.

**branch plants** Factories, offices, or other operations set up in Canada but owned or controlled by U.S. or other foreign companies.

**British Commonwealth** An association of nations that were formerly colonies in the British Empire. The British Commonwealth of Nations is now known as the Commonwealth of Nations.

**Cabinet** The group of ministers chosen by the prime minister who decide government policy. Cabinet members usually have responsibility for particular departments of government, such as Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Justice.

**cabinet solidarity** The custom that cabinet members must not show public disagreement with government policies.

**capitalist** A person who practises or believes in capitalism. This is an economic system in which the production and distribution of goods are owned privately or by shareholders in corporations who have invested their money in the hope of making a profit.

**carrying capacity** The number of people (or animals) that can be sustained by an area of land.

**caucus** A group of representatives in legislatures who belong to the same political party. Caucus meets behind closed doors to discuss policies.

**census** The collection of statistics about people and activities. In Canada, a census is held every ten years, with a less complete compilation every five years.

**central business district (CBD)** The downtown area of a city or town where most of the important commercial and government activities take place.

**civil disobedience** The refusal to obey or follow laws one believes to be unjust or unfair; the intentional breaking of the law to gain the attention of government.

**civil law** The branch of the law that deals with relations between private parties such as individuals and corporations.

**cloning** The process of reproducing an organism asexually using DNA. The reproduction (the clone) is identical to the organism from which it was reproduced.

**cohort** An age group in a population, for example, the numbers of people between the ages of 13 and 19.

**Cold War** A period lasting approximately from 1945 to 1989 when there was tension and hostility between the *communist* Soviet Union and its allies and the *capitalist* and democratic United States and its allies.

**collective bargaining** Negotiation of a contract between unions and management regarding such things as wages and working conditions.

**collective security** The military support and cooperation provided by member states within an international organization to ensure that each will help the others in the event of aggression.

**common law** Law that is based on rulings made by judges in court cases.

**communism** A social and economic theory that property and production and distribution of goods and services should be owned by the public, and the labour force organized for the benefit of all. The application of the theory in the Soviet Union, China, and other countries resulted in dictatorships by members of the Communist Parties; forcible confiscation of property, including land; state-owned enterprises, such as collective farms and factories; and suppression of political dissent.

**comprehensive claims** Assertion of the right of Aboriginal nations to large tracts of land because their ancestors were the original inhabitants.

**conscientious objector** A person who refuses military service on the grounds of religious or moral opposition to war.

**conscription** Compulsory service in the armed forces.

**constitutional monarchy** A government in which the monarch has only the powers laid out in the nation's constitution and laws.

**consumer society** A *capitalist* society in which individuals are encouraged to spend money on new products and services so as to benefit the economy.

**Crown corporation** Businesses and industries owned by the Canadian government.

**crude birth rate** A figure obtained by dividing the number of births in one year by the population and multiplying the result by 1000.

**crude death rate** A figure obtained by dividing the number of deaths in one year by the population and multiplying the result by 1000.

**crude density** A figure arrived at by dividing the population of a country by its area. This figure can be misleading in a large country like Canada, where there are large areas with few people and small areas where many people live.

**cut-off lands** Lands taken from *reserves* without consent of the Aboriginal peoples.

**decentralization** The process of moving industries and services from the *economic core* to the *periphery*.

**deficit** The difference between expenditures and revenues that results when a government spends more than it takes in.

**democracy** A system of government in which people freely choose in elections who will govern them. It also refers to the principles and ideals of such a government, such as freedom of speech and the *rule of law*.

**demographic transition model** A model that shows the changes in a population's birth rates and death rates, and growth based on its technological development. Like all models, it is based on theory.

**demography** The study of population numbers, distribution, trends, and issues.

**dependency ratio** The ratio between the number of people in the work force and those who are retired or under the age of 14.

**depression** A downturn in the economy. The most severe economic depression of the twentieth century in the 1930s is sometimes called the Great Depression.

**desertification** The spreading of desert areas in regions of low rainfall, largely as a result of vegetation clearance, overgrazing by livestock, and farming.

**developed country** A country with a highly developed *economy*, with a strong service sector and often an industrial base. Citizens have the highest standards of living in the world, with high levels of literacy, health services, and food supplies.

**developed economy** An *economy* like Canada's that has a large service sector, manufacturing, trade, and diverse sources of income.

**developing country** A country with an economy that depends more on *primary industries*, and where citizens have a lower standard of living than those in developed countries.

**developing economy** An *economy* that is moving from a *traditional economy* by adopting more mechanized production methods and more services.

**direct democracy** A way in which people exercise control over political decision making. In a state with a large population like Canada, a referendum is one way that direct democracy can be exercised.

**doubling time** The period of years that it takes a country to double its population at its current birth rate.

**ecological footprint** A way of measuring the total impact that people have on the planet's environment.

**economic activities** Processes that help produce wealth and maintain quality of life.

**economic core** A region that leads in economic growth and attracts other economic activities, often from the *periphery*.

**economic disparity** A situation where there is a large gap between people who have low incomes and those who are rich.

**economy** The total of all *economic activities* such as production and consumption in a society.

**ecotourism** Tourist industry that is based on the observation of natural ecosystems and the natural environment.

**ecumene** The populated area of the world.

**emigration rate** The rate at which people emigrate, usually based on the number of people per thousand who leave a country.

**equalization payments** Payments made by the federal government to some provinces so that the standard of living will be more uniform across Canada.

**ethnocentric** The belief that one's own culture is superior, and that other cultures should be judged by its values.

**executive power** The power to make decisions in government and set policies.

**exponential rate** A rapid rate of increase as each generation doubles in size.

**fascist** A form of authoritarian government that was set up in Italy and Germany before World War II. The government in fascist states is *totalitarian* and *nationalist*.

**feminism** A belief that women should have equality with men in political, social, and economic fields, and not be discriminated against on the basis of their sex.

**first-past-the-post** The system in which the candidate who has more votes than any other candidate wins an election.

**Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** An agreement signed in 1989 between Canada and the United States to allow goods produced in each country to cross the border tariff-free.

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** An integrated software package for the input, management, analysis, and display of information, especially for maps.

**globalization** The process by which regions and countries of the world are becoming interconnected. Globalization has been speeded up by modern communication technologies.

**gross domestic product (GDP)** The total value of all goods and services produced in a country, and excluding transactions with other countries, such as income from overseas investments.

**gross national product (GNP)** The dollar value of all goods and services produced in a year in a country, including income from foreign investments.

**groundwater** Underground water that is stored in *aquifers*.

**habeas corpus** The protection that citizens who live in a democracy have to guard against unlawful detention. It requires that a person who is being detained be brought into court within twenty-four hours of arrest, where a judge or other official will decide whether the detention is lawful. In Canada, habeas corpus was suspended when the War Measures Act was invoked.

**head tax** The fee that Chinese immigrants were required to pay after the Chinese Immigration Act was passed in 1885 when they entered Canada.

**highly indebted poor country (HIPC)** A country that is so in debt to *developed countries* that most of its gross domestic product is used to pay interest on those debts. Such countries rate the lowest on the U.N. Human Development Index.

**Holocaust** The genocide committed by the fascist Nazi government in Germany against Jews and other peoples during World War II.

**immigration rate** The rate at which people immigrate to a country, usually based at the number of people per thousand who enter a country.

**imperialism** The building of empires by taking over new territories.

**impermeable** The quality of a substance, such as rock, of not allowing water to pass through it.

**indictable offence** A serious offence, such as armed robbery or murder, that can lead to a person's arrest.

**industrial heartland** An area where manufacturing and other industries are concentrated.

**infilling** The process by which *population density* in an urban centre is increased by building on waste land or underused land.

**inflation** The rise in prices for goods and services that increases the cost of living and triggers the demand for a rise in wages.

**infrastructure** Structures such as roads, railways, power grids, and communications links that are basic to the functioning of a modern economy, as well as buildings such as schools and hospitals.

**in-migration** The movement of people into an area, such as a city.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)** An agency of the United Nations set up to help nations experiencing difficulty paying their debts. Its aim is to keep the world economy stable.

**internment camps** Government-run camps where people who are considered a threat are detained.

**isolationists** People who hold the belief that one's country should keep separate from the politics and disputes of other countries.

**judicial power** The power to interpret and administer the law.

**Kyoto Protocol** The agreement negotiated by 159 countries in 1997 to lower emission of gases that contribute to global warming.

**laissez-faire** A government policy of not interfering in the working of the market economy by regulations or economic policies.

**land use** How land is used in an area, such as for housing (residential) or for business (commercial).

**legislative power** The power to make, change, and repeal laws.

**life expectancy** The average number of years that a person or population can expect to live.

**lobbyist** A person who is hired to represent the interests of a *pressure group* by influencing policy decision makers in the group's favour.

**locational advantage** The advantage that one place has over others in terms of access to resources and transportation routes.

**megaproject** Large-scale construction projects that require a huge capital investment. The construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway is an example.

**merchant marine** Civilian ships and sailors. In wartime, they transport food, weapons, and munitions.

**militarism** A nation's policy of enlisting, training, equipping, and maintaining armed forces ready for war.

**minority government** A government in which the ruling party has less than half the seats in the legislature.

**multiculturalism** A policy of fostering the expression of the cultures of many ethnic groups that make up a country's population.

**multilateral aid** Foreign aid given by a group of countries through an organization like the United Nations.

**multinational corporation (MNC)** A large company that operates in more than one country. MNCs have more assets and annual income than *developing countries*, and have both economic and political power.

**multiplier effect** The chain reaction by which the growth or decline of an economic activity results in the creation or lessening of wealth.

**national identity** A sense of, and pride in, the character of one's nation.

**nationalism** A strong attachment to one's nation.

**nationalist** A person who has a strong feeling of attachment to his or her nation.

**natural increase** The difference between the number of births and the number of deaths, often given per thousand people.

**net migration rate** The difference between the number of people immigrating to a country and the number of people emigrating.

**newly industrializing country** A country in the transition stage between developing and developed nations. Most have rapidly growing economies.

**non-basic activity** An economic activity, such as a shopping mall, that meets the needs of the local population.

**non-governmental organization (NGO)** A non-governmental, non-profit organization that runs aid programs and lobbies for people's rights around the world. Some NGOs receive money from governments and work in partnership with them. Examples are Save the Children and Oxfam.

**non-renewable resources** Resources that do not renew themselves naturally, such as iron ore.

**North American Air Defence Agreement (NORAD)** This agreement in 1957 integrated the air-defence forces of the United States and

Canada under joint command. The agreement was renamed the North American Aerospace Defence Command in 1981.

**North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** The agreement signed in 1992 and implemented in 1994 between the United States, Mexico, and Canada to create a free trade zone among the countries.

**North American Treaty Organization (NATO)** The mutual defence organization set up to protect fourteen Western European countries, Canada, and the United States from possible aggression from the USSR after World War II.

**notwithstanding clause** The clause in the Canadian Constitution (Section 33 [1]) that allows Parliament or the legislature of a province to allow an act to stand even though it contravenes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

**nutritional density** A measure of how much nutrition can be produced from land. An area with fertile soil and adequate temperatures and precipitation for plants to grow will have a higher nutritional density than an area like Canada's North.

**official plan** A plan for growth and development drawn up by an urban centre.

**out-migration** The movement of people out of an area.

**patronage** A favour, often a government position, given in return for political support.

**peak-value intersection (PVI)** A part of a city where major traffic arteries intersect and land costs are high because many businesses want to locate in that area.

**per capita GDP** The average income figure for each person in a country that is calculated by dividing the *gross domestic product* by the population.

**periphery** Areas that are outside the *economic core*. Areas in the periphery have fewer services

and less variety in economic activities than core areas.

**permafrost** Ground that does not completely thaw in the summer.

**permeable** A substance that allows water to flow through it. For example, sandstone is a permeable rock.

**plebiscite** A direct vote by electors on an issue of public importance. The outcome of the vote may not be binding on the government.

**population density** A figure calculated by dividing the total population of a region by the area of the region.

**population distribution** The pattern of where people live in an area.

**population pyramid** A bar graph that depicts the population of an area by age groups and sex.

**pressure group** An organized group of individuals with common interests and concerns who attempt to pressure political decision makers. Pressure groups are also known as interest groups.

**primary industries** Industries dealing with the extraction or collection of raw materials, such as mining or forestry.

**private member's bill** A bill introduced into the legislature by a member of Parliament who is not a member of the cabinet.

**productivity** A measure of the effectiveness of effort that goes into producing goods. For example, a farmer can improve productivity by using mechanized tools.

**propaganda** Information usually produced by governments presented in such a way as to inspire and spread particular beliefs or opinions.

**proportional representation** An electoral system in which members of legislatures are chosen in proportion to the numbers of votes their parties receive.

**protectionism** A system of using tariffs to raise the price of imported goods in order to protect domestic producers.

**pull factors** Factors that attract people or industries to an area.

**push factors** Factors that result in people or industries leaving an area.

**recession** A decline in the economy, resulting in lower levels of employment and production.

**referendum** The process of referring a political question to the people for a direct vote.

**regional disparity** Differences in income, wages, and jobs in one area compared with another.

**regionalism** A concern for the affairs of one's own region over those of one's country.

**renewable resources** Resources such as trees and fish that, if managed in a *sustainable* way, will renew themselves.

**representative democracy** A democratic system in which citizens vote for representatives who are empowered on their behalf to make decisions.

**reserves** The designated areas of land set aside for Aboriginal peoples.

**residential schools** Government-authorized schools run by religious groups set up to educate Aboriginal children in Canadian culture. The children lived at the schools apart from their families.

**residual powers** In Canada's Constitution, any powers that are not specifically listed are held by the federal government or the Crown.

**rule of law** The principle that people are governed by laws, and that no person is above the law.

**sanctions** Penalties, such as restricting trade, applied by a group of nations to try to force an offending nation to end aggression or an offensive policy.

**scarcity** The idea that resources, including human labour, are in limited supply, and that these resources should be used in the most efficient way possible.

**secondary industries** Industries dealing with manufacturing or construction.

**self-government** The right of a colony or cultural group to define the structure, laws, and policies that will govern its own affairs.

**shanty towns** Makeshift communities that have grown up around rapidly growing urban centres in *developing countries*, and built by squatters on land they do not own from whatever building materials they can find.

**site** The characteristics of an area, such as landforms, on which a building or city is constructed.

**situation** The relationship between a city and the area surrounding it.

**socialist** A believer in a political and economic system in which the means of production and distribution in a country are publicly owned and controlled for the benefit of all members of a society.

**sovereignty-association** A proposal by Quebec nationalists that Quebec have political independence yet retain close economic ties or association with Canada.

**specific claims** First Nations' claims to land based on the belief that the government did not fulfil its obligations under a treaty or other agreement related to money, land, or other assets.

**status Indian** An Aboriginal who is registered with the federal government according to the terms of the Indian Act.

**statutory law** Law that has been passed as legislation by federal, provincial, or municipal governments.

**stewardship** The management of resources in a careful and sustainable way.

**structural adjustment program (SAP)** A program that requires an indebted country to restructure its economy by encouraging foreign investment, increasing exports, and turning government services over to the private sector in return for loans from the World Bank and *International Monetary Fund*.

**subsistence agriculture** A form of agriculture in which crops or livestock are raised for consumption by the farmers rather than for sale.

**suffragists** People who advocated that women should have the right to vote.

**summary offence** A less serious criminal offence than an *indictable offence* that carries in Canada a maximum imprisonment of six months.

**sunset industries** Industries that are no longer efficient.

**superpowers** Term used to refer to the United States and USSR in the post-World War II period when both were engaged in building up powerful weapons of mass destruction as deterrents against aggression.

**sustainable cities** Urban centres where decisions made do not degrade the quality of life for future inhabitants.

**sustainable development** A method of using resources and land without negatively affecting their future use.

**tertiary industries** Industries that provide services such as banking.

**tied aid** Assistance given by one country to another that requires the receiving country to buy goods and services from the donor country.

**totalitarian state** An undemocratic state in which the government demands total obedience from citizens and controls all aspects of society.

**trade union** A group of workers who unite to achieve common goals in discussions with own-



ers and management of businesses and industries.

**traditional economy** An economy in which most people work in *primary industries* such as farming and fishing.

**Treaty of Versailles** The treaty that ended World War I.

**Triple Alliance** The alliance of Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Italy prior to World War I.

**Triple Entente** The alliance of France, Russia, and Great Britain prior to World War I.

**urban functions** The activities and services that are provided by towns, such as cultural activities and financial services. In the past, walled cities provided a protective function.

**urbanization** The process by which an area changes from rural to urban.

**vertically integrated business** A situation in which a company owns and operates every step in the manufacture and distribution of its products.

**War Measures Act** An act of the Canadian Parliament that gave the federal *Cabinet* emergency powers, especially during wartime. It included the right to suspend *habeas corpus*.

**Warsaw Pact** A post-World War II military alliance involving the USSR and the Soviet-bloc countries of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, and Romania.

**western alienation** The feeling on the part of western Canada that federal policies favour central Canada. It has led to the rise of several regional parties, of which the latest is the Canadian Alliance Party.

country distribution, political, economic

Russia

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