

GLOSSARY OF USEFUL TERMS

ABM: Anti-Ballistic Missile

ABSTAIN: to refrain from casting a "yes" or "no" vote

ACTIVIST: an individual who is extensively and vigorously involved in political activity, either within or outside the governmental system

ADJOURN: to suspend a session to another time or place or indefinitely

ADJUDGE: to decide or rule upon as a judge

AGENDA: a list of specific items of business to be considered at a legislative session, conference, or meeting

ALBM: Air Launched Ballistic Missile

ANNEX: to incorporate into a country the territory of another country

APARTHEID: the official policy of racial discrimination that exists in South Africa

ARBITRATION: process by which an outsider is authorized to dictate the terms of a settlement of a dispute if a voluntary agreement cannot be reached

ARMISTICE: a temporary peace agreement

ASAT: Anti-Satellite weapon

AUSPICES: protection or patronage

AUTONOMY: independence, self-government

BELLIGERENT: group or nation that is engaged in a war or military conflict

BILATERAL: having or involving two sides

BOYCOTT: refusing to deal with a person, group, nation, or group of nations so as to punish or show disapproval

BREACH OF TREATY: failure to observe the terms of a signed treaty

BUILD DOWN: the theory of building up the weapons arsenals of the US and USSR until equal and then negotiating reductions in arms from their new equal standing

CAPITALISM: an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods by investments that are determined by private decision rather than by state-control, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market

CARTEL: an association of industrialists or nations formed to establish an international monopoly

CAUCUS: a meeting among delegates to discuss policy and topics outside of the formal meeting

CENSORSHIP: broadly, any government restrictions on speech or writing; more precisely, government restrictions on forms of expression before they are disseminated

CENSURE: to blame, criticize adversely, or express disapproval

COALITION: combination of two or more factions or parties for the purpose of achieving some political goal

COMMUNISM: a totalitarian system of government in which a single authoritarian party controls state-owned means of production with the professed aim of establishing a stateless society

COMPENSARY FINANCING: credit designed to help raw material producer members of the IMF in times of poor markets for their exports

COUP D'ETAT: a sudden and decisive act in politics, usually bringing about a change in government unlawfully and by force

CRUISE MISSILE: A long-range jet-propelled, winged-bomb which can be launched from land, sea, or air and targeted by remote control; usually considered to be more accurate and low-flying than traditional missiles

DECOLONIZATION: process of transferring a colony to a self-governing area

DEFLATION: a sustained decrease in the general price level

DEMILITARIZE: to free from military control

DEPRESSION: a severe economic slump (worse than a recession) characterized by very high unemployment

DEREGULATION: the act or process of removing restrictions and regulations

DESTABILIZATION: the act of making a government unsteady

DETAINMENT: detention, confinement

DEVELOPING NATIONS: the nations of the world in the process of building a stable economy, government, and/or society, usually with a low per capita income and GNP.

DILATORY: causing delay, repetitive

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY: special privileges accorded to diplomats and their families and staffs by international agreement, including freedom from arrest, search, and taxation

DISARMAMENT: the act of disarming; reduction of military forces and equipment

DISSEMINATION: the act or process of scattering or state of being scattered; usually referring to distribution of information

EASTERN BLOC: formerly, the group of nations led by the Soviet Union, whose general theory of government was communism

EPIDEMIC: An outbreak of an infectious disease in an area where the disease is not already prevalent; an epidemic is confined to a locality, small region, or single country.

EXPANSIONISM: the process of broadening a nation's borders

EXPROPRIATION: the taking of property into public ownership without compensation, such as the property of foreign investors or foreign industry in a nation

EXTRADITION: the surrender of a prisoner or fugitive by one state, nation, or legal authority to another

FOREIGN INTERVENTION: interference by one nation into the affairs of another

FORUM: an assembly for discussing questions of foreign interests

GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; the agreement precursor to the current World Trade Organization, started in 1944 during the Bretton Woods Conference

GNP: Gross National Product; the total value of the goods and services produced in a nation during a specific period of time

HEU: Highly Enriched Uranium; material necessary for the construction of nuclear weapons

ICBM: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile; a missile, normally with multiple warheads, with a long range

IDEOLOGY: a comprehensive set of political, economic, and social views or ideas, particularly concerned with the form and role of government

INFLATION: a sustained increase in the general price level

INTEGRITY: honesty; sincerity; trustworthiness

INTER ALIA: among other things

INTERNAL AFFAIRS: having to do with operations within a nation; domestic affairs

JUNTA: a political or military group holding power after a revolution; a political faction; an assembly or council for deliberation or administration, especially in Spanish-speaking nations

JURISDICTION: authority vested in a court to hear and decide certain types of cases; term literally means "to say the law"

LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDC): countries whose share of output composed of agricultural products, mining, and the like is relatively high, which engage in relatively little industrial high-technology activity, and whose per capita incomes are generally comparatively low

MANDATE: a commission given to one nation by a group of nations to administer the government and affairs of a territory or colony

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): the product of the UN Millennium Summit and 2000 Millennium Declaration; these eight goals focus on major developmental hurdles to be met by 2015. Goals include reducing child and maternal mortality rates, fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and promoting gender equality.

MEDIATION: process in which an outsider is brought into a dispute negotiation in the hopes that this person can lead the two sides to a voluntary agreement through persuasion

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION: a company having branches in several nations

NATIONAL DEBT: a government's total indebtedness, which has resulted from previous deficits

NATIONALIZE: to invest control or ownership of industry in the national government

NATURAL RESOURCES: those actual or potential forms of wealth supplied by nature, such as coal, oil, water power, arable land, etc.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization.

NON-ALIGNED: a nation not politically tied to another, usually taking a neutral position between large power blocs

OLIGARCHY: a system of government in which political power is exercised by a small group of people, usually self-selected

ORPHAN DISEASES: isolated yet deadly diseases that have no cure as yet

PANDEMIC: when an epidemic crosses national and/or continental boundaries, it takes on pandemic status

PATENT: a temporary grant of monopoly rights over an invention

PEACEBUILDING: term connoting activities that go beyond crisis intervention such as longer-term development and the building of governance structures and institutions. It includes building the capacity of non-governmental organizations.

PEACEKEEPING: a United Nations presence in the field (normally involving civilian and military personnel) that, with the consent of the conflicting parties, implements or monitors arrangements relating to the control of conflicts and their resolution, or ensures the safe delivery of humanitarian relief

PEACEKEEPING FORCE: a force sent to maintain, enforce, or intervene to achieve a cessation of hostilities between opposing armies, nations, or other groups

PLENARY SESSION a session attended by all of its qualified members

PROCEDURAL: of or relating to procedure

PROLIFERATION: spreading; propagation

PROTECTIONISM: the process of government economic protection for domestic producers through restrictions on foreign competition

PROTECTORATE: a weak nation under the protection and partial control of a stronger nation

RAPPORTEUR: a member of a legislative, military, or other official group appointed to record and make or draw up a report

RECESSION: period during which the total output of the economy declines

SANCTION: an action by several nations toward another nation intended to force it to obey international law

SATELLITE: a country that claims to be independent but is actually under the control of another

SECRETARIAT: the official office or position of Secretary-General; the department, including staff, buildings, etc. controlled by the Secretary-General

SELF-DETERMINATION: the decision by the people of a nation as to what form of government they shall have, without reference to the wishes of any other nation

SLBM: Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile

SOCIALISM: a theory or system of social organization by which the major means of production and distribution are owned, managed, and controlled by the government, by an association of workers, or the community as a whole

SOVEREIGN: independent of all others; supreme in power, rank, or authority

SUBSTANTIVE: real, actual, essential

SUSPEND: to cause to stop temporarily, as a meeting; to set aside or make temporarily inoperative, as the rules

TARIFF: a schedule of duties, rates, or charges imposed by the government on imported or exported items

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION: corporation whose operations transcend international borders

TRUSTEESHIP: the administration by a nation of a trust territory, approved by the UN, usually with the idea that the trust territory will be developed toward self-government or independence

TERRORISM: use of terror, especially the systematic use of terror by the government or other authority against particular persons or groups; a method of opposing a government internally or externally through the use of terror

VOID: without legal force or effect; not binding by law

WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION: weapons whose effects are widespread or deemed to be excessively injurious to civilians or the environment, e.g. chemical, biological, and radiological warfare

WESTERN BLOC: group of nations, traditionally led by the United States, whose general theory of government is democratic and capitalist.