

AP World History

“Must Know” Vocabulary Terms by Theme

September 5, 2011

The first five pages list terms related to the main five Themes. You do not need to define these terms but you do need to be utterly familiar with them.

Some terms extend before or beyond the time period under which they are listed, so try to be time period specific, but it won't be necessary all the time.

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 (/) I only need one definition, but you might have this in a variety of forms across different 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

Environment

- 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

Belief systems, philosophies, & Ideologies

- Confucianism & Neoconfucianism
- Daoism
- Greco-Roman philosophy
- revelation

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,” Kabuki, codices
- Systems of Record Keeping—Hieroglyphs, Pictographs, *Quipu*, Alphabets, Cuneiform

Theme #3: Politics (State-building, Expansion & Conflict)

Political Structures and Forms of Governance

- Political /state authority and autonomy - centralized control/ governments
- state consolidation, legitimization and expansion of power
- military professionals
- political ideologies
- bureaucracies/ *administrative institutions*
- Collection of revenue
- Warfare—casualties, tactics,

Empires

- Trading-post empires
- Land empires
- Diplomacy
- Maritime empires
- Transoceanic empires
- Imperial conquests / Expansion

- Indigenous homelands
- Internal factors and external factors

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

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

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

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

Capitalism and socialism

Theme #5: Social Structures (Development & Transformation of ...)

Gender roles and relations

- Polygamy vs. monogamy
- Matrilineal vs. patrilineal

Family and kinship

Racial and ethnic constructions

- racial ideologies

Social and economic classes

- clearly stratified social hierarchies
- elites
- political and economic elites and hierarchies