

Glossary

A

Acadian Francophone descendant of the early French colonists in Atlantic Canada

accommodation making adjustments or reaching compromises to allow for differences

acculturation a change in an individual or a group that results from contact with another group

advocacy active support for a cause or position

affirmation a positive, assertive action

AFN Assembly of First Nations

agribusiness large-scale agricultural business

AGT Alberta Government Telephones

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) the final stage of HIV, in which the human immune system collapses, placing people at greater risk of infection by life-threatening diseases

allegiance loyalty

Anglophone a person whose first language is English

annihilation the act of completely destroying a people or thing

anthropologist a person who studies humans, their societies, and customs

anti-globalization a term used to describe individuals and groups who protest against global trade agreements, which, they claim, only help more developed countries get richer at the expense of less developed countries

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

arable capable of supporting agriculture

archaeological having to do with archaeology, the study and analysis of human history and prehistory through the examination of physical remains

assimilation the process by which a minority culture adopts a dominant culture and is absorbed into it. It often involves the loss of language.

attire clothing, jewellery, and other forms of body decoration

authoritarian enforcing strict obedience to authority as opposed to encouraging individual freedom

B

bias an inclination that makes it difficult to judge fairly

boycott an organized campaign in which consumers refuse to purchase goods or services from a business or country because they disagree with its policies

Bretton Woods Agreement an agreement signed by the Allied countries in 1944 that established a number of financial institutions and a system of rules and regulations to promote international trade in the global economy

BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) also called mad cow disease; a disease that affects the central nervous system of cattle and has been known to spread to humans

boycott an organized campaign in which consumers purposely purchase from a company to show that they agree with its corporate policies

C

Canadien (Canadienne) Francophone descendant of the colonists of New France living anywhere in North America, including the West (in use until about 1914)

CanCon a slang short form for “Canadian content”

capitalism an economic system based on free markets, private ownership of business and industry, and the profit motive

CAVCO Canadian Audio Visual Certification Office

CBSR Canadian Business for Social Responsibility

CCIC Canadian Council for International Co-operation

CIDA Canadian International Development Agency

civic responsibilities duties toward one’s community

civilian a citizen who is not a member of a country’s military force

clear-cutting cutting down all the trees in an area

collective identity the common characteristics and values used to define a group

colonial having to do with people from another country settling in and governing another land and its people

colony a territory claimed and ruled by another country; in many instances, people travelled from the ruling country to create settlements in colonies

communications technologies the processes, tools, and techniques used to transmit data or information from one person or device to another

company land grant a region granted to a company for economic gain

concept web a graphic diagram that shows relationships and examples

constitution a system of basic principles by which a country is ruled

consumer a person who buys goods or services for personal use

consumerism a preoccupation with buying goods and services

containerization a shipping method in which large amounts of goods are packaged into large containers for efficient transport and handling

criterion (pl. criteria) a standard by which something is judged

Crown corporation a government-owned business created to provide essential products and services to people
CRTC Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
cultural contact the interaction of two or more independent cultures
cultural diversity the variety of human cultures in a specific region or in the world as a whole
cultural legislation government laws to regulate aspects of Canadian culture
cultural revitalization an effort to restore new life to a culture

D

democracy government in which power is held by the people under a system of free elections
deregulation the opening of an industry to more competition by removing government regulations originally put in place to limit competition
desalination removal of salt from seawater, converting it to fresh water
dissenting disagreeing

E

ecological ethics thinking about the environment from an ecological rather than a human standpoint
economic globalization the process of expanding world trading networks
economic nationalism the belief that a country's economy should belong to the people of the country and not be controlled by foreign companies
Elder member of a First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or Indigenous community who is respected for his or her knowledge, wisdom, or experience
empower to give somebody authority or confidence
entrepreneur a person who sets up or finances a new business or industry to make a profit
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
erosion the washing away of soil
ethical consistent with agreed principles of moral conduct
ethics moral principles or values
EU European Union
EUB Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
euro the name of the single European currency that went into circulation on January 1, 2002; the symbol of the euro is €
Eurocentrism the belief that European concerns, cultures, and values are superior to those of others
exchange rate the price at which one country's currency can be purchased with another country's currency

exclusive economic zone (EEZ) an area of sea around a country's shoreline from which the country has the exclusive right to extract natural resources
extinct describes something, such as a species of animal, a language, or a people, that no longer exists in the world

F

factors of production resources such as land, labour, and capital that are used to produce goods and services (Capital in this sense refers to machinery, factories, warehouses, and equipment.)
Falun Gong a religious group, banned by the Chinese government, that combines traditional Chinese exercises and meditation with Buddhist teachings
FCM Federation of Canadian Municipalities
FIRA Foreign Investment Review Agency
first language the first language a person learns at home in childhood
Francophone a person whose first language is French
Francophone school a school that is designed to educate Francophone students in their own language in a Francophone environment and to affirm their identity
free market an economy in which government does not interfere in business activities; supply and demand are not regulated, or are regulated with only minor restrictions
free trade trade between countries with relatively few restrictions
French immersion school a school designed to teach French to students whose first language is not French; a large part of the curriculum is taught in French
FTA Free Trade Agreement
FTAA Free Trade Area of the Americas

G

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP per capita GDP divided by population
gender female or male
genetically modified (GM) describes an organism that has been changed through manipulation of its genetic material
genocide the mass extermination of human beings
global citizenship the quality of being an aware, contributing member of society, especially in regard to global issues
globalization the process by which the world's citizens are becoming increasingly connected to and dependent on one another
grassroots organization a community-based organization working on local projects

Green Revolution period during the 1960s and 1970s when many traditional farming practices were replaced by technologies that 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 year

gross domestic product (GDP) per capita GDP divided by population

gross national product (GNP) the total income from goods and services produced in a country in a year

Group of Eight (G8) an informal group of the eight more developed countries with the strongest economies, whose leaders meet annually to discuss global issues

H

HBC Hudson's Bay Company

HIPC Heavily Indebted Poor Country

historical fiction stories set in a specific time and place in history, sometimes using historical characters

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) an incurable disease, transmitted through bodily fluids, that destroys a person's immune system

homogenization the process by which cultures become more alike in terms of values, attitudes, beliefs, customs, language, and traditions

hybrid something that is made from mixed elements

hybridization the mixing of identities and cultures in new and different ways

hyphenated Canadian a person who identifies his or her ethnic origin as Canadian along with the ethnic origin of his or her ancestors

hypothetical describes something that exists as a possibility, an unproven idea or theory

I

ICC International Chamber of Commerce

icon a person or figure whose image is known to millions of people

IDP internally displaced person

ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetary Fund

imperialism the policy of one country extending political, economic, or military control over another

implication a suggestion that certain things are true or will happen as a result of something else

Indian Act an act passed by the Canadian government in 1876 and amended (changed) several times since, which makes "Indians, and the lands reserved for the Indians" the responsibility of the government

Indigenous cultures the cultures of the original inhabitants of a particular geographic area

individual identity the group of characteristics and values people use to define themselves as individuals

Industrial Revolution the rapid transition from an agriculture based economy to a manufacturing based economy, which began in Great Britain in the 19th century and spread to other countries, including Canada

industrialization the shift of a country's major economic activity from agriculture to manufacturing

infrastructure the basic physical systems of a community, including roads, utilities, water, sewage, and so on

integration providing equal opportunity for participation of different groups in society

interconnected tied together

interdisciplinary art different art forms and media mixed in new ways

intergovernmental organization (IGO) an international institution made up of independent countries working cooperatively for a common purpose

international trade the exchange of raw materials, goods, and services among distant groups of people

irrigation the watering of large crops

K

knowledge economy industries that use knowledge to produce economic benefits

L

legacy something handed down from the past

linguistic identity the collective identity of a people who speak the same language

lobby group a group of citizens that band together to bring an issue or demand to the government and push for change; well-known lobby groups include Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Greenpeace, and the Council of Canadians

M

mandate a task, often assigned by law

marginalization putting a group of people in a lower or powerless position within society

market a place, generally another country, where one can buy and sell raw materials or manufactured goods

media the different ways of delivering mass communication, such as newspapers, radio, and television

media convergence control of a large amount of the world's media by a few transnational companies

megacity an urban centre with a population of 10 million or more

mercantilism a Eurocentric economic policy whereby European monarchs increased their wealth through international trade

metropolis a large, busy city, especially the main city of a country or region

migrant worker a person who leaves his or her family and country to find work

migration the movement of people from one region or country to another

minority cultural group a cultural group (a group of people with a common age, ethnicity, language, or gender) that is smaller than majority cultural groups

MNC Métis National Council

monopoly occurred in the past when a monarch granted one individual or a single company the sole right to gather and trade in a particular good; today, monopolies exist when a business has no competition in a market, such as when a product or service is controlled by one company

multiculturalism a policy that supports respect for a diversity of languages, beliefs, traditions, values, religions, and other aspects of culture

N

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement

NASTC Nunavik Arctic Survival Training Centre

non-governmental organization (NGO) a private charitable organization that provides international aid or relief, promotes economic equality, protects the environment, or promotes community development

O

OUA Organization of African Unity

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

outsourcing one company hiring another company to fulfill certain tasks in production

P

pandemic an epidemic occurring over a large geographic area that affects vast numbers of people and challenges both society and the economy

peatlands lands consisting of partly rotted vegetation, such as swamps

perspective what people believe to be true based on their collective experience as a group; a world view

petition a written request signed by many people appealing to an authority or government for change

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; this society respects and values the individual and collective opinions and identities of all peoples

point of view what individuals believe to be true based on their personal experience

political globalization the process by which political decisions and actions are becoming increasingly international

prisoner of conscience a person imprisoned by a state for holding political or religious beliefs the state does not tolerate

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

protectorate an area that ruled itself but was guided by another, more powerful, country

Q

quality of life the degree of enjoyment and satisfaction experienced in everyday life that includes standard of living as well as non-material things, such as political and religious freedom, health care, and the environment

R

ratify to confirm or accept an agreement by formal consent

raw material unprocessed natural resources such as logs and iron ore

reclaimed restored to a productive state

refugee a person who flees his or her home by escaping to another country

reserve an area of land that is legally owned by the federal government but is set aside for the use of a specific First Nations group

residential school a boarding school set up for the purpose of educating and assimilating Aboriginal children

responsible citizen a member of society who accepts and embraces a duty or obligation to that society

role models people who inspire us in such a way that we try to live and act like they do

Royal Commission a committee appointed by the federal government to investigate and write a report about a specific topic

S

- selective cutting** logging for specific trees without clearing the whole area
- self-government** Aboriginal people gaining control over key elements in their own communities, such as the courts and education
- social globalization** the process by which people's lifestyles spread over global networks
- sphere of influence** a region in which an outside country influences or controls political or economic events for its own gain; this may have an impact on the culture of the region
- standard of living** level of material comfort as measured by the goods, services, and luxuries available to an individual, community, or nation
- Statement of Reconciliation** an official acknowledgment of wrongs committed against Aboriginal peoples, and a pledge to address those wrongs
- stewardship** responsible management and use of land and resources so that future generations will enjoy healthy environments
- subsidiary** a company that is owned and controlled by a large corporation
- subsidy** direct financial help, such as loans or lower taxes, that the government provides to an industry
- surface mining** the technique of digging up land completely, as when mining oil sands
- sustainable development** development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- sweatshop** a workplace characterized by low wages and poor working conditions, often found in less developed countries that sell goods to TNCs
- S.W.O.T. analysis** an analysis technique for evaluating a plan of action. S.W.O.T. stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

T

- tariff** a tax on imported goods or services meant to reduce competition with domestic goods or services
- TNC** transnational corporation
- trade liberalization** the process of reducing barriers to trade
- trading bloc** a group of countries working together to give one another better trading terms
- tradition** ideas, practices, beliefs, knowledge, and customs that are passed down through a family, group, culture, or religion
- transnational** a corporation that operates in two or more countries
- transnational community** a cultural community that maintains political, social, cultural, and economic links between its homeland and its adopted land
- transnational media company** a company that operates media outlets in many countries

U

- UN** United Nations
- UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund
- universality** applicable to all persons or things in the world
- universalization of popular culture** the spread of one popular culture around the world
- urbanization** the process by which so many people move into rural areas close to existing cities that these areas become urban

W

- World Bank** a financial institution, with headquarters in the United States, that provides loans to member countries in financial difficulty
- world view** a philosophy of life and way of seeing the world
- WTO** World Trade Organization