Absolutism A form of government in which political power is concentrated in the hands of a single individual or small group, in particular, an absolute monarchy.

Affirmative action Policies or programmes that are designed to benefit disadvantaged minority groups (or, potentially, women) by affording them special assistance.

Alienation To be separated from one’s genuine or essential nature; used by Marxists to describe the process whereby, under capitalism, labour is reduced to being a mere commodity.

Altruism Concern for the interests and welfare of others, based either on enlightened self-interest or a belief in a common humanity.

Androgyny The possession of both male and female characteristics; used to imply that human beings are sexless ‘persons’ in the sense that sex is irrelevant to their social role or political status.

Animal rights Moral entitlements that are based on the belief that as animals are non-human ‘persons’, they deserve the same consideration (at least in certain areas) as human beings.

Anomie A weakening of values and normative rules, associated with feelings of isolation, loneliness and meaninglessness.

Anthropocentrism A belief that human needs and interests are of overriding moral and philosophical importance; the opposite of ecocentrism.

Apartheid (Afrikaans) Literally, ‘apartness’; a system of racial segregation practised in South Africa after 1948.

Apostasy The abandonment of one’s religious faith, sometimes applied to a cause, a set of principles or a political party.

Aryanism The belief that the Aryans, or German people, are a ‘master race’, destined for world domination.

Assimilation The process through which immigrant communities lose their cultural distinctiveness by adjusting to the values, allegiances and lifestyles of the ‘host’ society.

Atomism A belief that society is made up of a collection of self-interested and largely self-sufficient individuals, or atoms, rather than social groups.

Austerity Sternness or severity; as an economic strategy, austerity refers to public spending cuts designed to eradicate a budget deficit, underpinned by faith in market forces.

Autarky Economic self-sufficiency, brought about either through expansionism aimed at securing markets and sources of raw materials, or by withdrawal from the international economy.
**Authority** The right to exert influence over others by virtue of an acknowledged obligation to obey.

**Autonomy** Literally, self-government; the ability to control one’s own destiny by virtue of enjoying independence from external influences.

**Bill of rights** A constitutional document that specifies the rights and freedoms of the individual and so defines the relationship between the state and its citizens.

**Biocentric equality** The principle that all organisms and entities in the biosphere are of equal moral worth, each being an expression of the goodness of nature.

**Biodiversity** The range of species within a biotic community, often thought to be linked to its health and stability.

**Bioregionalism** The belief that the territorial organization of economic, social and political life should take into account the ecological integrity of bio-regions.

**Bourgeois ideology** A Marxist term denoting ideas and theories that serve the interests of the bourgeoisie by disguising the contradictions of capitalist society.

**Bourgeois state** A Marxist term denoting a state that is bound to the interests of the bourgeoisie, and so perpetuates a system of unequal class power.

**Bourgeoisie** A Marxist term denoting the ruling class of a capitalist society, the owners of productive wealth.

**Caliphate** A system of government by which, under the original custom of Islam, the faithful were ruled by a *khalīfa* (caliph) who stood in the Prophet’s stead.

**Charisma** Charm or personal power; the ability to inspire loyalty, emotional dependence or even devotion in others.

**Chauvinism** Uncritical and unreasoned dedication to a cause or group, typically based on a belief in its superiority, as in ‘national chauvinism’ or ‘male chauvinism’.

**Christian democracy** An ideological movement within European conservatism that is characterized by a commitment to the social market and qualified state intervention.

**Citizenship** Membership of a state: a relationship between the individual and the state based on reciprocal rights and responsibilities.

**Civic nationalism** A form of nationalism that emphasizes political allegiance based on a vision of a community of equal citizens, allowing for significant levels of ethnic and cultural diversity.
**Civil liberty** The private sphere of existence, belonging to the citizen, not to the state; freedom from government.

**Civil society** A realm of autonomous associations and groups, formed by private citizens and enjoying independence from the government; civil society includes businesses, clubs, families and so on.

**Class consciousness** A Marxist term denoting an accurate awareness of class interests and a willingness to pursue them; a class-conscious class is a class-for-itself.

**Classical liberalism** A tradition within liberalism that seeks to maximize the realm of unconstrained individual action, typically by establishing a minimal state and a reliance on market economics.

**Collectivization** The abolition of private property and the establishment of a comprehensive system of common or public ownership, usually through the mechanisms of the state.

**Commercial liberalism** A form of liberalism that emphasizes the economic and international benefits of free trade, leading to mutual benefit and general prosperity, as well as peace among states.

**Communism** The principle of the common ownership of wealth, or a system of comprehensive collectivization; communism is often viewed as ‘Marxism in practice’ (see p. 114).

**Competition state** A state whose principal role is to pursue strategies for national prosperity in conditions of intensifying global competition.

**Consciousness raising** Strategies to remodel social identity and challenge cultural inferiority by an emphasis on pride, self-worth and self-assertion.

**Consensus** A broad agreement on fundamental principles that allows for disagreement on matters of emphasis or detail.

**Consent** Assent or permission; in politics, usually an agreement to be governed or ruled.

**Consociationalism** A form of power sharing involving a close association among a number of parties or political formations, typically used in deeply divided societies.

**Constructivism** The theory that meaning is imposed on the external world by the beliefs and assumptions we hold; reality is a social construct.

**Consumer sovereignty** The notion, based on the theory of competitive capitalism, that consumer choice is the ultimately determining factor within a market economy.
Consumerism  A psychic and social phenomenon whereby personal happiness is equated with the consumption of material possessions.

Cooperation  Working together; collective effort intended to achieve mutual benefit.

Cosmopolitanism  The belief that the world constitutes a single moral, and possibly political, community, in that people have obligations towards all other people in the world (see p. 191).

Cultural feminism  A form of feminism that emphasizes an engagement with a woman-centred culture and life-style, and is typically.

Cultural nationalism  A form of nationalism that places primary emphasis on the regeneration of the nation as a distinctive civilization rather than on self-government.

Culturalism  The belief that human beings are culturally-defined creatures, culture being the universal basis for personal and social identity.

Culture  Beliefs, values and practices that are passed on from one generation to the next through learning; culture is distinct from nature.

Deep diversity  Diversity that rejects the idea of objective or ‘absolute’ standards and so is based on moral relativism.

Deep ecology  A green ideological perspective that rejects anthropocentrism and gives priority to the maintenance of nature, and is associated with values such as biocentric equality, diversity and decentralization.

Democracy  Rule by the people; democracy implies both popular participation and government in the public interest, and can take a wide variety of forms (see p. 41).

Democratic centralism  The Leninist principle of party organization, based on a supposed balance between freedom of discussion and strict unity of action.

Dialectic  A process of development in which interaction between two opposing forces leads to a further or higher stage; historical change resulting from internal contradictions within a society.

Dialectical materialism  The crude and deterministic form of Marxism that dominated intellectual life in orthodox communist states.

Dictatorship of the proletariat  A Marxist term denoting the transitional phase between the collapse of capitalism and the establishment of full communism, characterized by the establishment of a proletarian state.
**Difference feminism** A form of feminism which holds that there are deep and possibly ineradicable differences between women and men, whether these are rooted in biology, culture or material experience.

**Direct action** Political action taken outside the constitutional and legal framework; direct action may range from passive resistance to terrorism.

**Direct democracy** Popular self-government, characterized by the direct and continuous participation of citizens in the tasks of government.

**Discourse** Human interaction, especially communication: discourse may disclose or illustrate power relations.

**Divine right** The doctrine that earthly rulers are chosen by God and thus wield unchallengeable authority; divine right is a defence for monarchical absolutism.

**Ecocentrism** A theoretical orientation that gives priority to the maintenance of ecological balance rather than the achievement of human ends.

**Ecology** The study of the relationship between living organisms and the environment; ecology stresses the network of relationships that sustains all forms of life.

**Economic liberalism** A belief in the market as a self-regulating mechanism that tends naturally to deliver general prosperity and opportunities for all (see p. 42).

**Egalitarianism** A theory or practice based on the desire to promote equality; egalitarianism is sometimes seen as the belief that equality is the primary political value.

**Egoism** A concern for one’s own welfare or interests, or the theory that the pursuit of selfinterest is an ethical priority.

**Elitism** A belief in rule by an elite or minority; elite rule may be thought to be desirable (the elite having superior talents or skills) or inevitable, (egalitarianism simply being impractical).

**Empire** A structure of domination in which diverse cultural, ethnic or nation groups are subjected to a single source of authority.

**Enlightenment** An intellectual movement that reached its height in the eighteenth century and challenged traditional beliefs in religion, politics and learning in general in the name of reason and progress.

**Entropy** A tendency towards decay or disintegration, exhibited by all ‘closed’ systems.

**Environmentalism** A concern about the natural environment and particularly about reducing environmental degradation: a policy orientation rather than an ideological stance.
Equality The principle that human beings are of identical worth or are entitled to be treated in the same way; equality can have widely differing applications.

Equality feminism A form of feminism that aspires to the goal of sexual equality, whether this is defined in terms of formal rights, the control of resources, or personal power.

Equality of opportunity Equality defined in terms of life chances or the existence of a ‘level playing-field’.

Essentialism The belief that biological factors are crucial in determining psychological and behavioural traits.

Ethical nationalism The theory that the rights of, and obligations towards, members of one’s own nation should enjoy moral priority over those related to members of other nations: a stance that implies moral relativism.

Ethnic cleansing A euphemism that refers to the forcible expulsion of an ethnic group or groups in the cause of racial purity, often involving genocidal violence.

Ethnic nationalism A form of nationalism that is fuelled primarily by a keen sense of ethnic distinctiveness and the desire to preserve it.

Ethnicity A sentiment of loyalty towards a particular population, cultural group or territorial area; bonds that are cultural rather than racial.

Ethnocultural nationalism A form of nationalism that is fuelled primarily by a keen sense of ethnic and cultural distinctiveness and the desire to preserve it.

Eugenics The theory or practice of selective breeding, achieved either by promoting procreation amongst ‘fit’ members of a species or by preventing procreation by the ‘unfit’.

Eurocentrism The application of values and theories drawn from European culture to other groups and peoples, implying a biased or distorted world-view.

Eurocommunism A form of deradicalized communism, most influential in the 1970s, which attempted to blend Marxism with liberal-democratic principles.

Euroscepticism Hostility to European integration based on the belief that it is a threat to national sovereignty and/or national identity.

Evangelicalism The theory and practice of spreading (in origin, Christian) religious beliefs, usually through missionary campaigns.

False consciousness A Marxist term denoting the delusion and mystification that prevents subordinate classes from recognizing the fact of their own exploitation.
**Feudalism** A system of agrarian-based production that is characterized by fixed social hierarchies and a rigid pattern of obligations.

**First-wave feminism** The early form of feminism which developed in the mid-nineteenth century and was based on the pursuit of sexual equality in the areas of political and legal rights, particularly suffrage rights.

**Fiscal conservatism** A political-economic stance that prioritizes the lowering of taxes, cuts in public spending and reduced government debt.

**Fiscal stimulus** An economic strategy designed to promote growth by either, or both, lowering taxes or increasing government spending.

**Formal equality** Equality based on people’s status in society, especially their legal and political rights (legal and political equality).

**Fossil fuels** Fuels that are formed from the decomposition of buried dead organisms, making them rich in carbon; examples include oil, natural gas and coal.

**Foundationalism** The belief that it is possible to establish objective truths and universal values, usually associated with a strong faith in progress.

**Fraternity** Literally, brotherhood; bonds of sympathy and comradeship between and among human beings.

**Free market** The principle or policy of unfettered market competition, free from government interference.

**Free trade** A system of trade between states not restricted by tariffs or other forms of protectionism.

**Freedom (or liberty)** The ability to think or act as one wishes, a capacity that can be associated with the individual, a social group or a nation (see p. 29).

**Functionalism** The theory that social institutions and practices should be understood in terms of the functions they carry out in sustaining the larger social system.

**Fundamentalist socialism** A form of socialism that seeks to abolish capitalism and replace it with a qualitatively different kind of society.

**Futurism** An early twentieth-century movement in the arts that glorified factories, machinery and industrial life generally.

**Gender** A social and cultural distinction between males and females, as opposed to sex, which refers to biological and therefore ineradicable differences between women and men.
**General will** The genuine interests of a collective body, equivalent to the common good; the will of all, provided each person acts selflessly.

**Genocide** The attempt to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

**Government** The machinery through which collective decisions are made on behalf of the state, usually comprising a legislature, executive and judiciary.

**Gradualism** Progress brought about by gradual, piecemeal improvements, rather than dramatic upheaval; change through legal and peaceful reform.

**Green capitalism** The idea that a reliance on the capitalist market mechanism will deliver ecologically sustainable outcomes, usually linked to assumptions about capitalism’s consumer responsiveness.

**Hegemony** The ascendency or domination of one element of a system over others; for Marxists, hegemony implies ideological domination.

**Hierarchy** A pyramically ranked system of command and obedience, in which social position is unconnected with individual ability.

**Historical materialism** A Marxist theory that holds that material or economic conditions ultimately structure law, politics, culture and other aspects of social existence.

**Holism** A belief that the whole is more important than its parts; holism implies that understanding is gained by studying relationships among the parts.

**Homeostasis** The tendency of a system, especially the physiological systems of higher animals, to maintain internal equilibrium.

**Human development** A standard of human wellbeing that reflects people’s ability to lead fulfilled and creative lives, taking into account factors such as life expectancy, education, ecological sustainability and gender equality.

**Human nature** The essential and innate character of all human beings: what they owe to nature rather than to society (see p. 68).

**Humanism** A philosophy that gives moral priority to the achievement of human needs and ends.

**Humanitarian intervention** Military intervention in the affairs of another state that is carried out in pursuit of humanitarian rather than strategic objectives.

**Hybridity** A condition of social and cultural mixing in which people develop multiple identities.

**Imam** The prayer leader in a mosque or the leader of the Muslim community.
**Independence** The process through which a nation is liberated from foreign rule, usually involving the establishment of sovereign statehood.

**Individuality** Self-fulfilment achieved through the realization of an individual’s distinctive or unique identity or qualities; what distinguishes one person from all others.

**Individualization** The process through which people are encouraged to see themselves as individuals, possibly at the expense of their sense of social/moral responsibility.

**Inflation** A rise in the general price level, leading to a decline in the value of money.

**Integral nationalism** An intense, even hysterical, form of nationalist enthusiasm, in which individual identity is absorbed within the national community.

**Islamophobia** Negative or insulting representations of Islam or Muslim people in general, portraying them variously as inferior, violent, aggressive or threatening.

**Jihad** (Arabic) An Islamic term literally meaning ‘strive’ or ‘struggle’; although the term is sometimes equated with ‘holy war’ (the lesser *jihad*), it can also be understood as an inner struggle for faith (the greater *jihad*).

**Jingoism** A mood of nationalist enthusiasm and public celebration provoked by military expansion or imperial conquest.

**Justice** A moral standard of fairness and impartiality; social justice is the notion of a fair or justifiable distribution of wealth and rewards in society.

**Knowledge economy** An economy in which knowledge is supposedly the key source of competitiveness and productivity, especially in the form of information and communication technology.

**Labourism** A tendency exhibited by socialist parties to serve the interests of the organized labour movement rather than pursue broader ideological goals.

**Laissez-faire** Literally, ‘leave to do’; the doctrine that economic activity should be entirely free from government interference.

**Law** Established and public rules of social conduct, backed up by the machinery of the state, the police, courts and prisons.

**Leninism** Lenin’s theoretical contributions to Marxism, notably his belief in the need for a revolutionary or ‘vanguard’ party to raise the proletariat to class consciousness.

**Liberal feminism** A form of feminism that is grounded in the belief that sexual differences are irrelevant to personal worth, and calls for equal rights for women and men in the public sphere.
**Libertarianism** A belief that the individual should enjoy the widest possible realm of freedom; libertarianism implies the removal of both external and internal constraints upon the individual (see p. 78).

**Mahdi** Literally, ‘one rightly guided’; a prophesied spiritual and temporal leader who is destined to be the redeemer of Islam.

**Majoritarianism** A belief in majority rule; majoritarianism implies either that the majority dominates the minority, or that the minority should defer to the judgement of the majority.

**Managerialism** The theory that a governing class of managers, technocrats and state officials – those who possess technical and administrative skills – dominates both capitalist and communist societies.

**Manichaeanism** A third-century Persian religion that presented the world in terms of conflict between light and darkness, and good and evil.

**Market** A system of commercial exchange between buyers and sellers, controlled by impersonal economic forces: ‘market forces’.

**Market fundamentalism** An absolute faith in the market, reflecting the belief that the market mechanism offers solutions to all economic and social problems.

**Materialism** An emphasis on material needs and their satisfaction, usually implying a link between pleasure or happiness and the level of material consumption.

**Mercantilism** A school of economic thought that emphasizes the state’s role in managing international trade and delivering prosperity.

**Meritocracy** Literally, rule by those with merit, merit being intelligence plus effort; a society in which social position is determined exclusively by ability and hard work.

**Metaphysics** The branch of philosophy that is concerned with explaining the fundamental nature of existence, or being.

**Militancy** Extreme commitment; that is the level of zeal and passion typically associated with struggle or war.

**Militarism** The achievement of ends by military means, or the extension of military ideas, values and practices to civilian society.

**Millenarianism** A belief in a thousand-year period of divine rule; political millenarianism offers the prospect of a sudden and complete emancipation from misery and oppression.
**Mixed economy** An economy in which there is a mixture of publicly owned and privately owned industries.

**Modern liberalism** A tradition within liberalism that provides (in contrast to classical liberalism) a qualified endorsement for social and economic intervention as a means of promoting personal development.

**Modernist ecology** A reformist tendency within green politics that seeks to reconcile ecology with the key features of capitalist modernity.

**Modernity** The condition of being ‘modern’, typically characterized by the questioning of established beliefs.

**Monism** A belief in only one theory or value; monism is reflected politically in enforced obedience to a unitary power and is thus implicitly totalitarian.

**Moral relativism** The belief that there are no absolute values, or a condition in which there is a deep and widespread disagreement over moral issues.

**Mutualism** A system of fair and equitable exchange, in which individuals or groups bargain with one another, trading goods and services without profiteering or exploitation.

**Nation** A collection of people bound together by shared values and traditions, a common language, religion and history, and usually occupying the same geographical area (see p. 170).

**National conservatism** A form of conservatism that prioritises the defence of national, cultural and, sometimes, ethnic identity over other concerns, often based on parallels between the family and the nation.

**Nationalization** The extension of state or public ownership over private assets or industries, either individual enterprises or the entire economy (often called collectivization).

**Nation-state** A sovereign political association within which citizenship and nationality overlap; one nation within a single state.

**Natural rights** God-given rights that are fundamental to human beings and are therefore inalienable (they cannot be taken away).

**Natural selection** The theory that species go through a process of random mutations that fits some to survive (and possibly thrive) while others become extinct.

**Natural aristocracy** The idea that talent and leadership are innate or inbred qualities that cannot be acquired through effort or self-advancement.
**Negative freedom** The absence of external restrictions or constraints on the individual, allowing freedom of choice.

**Neo-imperialism** A form of imperialism that operates through economic and ideological domination rather than formal political control.

**Neo-Marxism** An updated and revised form of Marxism that rejects determinism, the primacy of economics and the privileged status of the proletariat.

**New politics** A style of politics that distrusts representative mechanism and bureaucratic processes in favour of strategies of popular mobilization and direct action.

**New Right** An ideological trend within conservatism that embraces a blend of neoliberalism (see p. 83) and neoconservatism (see p. 88).

**Nihilism** Literally a belief in nothing; the rejection of all moral and political principles.

**Normative** The prescription of values and standards of conduct; what ‘should be’ rather than what ‘is’.

**Occidentalism** A rejection of the cultural and political inheritance of the West, particularly as shaped by the Reformation and the Enlightenment.

**Offence** (In this sense) to feel hurt, even humiliated; an injury against one’s deepest beliefs.

**Organicism** A belief that society operates like an organism or living entity, the whole being more than a collection of its individual parts.

**Orientalism** The theory that western cultural and political hegemony over the rest of the world, but over the Orient in particular, is maintained through elaborate stereotypical fictions that belittle non-western people and cultures.

**Orthodoxy** Strict adherence to an established or traditional view, usually enjoying ‘official’ sanction or support.

**Pacifism** A commitment to peace and a rejection of war or violence in any circumstances (‘pacific’ derives from the Latin and means ‘peace-making’).

**Pan-nationalism** A style of nationalism that is dedicated to unifying a disparate people either through expansionism or political solidarity (‘pan’ means all or every).

**Paradigm** A set of related principles, doctrines and theories that help to structure the process of intellectual enquiry.

**Particularism** The belief that historical, cultural and other differences between people and societies are more significant than what they have in common.
Pastoralism (German) Literally, a ‘worldview’; a distinctive, even unique, set of presuppositions that structure how a people understands and engages emotionally with the world.

Paternalism Authority exercised from above for the guidance and support of those below, modelled on the relationship between fathers and children (see p. 76).

Patriarchy Literally, rule by the father; often used more generally to describe the dominance of men and subordination of women in society at large.

Permissiveness The willingness to allow people to make their own moral choices; permissiveness suggests that there are no authoritative values.

Pluralism A belief in diversity or choice, or the theory that political power is or should be widely and evenly dispersed (see p. 290).

Political myth A belief that has the capacity to provoke political action by virtue of its emotional power rather than through an appeal to reason.

Political nationalism A form of nationalism that regards the nation as a natural political community, usually expressed through the idea of national self-determination.

Populism A belief that popular instincts and wishes are the principal legitimate guide to political action, often reflecting distrust of or hostility towards political elites (see p. 291).

Positive discrimination Preferential treatment towards a group designed to compensate its members for past disadvantage or structural inequality.

Positive freedom Self-mastery or self-realization; the achievement of autonomy or the development of human capacities.

Poststructuralism An intellectual tradition, related to postmodernism (see p. 59), that emphasizes that all ideas and concepts are expressed in language that itself is enmeshed in complex relations of power.

Preservationism The disposition to protect natural systems, often implying keeping things ‘just as they are’ and restricting the impact of humans on the environment.

Primordialism The belief that nations are ancient and deep-rooted, fashioned variously out of psychology, culture and biology.

Privatization The transfer of state assets from the public to the private sector, reflecting a contraction of the state’s responsibilities.
‘Pro-woman’ feminism A form of feminism that advances a positive image of women’s attributes and propensities, usually stressing creativity, caring and human sympathy, and cooperation.

Progress Moving forward; the belief that history is characterized by human advancement underpinned by the accumulation of knowledge and wisdom.

Progressive taxation A system of taxation in which the rich pay a higher proportion of their income in tax than the poor.

Proletariat A Marxist term denoting a class that subsists through the sale of its labour power; strictly speaking, the proletariat is not equivalent to the manual working class.

Property The ownership of physical goods or wealth, whether by private individuals, groups of people or the state.

Puritanism Scrupulous moral vigour, especially reflected in the shunning of physical pleasures and luxury.

Race A collection of people who share a common genetic inheritance and are thus distinguished from others by biological factors.

Radical feminism A form of feminism that holds gender divisions to be the most politically significant of social cleavages, and believes that they are rooted in the structures of domestic life.

Religiosity The quality of being religious; piety or devoutness.

repelled by the corrupting and aggressive male world of political activism.

Republican liberalism A form of liberalism that highlights the benefits of republican government and, in particular, emphasizes the link between democracy and peace.

Revisionism The revision or reworking of a political theory that departs from earlier interpretations in an attempt to present a ‘corrected’ view.

Revisionist socialism A form of socialism that has revised its critique of capitalism and seeks to reconcile greater social justice with surviving capitalist forms.

Revolution A fundamental and irreversible change, often a brief but dramatic period of upheaval; systemic change.

Rule of law The principle that all conduct and behaviour, of private citizens and government officials, should conform to a framework of law.

Ruling class A Marxist term denoting the class that owns the means of production, and so wields economic and political power.
Salafism A Sunni school of thought that is associated with a literalist, strict and puritanical approach to Islam.

Science A method of acquiring knowledge through a process of careful observation and the testing of hypotheses by reproducible experiments.

Scientism The belief that scientific method is the only value-free and objective means of establishing truth, and is applicable to all fields of learning.

Scriptural literalism A belief in the literal truth of sacred texts, which, as the revealed word of God, have unquestionable authority.

Self-actualization An ‘inner’, even quasispiritual, fulfilment that is achieved by transcending egoism and materialism.

Second-wave feminism The form of feminism that emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, and was characterized by a more radical concern with ‘women’s liberation’, including, and perhaps especially, in the private sphere.

Secularism The belief that religion should not intrude into secular (worldly) affairs, usually reflected in the desire to separate church from state.

Secularization thesis The theory that modernization is invariably accompanied by the victory of reason over religion and the displacement of religious values by secular ones.

Separation of powers The principle that legislative, executive and judicial power should be separated through the construction of three independent branches of government.

Separatism The quest to secede from a larger political formation with a view to establishing an independent state.

Shallow ecology A green ideological perspective that harnesses the lessons of ecology to human needs and ends, and is associated with values such as sustainability and conservation.

Shallow diversity Diversity that is confined by the acceptance of certain values and beliefs as ‘absolute’ and therefore non-negotiable.

Social class A social division based on economic or social factors; a social class is a group of people who share a similar socio-economic position.

Social conservatism The belief that society is fashioned out of a fragile network of relationships which need to be upheld through duty, traditional values and established institutions.

Social contract A (hypothetical) agreement among individuals through which they form a state in order to escape from the disorder and chaos of the ‘state of nature’.
**Social democracy** A moderate or reformist brand of socialism that favours a balance between the market and the state, rather than the abolition of capitalism.

**Social inclusion** The acquisition of rights, skills and opportunities that enable citizens to participate fully in their society.

**Social justice** A morally justifiable distribution of wealth, usually implying a commitment to greater equality.

**Social movement** A collective body distinguished by a high level of commitment and political activism, but often lacking clear organization.

**Social reflexivity** Interaction between people who enjoy a high level of autonomy within a context of reciprocity and interdependence.

**Social revolution** A qualitative change in the structure of society; for Marxists a social revolution involves a change in the mode of production and the system of ownership.

**Social ecology** A broad tendency within green politics that links ecological sustainability to radical social change, or the eco-anarchist principle that human communities should be structured according to ecological principles.

**Socialist feminism** A form of feminism that links the subordination of women to the dynamics of the capitalist economic system, emphasizing that women’s liberation requires a process of radical social change.

**Social market** An economy that is structured by market principles and is relatively free from state interference, but which operates alongside comprehensive welfare provision and effective social services.

**Sovereignty** The principle of absolute or unrestricted power expressed either as unchallengeable legal authority or unquestionable political power.

**Speciesism** A belief in the superiority of one species over other species, through the denial of their moral significance.

**Stalinism** A centrally planned economy supported by systematic and brutal political oppression, based on the structures of Stalin’s Russia.

**State** An association that establishes sovereign power within a defined territorial area, usually possessing a monopoly of coercive power.

**State of nature** A pre-political society characterized by unrestrained freedom and the absence of established authority.
**State socialism** A form of socialism in which the state controls and directs economic life, acting, in theory, in the interests of the people.

**Statism** The belief that the state is the most appropriate means of resolving problems and of guaranteeing economic and social development.

**Status quo** The existing state of affairs.

**Subsidiarity** The principle that decisions should be made at the lowest appropriate level.

**Supranationalism** The ability of bodies with transnational or global jurisdictions to impose their will on nation-states.

**Surplus value** A Marxist term denoting the value that is extracted from the labour of the proletariat by the mechanism of capitalist exploitation.

**Sustainability** The capacity of a system to maintain its health and continue in existence over a period of time.

**Syndicalism** A form of revolutionary trade unionism that focuses on labour syndicates as free associations of workers and emphasizes the use of direct action and the general strike.

**System** A collection of parts that operate through a network of reciprocal interactions and thereby constitute a complex whole.

**Terrorism** The use of violence to induce a climate of fear or terror in order to further political ends; a clearly pejorative and usually subjective term (see p. 314).

**Thatcherism** The free-market/strong state ideological stance associated with Margaret Thatcher; the UK version of the New Right political project.

**Third way** The notion of an alternative form of economics to both state socialism and free-market capitalism, sought at different times by conservatives, socialists and fascists.

**Toleration** Forbearance; a willingness to accept views or actions with which one is in disagreement.

**Totalitarian democracy** An absolute dictatorship that masquerades as a democracy, typically based on the leader’s claim to a monopoly of ideological wisdom.

**Tradition** Values, practices or institutions that have endured through time and, in particular, been passed down from one generation to the next.

**Transfeminism** A form of feminism that rejects the idea of fixed identities and specifically avows gender and sexual ambiguity.
Transgender Denoting or relating to people who do not conform to prevailing expectations about gender, usually by crossing over or moving between gender identities.

Transnational community A community whose cultural identity, political allegiances and psychological orientations cut across or transcend national borders.

Transnational corporation A company that controls economic activity in two or more countries, developing corporate strategies and processes that transcend national borders.

Transphobia Prejudice against or dislike of people who do not conform to prevailing expectations about gender identity.

Transsexual Denoting or relating to people who do not conform to the sex they were assigned at birth, and who may seek to realign their gender and their sex through medical intervention.

Tribalism Group behaviour characterized by insularity and exclusivity, typically fuelled by hostility towards rival groups.

Ulama A body of Muslim scholars who are recognized as having specialist knowledge of Islamic sacred law and theology.

Underclass A classification of people who suffer from multiple forms of deprivation, and so are socially, politically and culturally marginalized.

Unification The process through which a collection of separate political entities, usually sharing cultural characteristics, are integrated into a single state.

Universalism The belief that it is possible to uncover certain values and principles that are applicable to all people and all societies, regardless of historical, cultural and other differences.

Utility Use-value; in economics, utility describes the satisfaction that is gained from the consumption of material goods and services.

Utopianism A belief in the unlimited possibilities of human development, typically embodied in the vision of a perfect or ideal society, a utopia (see p. 143).

Value pluralism The theory that there is no single, overriding conception of the ‘good life’, but rather a number of competing and equally legitimate conceptions.

Vitalism The theory that living organisms derive their characteristic properties from a universal ‘life-force’; vitalism implies an emphasis upon instinct and impulse rather than intellect and reason.

Volksgeist (German) Literally, the spirit of the people; the organic identity of a people reflected in their culture and particularly in their language.
**Voluntarism** A theory that emphasizes free will and personal commitment, rather than any form of determinism.

**Wahhabism** An ultra-conservative movement within Sunni Islam, sometimes portrayed as an orientation within Salafism.

**Welfare state** A state that takes primary responsibility for the social welfare of its citizens, discharged through a range of social-security, health, education and other services.

**Weltanschauung** (German) Literally, a ‘worldview’; a distinctive, even unique, set of presuppositions that structure how a people understands and engages emotionally with the world.

**Written constitution** A single authoritative document that defines the duties, powers and functions of government institutions and so constitutes ‘higher’ law.

**Xenophobia** A fear or hatred of foreigners; pathological ethnocentrism.