

Unit 1 Vocabulary Sheet: AP European History

Renaissance and Early Modern Period (14th-17th Century)

Key Terms for Unit 1: AP European History

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2. Secularism
3. Emmanuel Chrysorolas
4. Individualism
5. Patronage
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Definition Sheet

Humanism

- **Definition:** A Renaissance intellectual movement focusing on the study of classical antiquity, emphasizing human values and the potential for individual achievement through the study of ancient Greek and Roman texts.
- **Key Idea:** Celebrates human potential and achievements with a focus on classical learning.

Secularism

- **Definition:** The principle of separating religion from political, social, and educational institutions, emphasizing worldly and non-religious aspects of life.
- **Key Idea:** Prioritizes secular and non-religious aspects of governance and society.

Emmanuel Chrysorolas

- **Definition:** Also known as Emmanuel Chrysoloras, a Greek scholar who was a significant figure in the transmission of Greek learning to Renaissance Italy. He taught Greek and helped revive the study of classical texts in the West.
- **Key Idea:** Played a key role in the revival of Greek scholarship and the spread of humanism in Italy.

Individualism

- **Definition:** A social theory that values the moral worth of the individual and emphasizes personal independence and self-reliance.
- **Key Idea:** Highlights the importance of individual rights and self-expression.

Patronage

- **Definition:** The support and financial backing provided by patrons (typically wealthy individuals or institutions) to artists, writers, and scholars, facilitating their work and the production of art.
- **Key Idea:** Essential for the development and flourishing of Renaissance art and culture.

Despotism

- **Definition:** A form of government in which a single ruler holds absolute power, often characterized by the use of oppressive or autocratic methods to maintain control.
- **Key Idea:** Concentrates power in the hands of a single individual, often leading to authoritarian rule.

Cosimo di Medici

- **Definition:** An influential Italian banker and politician from the Medici family who was a major patron of the arts during the Renaissance. His support played a critical role in the cultural and political life of Florence.
- **Key Idea:** His patronage greatly influenced the Renaissance period.

Perspective

- **Definition:** An artistic technique that creates the illusion of depth and three-dimensionality on a flat surface by using geometric principles, such as vanishing points and converging lines.

- **Key Idea:** Revolutionized art by enabling more realistic spatial representation.

Naturalism

- **Definition:** An artistic style that aims to depict subjects with precise and lifelike accuracy, focusing on the realistic portrayal of nature and human figures.
- **Key Idea:** Emphasizes realistic and detailed representation of the natural world.

Utopia

- **Definition:** An idealized, perfect society or community. The term was popularized by Sir Thomas More's 1516 book "Utopia," which describes a fictional, perfect society.
- **Key Idea:** Represents an imaginative vision of a flawless and harmonious community.

Printing Press

- **Definition:** An invention by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century that enabled the mass production of books and written materials, dramatically increasing the spread of information and ideas.
- **Key Idea:** Facilitated widespread dissemination of knowledge and contributed to the spread of Renaissance and Reformation ideas.

Erasmus

- **Definition:** Desiderius Erasmus was a Dutch humanist, theologian, and scholar whose works, including "In Praise of Folly," emphasized the need for reform in the Catholic Church and promoted humanist education.
- **Key Idea:** His work laid the groundwork for religious reform and humanist scholarship.

Erasmus Bible

- **Definition:** An edition of the Bible edited by Erasmus, known as the "Textus Receptus" or Received Text. This version included a critical edition of the Greek New Testament and was influential in the Protestant Reformation.
- **Key Idea:** Provided a basis for later translations of the Bible and influenced Reformation theology.

Copernican Heliocentrism

- **Definition:** The astronomical model proposed by Nicolaus Copernicus that places the Sun at the center of the universe, with the Earth and other planets orbiting around it, challenging the previously accepted geocentric model.
- **Key Idea:** Marked a revolutionary shift in scientific thought and laid the foundation for modern astronomy.

Machiavellianism

- **Definition:** A political theory derived from Niccolò Machiavelli's work, particularly "The Prince," advocating for pragmatic, often unscrupulous methods to achieve and maintain political power.
- **Key Idea:** Emphasizes political realism and the use of cunning and strategic manipulation.

Absolute Monarchy

- **Definition:** A form of government where a monarch holds absolute and unchallenged authority over the state, often justified by the divine right of kings.
- **Key Idea:** Centralizes power and authority in the hands of the monarch without checks or balances.

Mercantilism

- **Definition:** An economic theory and practice that promotes government intervention to achieve a favorable balance of trade, accumulate wealth, and expand colonial holdings to strengthen national economies.
- **Key Idea:** Focuses on state control and accumulation of wealth through trade surplus.

Balance of Power

- **Definition:** A political concept in which power is distributed among various nations or groups to prevent any one from becoming too dominant, typically through alliances and counter-balancing strategies.
- **Key Idea:** Maintains international stability and prevents the rise of hegemonic powers.

New Monarchies

- **Definition:** Refers to the consolidation of power by European monarchs in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, characterized by centralizing authority and reducing the influence of feudal lords.
- **Key Idea:** Represents the shift towards more centralized and effective governance.

Ferdinand and Isabella

- **Definition:** The Catholic Monarchs of Spain who completed the Reconquista, sponsored Christopher Columbus's voyages, and centralized royal authority, laying the groundwork for Spain's dominance in the New World.
- **Key Idea:** Their reign marked the beginning of Spain's global influence and colonial empire.

Northern Renaissance

- **Definition:** The extension of Renaissance cultural and artistic ideas into Northern Europe, including the Low Countries, France, and England, noted for its detailed realism and focus on everyday life.
- **Key Idea:** Brought Renaissance ideas beyond Italy with distinct regional characteristics.

Commercial Revolution

- **Definition:** A period of European economic expansion from the late 11th to the early 18th centuries characterized by increased trade, the development of financial institutions, and the rise of capitalism.
- **Key Idea:** Led to significant changes in commerce and economic practices.

Age of Exploration

- **Definition:** The period from the late 15th to the early 17th century when European powers explored and mapped previously unknown regions, leading to the establishment of overseas colonies and global trade networks.
- **Key Idea:** Expanded European influence and initiated widespread contact between different parts of the world.

Encomienda System

- **Definition:** A Spanish colonial system that granted settlers the right to extract labor and tribute from indigenous peoples in the Americas in exchange for protection and conversion to Christianity.
- **Key Idea:** Led to the exploitation and mistreatment of native populations.