

# Glossary

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## History E

**17th parallel** – the latitude north of the equator that divided North and South Vietnam in 1954.

**38th parallel** – the latitude north of the equator that divided North and South Korea in 1945.

**airlift** – a way to transport people or cargo by air in an emergency. The Berlin airlift was one of the more famous airlifts.

**alliance (alliances)** – a partnership; an association of groups with a common goal.

**Allies (Allied Powers)** – name of the group of countries that opposed the Central Powers during World War I and the Axis Powers during World War II.

**allies (ally)** – friends, supporters; a group of countries joined together with a common purpose.

**armistice** – an agreement to stop fighting temporarily; a truce or cease-fire.

**arms race** – competition to have more and more powerful weapons than your opponent.

**atomic (Atomic Age)** – related to atoms, atomic energy, or atomic bombs (atom bombs); capable of doing much damage; splitting atoms into smaller parts which gives off extreme power and energy.

**bankrupted** – made unable to pay debts.

**Bay of Pigs** – an area on the southern coast of Cuba. A U.S. sponsored force of Cuban exiles landed there in 1961 to overthrow Fidel Castro. Almost all of them were killed or captured by Castro's well-prepared armed forces.

**black market** – an illegal system of buying and selling officially-controlled goods.

**bloc** – a group or groups joined together for a particular purpose.

**blockade** – the closing off of an area to keep people or supplies from going in or out.

**capitalism (capitalist)** – an economic system in which businesses have private owners who make or sell goods for their own profit or for the profit of their shareholders.

**casualty (casualties)** – a person injured or killed in war or a disaster.

**civil disobedience** – a method of nonviolent protest. It is a deliberate and public refusal to obey a law and often leads to people being arrested.

**civil war** – war between different political groups in one country.

**civilian** – a person not on active duty in the military, police, or firefighting forces.

**coalition** – a temporary alliance of different persons or groups with a common goal.

**Cold War** – the global struggle for power and influence between the United States and the Soviet Union following World War II. There was no direct fighting or military combat.

**collective** – shared.

**colonialism (colonial, colonized, colonists)** – the policy of establishing a colony. For example, the European nations colonized Africa.

**colony (colonies, colonists)** – a settlement of people in a new land who maintain ties with their mother country. The original thirteen colonies of the United States received their independence from Great Britain after the Revolutionary War.

**command economy** – In a command economy, the government or ruler decides what should be produced, who should make it, and who should receive what is made.

**communism (communist)** – an economic system in which the businesses are owned and operated by the government. The government decides the type, quantity, and price of goods produced. They also decide what workers will make. Communism says it will provide for everyone's needs and get rid of social classes.

**concentration camp** – a guarded place where persons (prisoners of war, political prisoners, and refugees) are housed; used especially by the Nazis during World War II to confine, punish, and kill large numbers of Jews.

**constitutional monarchy** – a type of monarchy in which the powers of the king or queen are limited by a constitution and a legislature elected by the citizens.

**contain (containment)** – to keep under control or to restrict the spreading of the influence of an enemy.

**coup (coup d'état)** – a sudden, often violent, overthrow of a government by a small group.

**culture (cultural, culturally)** – the way of life of a group of people, which includes their ideas, beliefs, customs, language, and traditions.