

GLOSSARY

A

Aggression - angry, hostile or violent behaviour displayed without provocation.

Air strike - an attack by aircraft, typically a bombing.

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Ambassador - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.

Ammunition - collective term given to bullets and shells.

Armistice - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

Artillery - large guns used in warfare.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

Attrition - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

B

Blockade - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

Booby traps - seemingly harmless devices concealing something that will kill, harm or surprise. Especially in warfare, booby traps were often set off by a wire and contained explosives.

Boycott - a way of protesting or bringing about change by refusing to buy something or use services.

Bribe, Bribery, Bribes - to dishonestly persuade someone to do something for you in return for money or other inducements.

Brinkmanship - pushing a disagreement to its limits in the hope the other side backs down, especially pertaining to war.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Capitalism - the idea of goods and services being exchanged for money, private ownership of property and businesses, and acceptance of a hierarchical society.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Ceasefire - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.

Censorship - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or

unacceptable is suppressed.

Civil rights - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

Communism - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

Communist - a believer in communism.

Conference - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

Conscription - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Containment - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

Corrupt - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

Counter-attack - an attack made in response to one by an opponent.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

D

Deadlock - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Defect - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.

Demilitarised - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Deploy - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

Dictator - a ruler with absolute power over a country, often acquired by force.

Dictatorship - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

Disarmament - the reduction or removal of weaponry.

Dispute - a disagreement or argument; often used to describe conflict between different countries.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Electorate - a group of people who are eligible to vote.

Embassy - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

Exile - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

F

Fatalities, Fatality - Deaths.

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

Free elections - elections in which voters are free to vote without interference.

Frontier - a line or border between two areas.

G

Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.

Guerrillas - groups of small, independent fighters usually involved in a war against larger, regular military forces.

H

Harvest - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

I

Ideology - a set of ideas and ideals, particularly around political ideas or economic policy, often shared by a group of people.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Intercontinental ballistic missile - a guided ballistic missile with a minimum range of 5,500km or 3,400 miles.

L

Legislation - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

Limb - an arm or leg.

M

Mandate - authority to carry out a policy.

Massacre - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Mercenary - someone who takes action in order to earn money, rather than out of principle.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Militia - an army created from the general population.

Mine - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Monk - a member of a religious community, often living a simple life of poverty, chastity and work.

Morale - general mood of a group of people.

Morals - a person's set of rules about what they consider right and wrong, used to guide their actions and behaviour.

N

Napalm - a petrol based chemical, used to devastating effect in conflict as it sticks to skin and causes terrible burns.

Nationalisation - the transfer of control or ownership of a sector of industry, such as banking or rail, from the private sector to the state.

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

O

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

Pacification - Making something, or someone, peaceful.

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Peasant - a poor farmer.

Poll - a vote or survey.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

Prejudice - prejudgement - when you assume something about someone based on a feature like their religion or skin colour, rather than knowing it as fact.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Proxy war - a conflict between two sides acting on behalf of other parties who are not directly involved, but who have usually supplied equipment, arms and/or money.

Psychological - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

Q

Quarantine - a period of isolation where a person or animal who has or may have a communicable disease is kept away from others.

R

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rational - when something is based on reason or logic, like science.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reconstruction - a period in the USA from 1865-1877 where the southern states were reintegrated through a series of laws.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Refugee, Refugees - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

Restoration - to return something to its former owner, place or condition; this includes returning a monarch to the throne or a head of state to government.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Rig, Rigged - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to determine the winner.

S

Sanctions - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

Search and destroy, Seek and destroy - a tactic used by the US in Vietnam. Helicopters brought in soldiers who searched out the enemy in a specific area, such as a village, destroyed them, and then left.

Segregation - when people are kept separately from each other - often used in the context of race.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Sphere of influence - an area or country under the influence of another country.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Submission, Submit - a formal surrender and acceptance of a new authority.

Superior - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Terrain - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

V

Veteran, Veterans - an ex-soldier.