

Glossary of Political Terms

Page numbers from Persepolis where the word may be found are given in parentheses.

1. Bolshevik (20) - a member of an ultraradical socialist group.
2. capitalism (4) - a system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange of wealth is made and maintained by private individuals or corporations.
3. communism (23) - a system of social organization based on the holding of all property in common.
4. counter-revolutionary (123) - opposing a revolution or revolutionary government.
5. coup d'etat (82) - a sudden and decisive action in politics, especially one resulting in a change of government illegally or by force.
6. cultural revolution (4) - a radical sociopolitical movement characterized by military rule, terrorism, purges, and restructuring of the educational system.
7. democracy (41) - a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them.
8. demonstration (5) - a public exhibition of the attitude of a group of persons toward a controversial issue, or other matter, made by picketing, parading, etc.
9. dialectic materialism (12) - an application of the interpretive method in which some assertable and apparently contradictory proposition (thesis) is necessarily opposed by an equally assertable and apparently contradictory proposition (antithesis), the mutual contradiction being reconciled on a higher level of truth by a third proposition (synthesis).
10. dynasty (28) - a sequence of rulers from the same family, stock or group.
11. effigy (41) - a crude representation of someone disliked, used for purposes of ridicule.
12. emperor (21) - the male sovereign or supreme ruler of an empire.
13. exile (43) - expulsion from one's native land by authoritative decree.
14. ideological (75) - pertaining to a body of doctrine, myth, belief, etc., that guides an individual, social movement, institution, class or large group.
15. imperialism (73) - a policy of extending the rule or authority of one nation over another.
16. martyr (31) - a person who willingly suffers death rather than renounce his or her religion.
17. Marxism-Leninism (59) - the doctrine that the capitalist system, containing from the beginning the seeds of its own decay, will inevitably, after the period of the dictatorship of the proletariat, be superseded by a socialist order and classless society.
18. nationalism (62) - the doctrine of asserting the interests of one's own nation, viewed as separate from the interests of other nations or the common interests of all nations.
19. pact (43) - an agreement or treaty between two or more nations.
20. peasant (35) - a member of a class of persons who are small farmers or farm laborers of low social rank.
21. political asylum (123) - refuge provided by one nation to refugees from another nation.

22. prime minister (23) – the principal minister and head of government in parliamentary systems.
23. proletariat (62) – the class of workers who do not possess capital or property and must sell their labor to survive.
24. putsch (19) – a plotted revolt or attempt to overthrow a government.
25. republic (21) – a state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them.
26. revolution (3) – an overthrow and thorough replacement of an established government by the people governed.
27. royalist (31) – a supporter of a king or royal government.
28. shah (23) – a king or sovereign, formerly, in Iran.