

Glossary

A PRIORI Style of thinking based on derivation from fixed principles; the Enlightenment rejected this approach in favour of more 'inductive' (rather than 'deductive') or empirical reasoning derived from individual experience.

ABSOLUTISM The view that the ruler was a source of law and so not legally subject to it.

ACADEMIES Centres of learning often founded by princes in the context of the Scientific Revolution.

ACCULTURATION The repression of traditional, 'superstitious' customs and beliefs by the dominant, elite culture.

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION The period after *c.* 1750 when changes in agricultural output and the technology and organization of production (such as enclosure, crop rotation, improved drainage and fertilization) are believed to have led to fundamental transformations.

ANABAPTISM Radical movement of Christians rejecting both Catholicism and mainstream Protestantism; characterized by principles of separation from the world and baptism of adult believers.

ANCIEN RÉGIME The way in which French revolutionaries after 1789 referred to the former (*ancien*) social and political system.

ANNUITY A financial investment yielding a regular/yearly payment.

ANTICHRIST The devilish opponent of Christ, His exact opposite, used by Protestants to mean the Pope.

ANTICLERICALISM Although coined for a later period, the term is now generally used for resentment of members of the clergy and their wealth/privileges, which varied greatly between periods and regions.

ANTIQUITY The age of ancient Greece and Rome, singled out as a separate period by the Renaissance **HUMANISTS**.

BALANCE OF POWER The notion that no state, or group of states, should monopolize power, but exist in an equilibrium with others.

BAROQUE An architectural and artistic style marked by elaboration and opulence flourishing in *c.* 1600–1750. It became closely associated with the Catholic Reformation and the term is sometimes used for the period as a whole.

BENEFACT An ecclesiastical living.

BLACK DEATH The most serious outbreak of plague across Europe 1347–49.

BOCAGE The Norman French word for a terrain of mixed woodland and pasture.

BRIDEWELLS The collective term for houses of correction or prisons named after the penal institution established in London in the 1550s.

BUDDHISM The religious system founded by Buddha in India in the fifth century BCE, from where it spread to East Asia.

CAMEOS Small-scale shallow relief decoration executed in gemstones.

CAPITALISM An economic system based on the principles of private property, profit orientation and intensive market exchange.

CARTESIANISM A way of doing philosophy owing its central tenets to René Descartes.

CATECHISM A book of religious instruction set out in a simple question-and-answer format; also refers to the teaching of basic religious knowledge.

CHANTRY An ecclesiastical **BENEFICE** endowed for a priest to celebrate daily masses for the souls of founders and other beneficiaries (for a number of years or in perpetuity).

CHARIVARI Rowdy processions mocking those seen as flouting the values of the community, especially wives who beat and cheat on their husbands, and marriages (especially second marriages) with a great disparity in age between bride and groom (see also **SKIMMINGTON**).

CITY-STATES Originating as the principal socio-political unit in the ancient world and revived in the Middle Ages. Distinguished from normal cities and towns by the extent of their political independence and by being composed of a city and a territory beyond its walls.

COFFEE HOUSES Originating in the mid-seventeenth century, urban cafés became key places in which Enlightenment sociability (discussion and debate, newspaper-reading, networking) was conducted.

COMMUNES Italian city-state republics.

CONFESSIONALIZATION A scholarly concept, developed by Wolfgang Reinhard and Heinz Schilling, which sees early modern Europe shaped (and modernized) by the disciplining campaigns of the major confessions and the close collaboration between Church and state.

CONSISTORY The local governing body of Reformed churches including ministers and lay elders.

CONTRIBUTIONS Tributes in money and kind levied by occupying armies.

CONVERSO A converted Jew or New Christian.

COUNCIL The elected governing body in many European towns.

COURTIERS Those who lived at and visited the court to attend on the monarch. In the early modern period their manners and behaviour were increasingly codified.

DAOISM One of the main religions of China, based on the search for the Dao ('the Way') through meditation, public worship and alchemy.

DEISM A worldview in which the universe functions according to rules established at its creation without further intervention by God.

DEMESNE Land under the direct ownership (and sometimes cultivation) of a lord.

DEMONOLOGY The study of the operation of the devil in the world.

DIET A representative assembly (e.g. the German Imperial Diet).

DIGGERS A short-lived communist movement in England, 1649–50, led by Gerrard Winstanley.

DIVERGENCE The term used by historians to refer to the point in time when North-west Europe began to develop economically at a far greater rate than the rest of the world.

DIVINE (OR DOUBLE) PREDESTINATION The belief that God has chosen some for eternal life in heaven and others for eternal damnation in hell.

DOWRY Payment in land and/or money by the bride's parents to the bridegroom's family.

EAST INDIA COMPANY A joint-stock company established in 1600 and granted the trade monopoly in the East Indies by royal charter.

ELECT Those who have been 'elected' by God for eternal life in heaven.

ENCLOSURE The process by which common ownership rights were extinguished, usually accompanied by the hedging or fencing of property, and often by the conversion of arable to pastoral farming.

ENCYCLOPÉDIE 'The Bible of Enlightenment', edited by Denis Diderot, assisted by Jean-le-Rond d'Alembert. Published between 1752 and 1777 in 32 volumes (of which 11 were illustrations), it arranged knowledge alphabetically and sought to cover all aspects of the human and natural world.

ENLIGHTENED ABSOLUTISM/DESPOTISM/MONARCHS Name which modern historians have given to those eighteenth-century rulers/regimes influenced by

Enlightenment ideas like equity and rationality (while invariably pursuing rather traditional state policies).

ENTREPÔT A storehouse for receiving and distributing goods.

ESCHATOLOGY Beliefs connected with the end of the world.

ESTATES A term used for landed possessions, corporate social groups (nobility, clergy, commoners) and certain types of representative assemblies.

EUCHARIST CEREMONY/SACRAMENT in which bread and wine is blessed and consumed as a re-creation of the Last Supper.

EXCISE TAX English tax on goods produced and consumed within the realm.

EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY The name given to a **NATURAL PHILOSOPHY** relying on the gathering of facts through experiments, as promoted by late seventeenth-century English thinkers, particularly the leading members of the Royal Society.

EXTENDED / MULTIPLE HOUSEHOLD Family units containing adult siblings of the husband or occasionally wife, and/or three generations rather than two.

FEUDALISM A pyramid of personal relationships between people of unequal standing developed in the Middle Ages, in which lords grant their tenants lands and resources in return for advice, dues, labour services and general support.

FISCAL-MILITARY STATE A state capable financially and economically of sustaining large-scale warfare.

FRATERNITY An association of members for the support of religious and charitable activities, often with particular emphasis on the provision of elaborate funerals and sometimes with their own altar and priest(s).

FRESCO TECHNIQUE The technique of painting with water colours on wet plaster, used for large paintings on walls.

GEOCENTRIC Used in astronomy to indicate an understanding of the cosmos that is centred on the earth.

GHETTO Named after the foundry located in the first ghetto in Venice, the area of a city in which the (usually) Jewish minority was made to live and to which it was confined at night.

GIRONDINS Loosely organized political grouping in the French National Assembly from 1791 to 1793. Included deputies from the department of the Gironde around Bordeaux, whence the name. Most were purged from the Convention in June 1793.

GRACE The supernatural assistance of God to make Christians more holy (sanctified), understood by Catholics to be principally delivered by reception of the **SACRAMENTS**.

Much theological debate has focused on whether the free gift of God's grace is a necessary precondition for all good works, and the role that human free will plays in cooperating with grace.

GRAVAMINA Lists of complaints and concerns compiled in the context of representative assemblies and submitted to the ruling prince.

GUILDS Associations for the regulation of the affairs of a particular trade or profession. They were formally instituted with exclusive groups of master craftsmen who decided on rules of manufacture and provided mutual support for members.

HANSEATIC LEAGUE A medieval alliance of trading guilds and cities in northern Germany and the Baltic.

HELIOCENTRIC Used in astronomy to indicate an understanding of the cosmos that is centred on the sun.

HERESY Religious doctrines and practices considered unacceptable by ecclesiastical authorities. Offenders faced court proceedings, humiliating penalties and – in the most serious cases – death at the stake.

HERMAPHRODITES People with both male and female genitals.

HUMANISM An intellectual movement engaging (in more or less explicit distancing from **SCHOLASTICISM**) in philological critique of key texts, education and the advancement of Christian values and morals in this world. It flourished around 1500 and featured protagonists like Erasmus of Rotterdam and Thomas More. Its members aimed for a return to the ideals of classical **ANTIQUITY** through close study of original Greek and Roman writings.

ICONOCLASM The act of breaking or destroying images and objects of veneration, especially in churches. Protestant groups were often particularly keen to implement the ban against images contained in the Ten Commandments.

IMPERIALISM The expansion of territory through conquest and the establishment of economic and political control that subordinates the residents of those territories.

INDEX LIBRORUM PROHIBITORUM A list of books banned by the Catholic Church, periodically updated from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

INDULGENCE Grant of a reduction of time to be spent in **PURGATORY** (i.e. a full or partial remission of sins already forgiven), issued by ecclesiastical authorities (out of the 'treasury of merit' accumulated by saints) in return for pious activities such as pilgrimages or attendance at specific masses. Reformers criticized abuses like the sale of such documents.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION In conjunction with the **AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION**, the transformation of society prompted by a combination of technological advances

(steam engines, spinning frames, general mechanization), new forms of economic organization (factory production) and developments in transport infrastructure (railways, canals); conventionally understood to have occurred first in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England.

INQUISITION A Catholic ecclesiastical body concerned with the preservation of doctrinal orthodoxy and the detection and punishment of heresy.

INTENDANTS Royal administrators in French provinces, much used by Richelieu and Mazarin, who owed their powers to a commission, revocable by the government, rather than to the purchase of an office. They became symbols of centralization.

JACOBIN Member of the network of politically radical clubs (or Friends of the Constitution), set up from late 1789 onwards. The most famous and influential was the Paris Jacobin Club which contained many left-wing members of the National Assembly.

JANSENISM Reform movement within (particularly French) Catholicism, stressing human sinfulness and the unmerited gift of God's grace.

JESUITS Also known as the 'Society of Jesus', a religious order founded by the Spaniard Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556) in 1534 and sanctioned by Pope Paul III in 1540. Loyola and his followers played a key role in the global Catholic Reformation, especially in the education and spiritual guidance of social elites, and attracted much hostility from Protestant contemporaries.

JOINTURE Provision made in the marriage settlement for the bride's maintenance, should she outlive her husband.

JOURNEYMEN Craftsmen employed by masters who could manufacture but not sell goods.

JUSTIFICATION The act whereby God makes a person just, and also the change in a person's condition when passing from the state of sin to that of righteousness.

LACQUERWARES Objects (pieces of furniture, boxes, bowls) decorated with a hard varnish based on the resin of the Chinese lacquertree.

LENT The period of 40 days preceding Easter marked by abstinence and fasting, commemorating Christ's fasting in the wilderness; also used as a metaphor for sobriety and moral restraint.

LEVÉE EN MASSE The law of 23 August 1793 mobilizing the French nation for the war effort, most notably through military service. This was the first modern call for national conscription.

LEVELLERS A radical movement, centred in London in the late 1640s, calling for the end of privilege, social reforms and a written constitution.

LIBERTY OF A CHRISTIAN Protestant view that the Christian needs no intermediary to God.

LORD'S SUPPER Protestant term for the **EUCCHARIST**.

MALEFICIA The harmful acts committed as a result of **WITCHCRAFT**.

MALTHUSIAN TRAP Named after the political economist Thomas Malthus, the check to population growth (subsistence crisis) resulting from the inability of agricultural supply to keep pace with rising demand.

MANCHU The nomadic people inhabiting the vast steppe lands in China's north-eastern region (north of Beijing and Korea) who conquered the Ming dynasty and founded the Qing in 1644.

MANOR An agricultural estate under the economic control and jurisdiction of a feudal lord (noble or ecclesiastical institution).

MARRANO A Spanish **CONVERSO**.

MARXISM A theoretical framework, developed by the nineteenth-century philosopher Karl Marx, which relates the development of social organization to the prevailing material and economic conditions.

MASS Also known as the **EUCCHARIST** – one of the principal **SACRAMENTS** of the Catholic Church centring on a ritual re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Due to their meritorious attributes, individuals and groups endowed ever more (specialized) masses in the course of the late Middle Ages. While required to attend the parochial high mass regularly, most Christians received communion only once a year during the Easter season, after the confession and absolution of their sins.

MASTERS Craftsmen who could employ others and manufacture and sell goods.

MAYORS The elected leaders of the governing body or **COUNCIL** in many European towns.

MERCANTILE SYSTEM Also known as mercantilism, characterized by protectionist trade tariffs and an ideal of excess of exports over imports. Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (1776) rejected its economic model in favour of free trade, but in doing so popularized the term, which was coined by the Marquis de Mirabeau in 1763.

METHODISM Protestant Church, originating as a reform movement within the eighteenth-century Church of England and emphasizing heartfelt conversion.

MICROHISTORY A methodical approach seeking to illuminate general issues and macro-historical trends through close studies of individuals and local communities.

MILITIAS A military force raised from the civilian population of a country or region, as distinguished from mercenaries or professional soldiers.

MILLENARIAN Belief in an imminent, thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, either in person or through his self-appointed 'saints'.

MILLINERY Making/selling hats, bonnets, ribbons, gloves.

MILLONES An 'extraordinary' tax in Castile voted by representatives of the realm in the *Cortes*.

MISCEGENATION Procreation by people of different races (e.g. Africans, Europeans, and Amerindians in the Americas).

MONTAGNARD Name given to left-wing deputies headed by Danton and Robespierre who occupied benches at the very top and on the left of the steep-banked hall in which the French National Convention met. Most were members of the Paris **JACOBIN** Club.

MORISCO A converted Moor in Spain, a New Christian.

MOVABLE TYPE Metal typeface that could be arranged, rearranged and re-used on the printer's block.

MYSTICISM A spiritual movement striving for a more direct/personal relationship to God, usually through frequent prayer, introspection and close engagement with religious literature.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY A category referring to systematic knowledge of all aspects of the physical world, including living things, which the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries routinely understood to be God's creation. It therefore has strong theological connotations.

NICODEMISM Outward conformity which does not reflect inner conviction (after Nicodemus in the Bible who would only visit Jesus at night).

NUCLEAR HOUSEHOLD A family unit comprising one married couple and their children.

OFFICERS The term characterizing those members of the French royal administration, who had normally acquired their post by purchase.

ORIENTALIST Having a distorted and prejudiced view of the non-European inhabitants of Asia.

PARTITION The division of a state into parts acquired by other states.

PATRIARCH A bishop in the Orthodox Church with jurisdiction over other bishops.

PATRIARCHY A society in which male authority and privilege within the family, institutions and society at large are underpinned by laws, regulations and custom.

PATRONAGE (A) A political system whereby favour, office and reward was

distributed by men and women in powerful positions to those further down the social system, reinforcing and creating a set of bonds and allegiances; (B) The protection of (and commissioning of artworks from) artists by a wealthy and powerful person.

PEASANTS Agricultural producers with limited market involvement, using mainly family labour and operating under seigneurial constraints.

PENANCE The **SACRAMENT** by which Christians express sorrow for sin and receive God's forgiveness. In Catholic practice this is done through confession to a priest (auricular confession) who confers absolution. Penance is also used to mean the action required to demonstrate true repentance: 'doing penance' by saying prayers, fasting etc.

PERIPATETIC RULER A king/prince whose court moves around the territory. (See also **SEDENTARY RULER**)

PHILOSOPHES 'Philosophers' or 'natural philosophers': the writers and thinkers of the French Enlightenment.

PIETISM Reform movement within Lutheranism, stressing Bible-reading and practical piety in place of doctrinal speculation.

PRESBYTERIAN A church governed by elders including ministers and laypeople.

PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS The idea that Christians are their own priests and have the duty to bring the message of the Gospel to others.

PROTO-INDUSTRIALIZATION Systematic, wide-scale and decentralized manufacture prior to the Industrial Revolution and the establishment of factories.

PROVIDENCE The belief that God intervenes in the world and leaves clues there as to His Will.

PURGATORY An intermediary place between earth and heaven where flames of fire cleansed people's souls of any remaining blemishes of sin before they could enter Heaven. The duration of this stay could be reduced by good works and pious activities.

'PUTTING-OUT' SYSTEM Work, usually in textiles, given by merchants to rural households as a way of cutting manufacturing costs.

REAL PRESENCE The belief that Christ is present in the bread and the wine of the **EUCCHARIST**.

RENAISSANCE Renewed engagement with Classical culture by scholars and artists, a movement starting in late medieval Italy and spreading north of the Alps by the sixteenth century.

RHETORIC The art of fine speaking and writing, first developed in the Graeco-Roman world.

ROBE Along with **SWORD**, one of the two major designations used from the sixteenth century onward to classify the nobility in France. Nobles of the robe (*noblesse de robe*) were individuals and families who traced their ennoblement from the acquisition of a royal office.

ROMAN LAW A civil code, compiled in the sixth century by the Roman Emperor Justinian, which was used in many parts of early modern Europe.

SABBAT A gathering of witches.

SACRAMENTS A set of rituals performed by members of the clergy to channel God's **GRACE** to Christians; in the late medieval Church, the seven sacraments included baptism, confirmation, mass, penance, marriage, ordination (of priests) and extreme unction.

SACRAMENTALS Religious practices (like the blessing of candles and holy water) which are not sacraments, but aids to devotion; popularly believed to have quasi-magical properties.

SACRAMENTARIAN Rejection of the **REAL PRESENCE** at the **EUCCHARIST**.

SALONS Comfortable private homes in which individuals (usually women) from the upper orders hosted informal intellectual sessions involving debates and discussions, play-readings, musical recitals and other forms of Enlightenment sociability.

SCHMALKALDIC LEAGUE Alliance for self-defence of Protestant princes and cities, 1531–46.

SCHOLASTICISM A general term for a number of theological schools striving for a coherent and logical analysis of all aspects of the Christian faith; often criticized by **HUMANISTS** for a tendency of over-elaboration and preoccupation with detail.

SEDENTARY RULER A king/prince settled in a principal residence (see also **PERIPATETIC RULER**).

SERFDOM The condition of unfree **PEASANTS**, characterized by (more or less severe) restrictions on personal mobility, property-holding and choice of spouses as well as the obligation to provide particular dues and services.

SHARE-CROPPING A form of tenancy in which the tenant did not pay a money rent, but handed over to the landlord half of the harvest each year.

SHI'ISM The denomination of the different groups of Shi'a Muslims who believe that the members of Mohammed's family and his descendents were the rightful leaders of the Muslim faith (see also **SUNNISM**).

SIGNORI The 'despots' who overthrew the republican regimes of most Italian city-states and were the protagonists in Burckhardt's account of the **RENAISSANCE**.

SKIMMINGTON A form of **CHARIVARI** especially popular in south-west England, in which a figure representing the 'mannish' woman beats her feeble husband with a ladle; the name may come from the skimming ladle used by dairywomen.

SOLA SCRIPTURA Latin phrase meaning that the Bible should be the sole source of authority for Christians.

SUNNISM The largest denomination of Islam, which since his death in 632 has been under the authority of the caliphs, the political successors of Mohammed (see also **SHI'ISM**).

SWORD Along with **ROBE**, one of the two major designations used from the sixteenth century onward to classify the nobility in France. Nobles of the sword (*noblesse d'épée*) were families who traced their ennoblement to France's medieval nobility whose responsibility and privilege it was to bear arms.

SYNCRETIC/SYNETICISM The fusing together of Christian and non-Christian beliefs and practices. An attempt at bringing diverse religions or religious sects together under a single heading (Confucianism, **DAOISM** and **BUDDHISM** in the Chinese case).

SZLACHTA Nobility in the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania.

TEMPERA TECHNIQUE Painting technique in which dry pigments are mixed with egg yolk and water, used especially for altarpieces.

TENURES The contractual basis on which land is held by a tenant from a landlord.

TERRITORIALIZATION A process in which rulers of polities began to exert ever-greater influence across the full geographical range of their dominions.

TRANSUBSTANTIATION Catholic doctrine according to which – in the **SACRAMENT** of the **MASS** – the material features ('accidents') of bread and wine remain, but their essence ('substance') becomes the body and blood of Christ.

TRIDENTINE Adjective derived from Trent (*Latin*: Tridentum), and used to designate the style of Catholicism which the Council of Trent aimed to promote.

USUFRUCTUARY One who enjoys the fruits or revenues of property without owning it; a term applied by lawyers to monarchs.

VASSAL A feudal term denoting one who owes service to an overlord in return for land or money.

VEREENIGDE OOSTINDISCHE COMPAGNIE A joint-stock company, established in 1602 and granted a monopoly of Asian trade by the parliament of the Dutch Republic. In 1621 the Dutch also established a West India company.

VULGATE The Latin translation of the Bible made by St Jerome in the early fifth century; confirmed by the Council of Trent as the official Roman Catholic version.

YIELD-SEED RATIOS The conventional measure of agricultural productivity, expressed as output per unit of seed sown.

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