Unit 2 Key Terms

**Authority** - power that is exercised legitimately

**Cold War** - geopolitical tensions, and proxy wars fought between the United States and the Soviet Union

**Communism** - a system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single, often authoritarian party holds power, claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people.

**Democratic socialism** - replacing capitalism through democratic processes

**Economic determinism** - the nature of the economy determines the social structure

**Elite and masses** - the few who have power and the many who do not

**Equality of opportunity but not absolute equality** - the idea that individuals must not be confronted with artificial barriers to advancement, but that inequalities may arise from differences in individual initiative, talent, skill, merit, and hard work

**Fascism** - an ideology that asserts the supremacy of the nation or race over the individual

**Idealism** - a perspective in anthropology that focuses on the importance of ideas in determining culture

**Ideology** - an integrated system of ideas or beliefs that rationalizes and justifies the exercise of power, influencing how power is exercised

**Inalienable rights** - rights not granted by government but belonging to individuals by virtue of their natural human condition

**Laissez-faire** - “hands off,” or a limited role of the government in economic activity

**Legitimacy** - belief that the exercise of power is right and proper

**Limited government** - the idea that government cannot violate the rights that it was established to protect; government power over the individual is limited

**Modern liberalism** - governmental power is seen as a positive force in protecting the individual

**Multiculturalism** - acknowledging, protecting, and promoting multiple cultures and subcultures

**Nation** - a society that sees itself as one people with a common culture, history, institutions, ideology, language, and territory

**Nationalization** - government seizure of industries from private owners

**Natural law** - the law that governs human conduct and grants individual rights; it exists before government or constitutions

**Political system** - the organization and distribution of power in society

**Power** - the capacity to affect the conduct of others through the real or threatened use of rewards and punishments

**Rational-legal authority** - legitimacy conferred by rules that are agreed on by both leaders and followers

**Social contract** - the idea that government arises from an implied contract among people as a means of protecting their rights

**Socialism** - an economic system characterized by public ownership of the means of production, the pursuit of collective goals, and centralized decision making.
**State** - a permanent, centralized organization with a defined territory and recognized authority to make and enforce rules

**Totalitarianism** - all sectors of a society - education, labor, art, science for example - are incorporated in the state and serve the purposes of the state