

# Reader's Guide

*Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Mexican States*, presents profiles of the 31 states and the Distrito Federal (federal district) of Mexico. Entries are arranged alphabetically in one volume. Following the state entries is an article on the country of Mexico itself. The *Worldmark* design organizes facts and data about every state in a common structure. Every profile contains a map showing the state and its location in the nation.

## Sources

Due to the broad scope of this encyclopedia many sources were consulted in compiling the information and statistics presented in this volume. However, special recognition is due to the many agencies of the Mexican states, from Aguascalientes to Zacatecas, that contributed data, answered questions, and provided information. Statistical information was gathered with the help of Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática (INEGI), the agency that oversees publication of statistics on many aspects of Mexico and its citizens. Among the sources consulted during the compilation of this first edition of *Junior Worldmark*

*Encyclopedia of the Mexican States* were XII Censo General de Población y Vivienda 2000 (12th General Census of Population 2000).

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## Profile Features

This first edition of *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Mexican States* follows the numbered heading structure, which allows students to compare two or more states in a variety of ways, that is the hallmark of the *Junior Worldmark* series. *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Mexican States* features 27 numbered headings. Each state entry is accompanied by a map specially prepared for this first edition.

Each province profile begins by presenting basic information about the state, including the pronunciation and origin of the state name, the capital, the date it entered the country, a description of the official coat of arms, and the holidays observed. (The entries also inform the student researcher that the states of Mexico have no official state flags.) The introductory information ends with the standard time given by time zone in relation to Greenwich mean time (GMT). The world is divided into 24 time zones, each one hour apart. The Greenwich meridian, which is 0 degrees, passes through Greenwich, England, a suburb of London. Greenwich is at the center of the initial time zone, known as Greenwich mean time. All times given are converted from noon in this zone. The time reported for each state is the official time zone.

Because many terms used in this encyclopedia will be new to students, a Words to Know section appears at the beginning of the volume.

## Organization

*The body of each profile is arranged in 27 numbered headings as follows:*

- 1 ■ Location and Size. Statistics are given on area, with a comparison to a US state. The names of the geographic features that surround the state (other states, bodies of water, or countries) are provided. The number of municipalities identified in each state is included, along with the name of the capital. Latitude and longitude are given, along with a general geographic location of the state within the country of Mexico. An overview of the topography, with principal mountains (and elevations), valley, plains, and islands are listed. The state's major lakes and rivers, along with
- any other notable geographic features, are described briefly.
- 2 ■ Climate. Temperature and rainfall are given for the various regions of the state in both English and metric units.
- 3 ■ Plants and Animals. Described here are the plants and animals native to the state.
- 4 ■ Environmental Protection. Information on efforts to preserve the environment are described here. Information on unique or protected animal and plant species are also included.
- 5 ■ Population, Ethnic Groups, Languages. Statistics from the 2000 census for total population and population by gender are provided. Population density for the state overall, and the population of the capital are given, along with information on languages spoken by the citizens.
- 6 ■ Religions. Statistics from the 2000 census describe the breakdown of the population according to religion and/or denominations.
- 7 ■ Transportation. Information on the state's network of roads, railways, and waterways is provided. In addition, the principal airports and seaports serving the state are provided.
- 8 ■ History. Includes a concise summary of the state's history from ancient times (where appropriate) through the arrival of European explorers, missionaries, and conquerors, to the present.
- 9 ■ State and Local Government. The election cycle for governor is provided, along with information on the state's legislature. The state's constitution, along with the name of the seat of government, are briefly described. Finally, details of the form of municipal government found in the state are given.

10 ■ Political Parties. Describes the significant political parties through history, where appropriate, and the influential parties as of 2004. The current governor is named, and the year of the next scheduled gubernatorial election is provided.

11 ■ Judicial System. Structure of the court system and the jurisdiction of courts in each category is provided.

12 ■ Economy. This section presents the key elements of the economy. Major industries are summarized.

13 ■ Industry. Key industries are listed, and important aspects of industrial development, including the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are described where applicable.

14 ■ Labor. An overview of employment, unemployment, and labor relations is provided.

15 ■ Agriculture. Information on agricultural activity, principal crops, and livestock of the state are given.

16 ■ Natural Resources. Information on principal natural resources, such as minerals mined, is provided.

17 ■ Energy and Power. Description of the state's power resources, including electricity produced and oil reserves and production, are provided.

18 ■ Health. Information on the primary public health facilities (hospitals and medical facilities) appear here.

19 ■ Housing. General information on the condition of housing in the state is given here.

20 ■ Education. Statistical data from the 2000 census on numbers of school-age children in the state is provided. Major universities are listed.

21 ■ Arts. A summary of the major cultural institutions is provided.

22 ■ Libraries and Museums. Statistics on the number of branches of the national library in the state are provided. Major museums are listed.

23 ■ Media. Major newspapers are listed. Information on telephone and Internet service is also provided where appropriate.

24 ■ Tourism, Travel, and Recreation. Under this heading, the student will find a summary of the important sites of interest to tourists in the state. Major festivals and fairs hosted in the state are also mentioned.

25 ■ Sports. The major sports teams and principal stadiums in the state are summarized.

26 ■ Famous People. In this section, some of the best-known citizens of the state through history are listed.

27 ■ Bibliography. The bibliographic and web site listings at the end of each profile are provided as a guide for further research.

A keyword index completes the volume.

## Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on the *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Mexican States*, as well as your suggestions for features to be included in future editions. Please write: Editors, *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Mexican States*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535; or call toll-free: 1-800-877-4253.

# Guide to Articles

All information contained within an article is uniformly keyed by means of a number to the left of the subject headings. A heading such as "History," for example, carries the same key numeral (8) in every article. Therefore, to find information about the history of Aguascalientes, consult the table of contents for the page number where the Aguascalientes article begins and look for section 8.

Introductory matter for each province includes:

- Pronunciation
- Origin of state name
- Capital
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- Coat of arms
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## Explanation of symbols

A fiscal split year is indicated by a stroke (e.g. 1999/00).

The use of a small dash (e.g., 1990–94) normally signifies the full period of calendar years covered (including the end year indicated).

# Words to Know

## A

**abdicate:** To formally give up a claim to a throne; to give up the right to be king or queen.

**aboriginal:** The first known inhabitants of a country. A species of animals or plants which originated within a given area.

**acid rain:** Rain (or snow) that has become slightly acid by mixing with industrial air pollution.

**adobe:** A brick made from sun-dried heavy clay mixed with straw, used in building houses. A house made of adobe bricks.

**adult literacy:** The ability of adults to read and write.

**agrarian economy:** An economy where agriculture is the dominant form of economic activity. A society where agriculture dominates the day-to-day activities of the population is called an agrarian society.

**air link:** Refers to scheduled air service that allows people and goods to travel between two places on a regular basis.

**airborne industrial pollutant:** Pollution caused by industry that is supported or carried by the air.

**althing:** A legislative assembly.

**amendment:** A change or addition to a document.

**Amerindian:** A contraction of the two words, American Indian. It describes native peoples of North, South, or Central America.

**amnesty:** An act of forgiveness or pardon, usually taken by a government, toward persons for crimes they may have committed.

**animal husbandry:** The branch of agriculture that involves raising animals.

**animism:** The belief that natural objects and phenomena have souls or innate spiritual powers.

**annex:** To incorporate land from one country into another country.

**annual growth rate:** The rate at which something grows over a period of 12 months.

**appeasement:** To bring to a state of peace.

appellate: Refers to an appeal of a court decision to a high authority.

aquaculture: The culture or “farming” of aquatic plants or other natural produce, as in the raising of catfish in “farms.”

aquatic resources: Resources that come from, grow in, or live in water, including fish and plants.

aquifer: An underground layer of porous rock, sand, or gravel that holds water.

arable land: Land that can be cultivated by plowing and used for growing crops.

archipelago: Any body of water abounding with islands, or the islands themselves collectively.

archives: A place where records or a collection of important documents are kept.

aristocracy: A small minority that controls the government of a nation, typically on the basis of inherited wealth.

asylum: To give protection, security, or shelter to someone who is threatened by political or religious persecution.

atoll: A coral island, consisting of a strip or ring of coral surrounding a central lagoon.

austerity measures: Steps taken by a government to conserve money or resources during an economically difficult time, such as cutting back on federally funded programs.

authoritarianism: A form of government in which a person or group attempts to rule with absolute authority without the representation of the citizens.

autonomous state: A country which is completely self-governing, as opposed to being a dependency or part of another country.

autonomy: The state of existing as a self-governing entity. For instance, when a country gains its independence from another country, it gains autonomy.

average inflation rate: The average rate at which the general prices of goods and services increase over the period of a year.

average life expectancy: In any given society, the average age attained by persons at the time of death.

## B

Baptist: A member of a Protestant denomination that practices adult baptism by complete immersion in water.

barren land: Unproductive land, partly or entirely treeless.

barter: Trade practice where merchandise is exchanged directly for other merchandise or services without use of money.

bedrock: Solid rock lying under loose earth.

bicameral legislature: A legislative body consisting of two chambers, such as the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

bill of rights: A written statement containing the list of privileges and powers to be granted to a body of people, usually introduced when a government or other organization is forming.

**Biosphere:** The part of the earth and its atmosphere that is capable of supporting life.

**bituminous coal:** Soft coal; coal which burns with a bright-yellow flame.

**black market:** A system of trade where goods are sold illegally, often for excessively inflated prices. This type of trade usually develops to avoid paying taxes or tariffs levied by the government, or to get around import or export restrictions on products.

**bloodless coup:** The sudden takeover of a country's government by hostile means but without killing anyone in the process.

**bog:** Wet, soft, and spongy ground where the soil is composed mainly of decayed or decaying vegetable matter.

**bonded labor:** Workers bound to service without pay; slaves.

**border dispute:** A disagreement between two countries as to the exact location or length of the dividing line between them.

**broadleaf forest:** A forest composed mainly of broadleaf (deciduous) trees.

**buffer state:** A small country that lies between two larger, possibly hostile countries, considered to be a neutralizing force between them.

**bullfighting:** Sport popular in Spain and Mexico where a man fights against a bull, eventually killing it, in front of large crowds of spectators.

**bureaucracy:** A system of government that is characterized by division into bureaus of administration with their own divisional heads. Also refers to the inflexible proce-

dures of such a system that often result in delay.

## C

**CACM** see Central American Common Market.

**cactus:** Type of plant that thrives in a hot, dry climate.

**canton:** A territory or small division or state within a country.

**capital punishment:** The ultimate act of punishment for a crime, the death penalty.

**capitalism:** An economic system in which goods and services and the means to produce and sell them are privately owned, and prices and wages are determined by market forces.

**carnivore:** Flesh-eating animal or plant.

**carob:** The common English name for a plant that is similar to and sometimes used as a substitute for chocolate.

**cash crop:** A crop that is grown to be sold rather than kept for private use.

**cassation:** The reversal or annulling of a final judgment by the supreme authority.

**cassava:** The name of several species of stout herbs, extensively cultivated for food.

**Caucasian or Caucasoid:** The white race of human beings, as determined by genealogy and physical features.

**cease-fire:** An official declaration of the end to the use of military force or active hostilities, even if only temporary.

**cenote:** A deep hollow in limestone rock where water collects. A cenote often connects to a cavern or underground cave.

- censorship:** The practice of withholding certain items of news that may cast a country in an unfavorable light or give away secrets to the enemy.
- census:** An official counting of the inhabitants of a state or country with details of sex and age, family, occupation, possessions, etc.
- cession:** Withdrawal from or yielding to physical force.
- cholera:** An acute infectious disease characterized by severe diarrhea, vomiting, and, often, death.
- Christianity:** The religion founded by Jesus Christ, based on the Bible as holy scripture.
- circuit court:** A court that convenes in two or more locations within its appointed district.
- city-state:** An independent state consisting of a city and its surrounding territory.
- civil court:** A court whose proceedings include determinations of rights of individual citizens, in contrast to criminal proceedings regarding individuals or the public.
- civil jurisdiction:** The authority to enforce the laws in civil matters brought before the court.
- civil law:** The law developed by a nation or state for the conduct of daily life of its own people.
- civil rights:** The privileges of all individuals to be treated as equals under the laws of their country; specifically, the rights given by certain amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- civil unrest:** The feeling of uneasiness due to an unstable political climate, or actions taken as a result of it.
- civil war:** A war between groups of citizens of the same country who have different opinions or agendas. The Civil War of the United States was the conflict between the states of the North and South from 1861 to 1865.
- climatic belt:** A region or zone where a particular type of climate prevails.
- coastal belt:** A coastal plain area of lowlands and somewhat higher ridges that run parallel to the coast.
- coastal plain:** A fairly level area of land along the coast of a land mass.
- coca:** A shrub native to South America, the leaves of which produce organic compounds that are used in the production of cocaine.
- coke:** The solid product of the carbonization of coal, bearing the same relation to coal that charcoal does to wood.
- collective bargaining:** The negotiations between workers who are members of a union and their employer for the purpose of deciding work rules and policies regarding wages, hours, etc.
- collective farming:** The system of farming on a collective where all workers share in the income of the farm.
- colloquial:** Belonging to ordinary, everyday speech: often especially applied to common words and phrases which are not used in formal speech.
- colonial period:** The period of time when a country forms colonies in and extends control over a foreign area.

- colonist: Any member of a colony or one who helps settle a new colony.
- colony: A group of people who settle in a new area far from their original country, but still under the jurisdiction of that country. Also refers to the newly settled area itself.
- commerce: The trading of goods (buying and selling), especially on a large scale, between cities, states, and countries.
- commercial catch: The amount of marketable fish, usually measured in tons, caught in a particular period of time.
- commercial crop: Any marketable agricultural crop.
- commission: A group of people designated to collectively do a job, including a government agency with certain law-making powers. Also, the power given to an individual or group to perform certain duties.
- commodity: Any items, such as goods or services, that are bought or sold, or agricultural products that are traded or marketed.
- common law: A legal system based on custom and decisions and opinions of the law courts. The basic system of law of England and the United States.
- common market: An economic union among countries that is formed to remove trade barriers (tariffs) among those countries, increasing economic cooperation. The European Community is a notable example of a common market.
- commonwealth: A commonwealth is a free association of sovereign independent states that has no charter, treaty, or constitution. The association promotes cooperation, consultation, and mutual assistance among members.
- commune: An organization of people living together in a community who share the ownership and use of property. Also refers to a small governmental district of a country, especially in Europe.
- communism: A form of government whose system requires common ownership of property for the use of all citizens. All profits are to be equally distributed and prices on goods and services are usually set by the state. Also, communism refers directly to the official doctrine of the former U.S.S.R.
- compulsory: Required by law or other regulation.
- compulsory education: The mandatory requirement for children to attend school until they have reached a certain age or grade level.
- conciliation: A process of bringing together opposing sides of a disagreement for the purpose of compromise. Or, a way of settling an international dispute in which the disagreement is submitted to an independent committee that will examine the facts and advise the participants of a possible solution.
- concordat: An agreement, compact, or convention, especially between church and state.
- confederation: An alliance or league formed for the purpose of promoting the common interests of its members.
- coniferous forest: A forest consisting mainly of pine, fir, and cypress trees.

- conifers: Cone-bearing plants. Mostly evergreen trees and shrubs which produce cones.
- conquest: Forcibly taking over control of territory.
- conquistador: Someone involved in the Spanish conquest of America, especially Mexico and Peru.
- conscription: To be required to join the military by law. Also known as the draft. Service personnel who join the military because of the legal requirement are called conscripts or draftees.
- conservative party: A political group whose philosophy tends to be based on established traditions and not supportive of rapid change.
- constituency: The registered voters in a governmental district, or a group of people that supports a position or a candidate.
- constituent assembly: A group of people that has the power to determine the election of a political representative or create a constitution.
- constitution: The written laws and basic rights of citizens of a country or members of an organized group.
- constitutional monarchy: A system of government in which the hereditary sovereign (king or queen, usually) rules according to a written constitution.
- constitutional republic: A system of government with an elected chief of state and elected representation, with a written constitution containing its governing principles. The United States is a constitutional republic.
- consumer goods: Items that are bought to satisfy personal needs or wants of individuals.
- continental climate: The climate of a part of the continent; the characteristics and peculiarities of the climate are a result of the land itself and its location.
- continental shelf: A plain extending from the continental coast and varying in width that typically ends in a steep slope to the ocean floor.
- copra: The dried meat of the coconut; it is frequently used as an ingredient of curry, and to produce coconut oil. Also written cobra, coprah, and copperah.
- cordillera: A continuous ridge, range, or chain of mountains.
- corvette: A small warship that is often used as an escort ship because it is easier to maneuver than larger ships like destroyers.
- counterinsurgency operations: Organized military activity designed to stop rebellion against an established government.
- county: A territorial division or administrative unit within a state or country.
- coup d'état or coup: A sudden, violent overthrow of a government or its leader.
- court of appeal: An appellate court, having the power of review after a case has been decided in a lower court.
- court of first appeal: The next highest court to the court which has decided a case, to which that case may be presented for review.
- court of last appeal: The highest court, in which a decision is not subject to review by any higher court. In the United States,

it could be the Supreme Court of an individual state or the U.S. Supreme Court.

criminal law: The branch of law that deals primarily with crimes and their punishments.

cultivable land: Land that can be prepared for the production of crops.

cyclone: Any atmospheric movement, general or local, in which the wind blows spirally around and in towards a center. In the northern hemisphere, the cyclonic movement is usually counter-clockwise, and in the southern hemisphere, it is clockwise.

## D

decentralization: The redistribution of power in a government from one large central authority to a wider range of smaller local authorities.

deciduous species: Any species that sheds or casts off a part of itself after a definite period of time. More commonly used in reference to plants that shed their leaves on a yearly basis as opposed to those (evergreens) that retain them.

declaration of independence: A formal written document stating the intent of a group of persons to become fully self-governing.

deforestation: The removal or clearing of a forest.

deity: A being with the attributes, nature, and essence of a god; a divinity.

delta: Triangular-shaped deposits of soil formed at the mouths of large rivers.

demarcate: To mark off from adjoining land or territory; set the limits or boundaries of.

democracy: A form of government in which the power lies in the hands of the people, who can govern directly, or can be governed indirectly by representatives elected by its citizens.

denationalize: To remove from government ownership or control.

deportation: To carry away or remove from one country to another, or to a distant place.

depression: A hollow; a surface that has sunken or fallen in.

deregulation: The act of reversing controls and restrictions on prices of goods, bank interest, and the like.

desalinization plant: A facility that produces freshwater by removing the salt from salt-water.

desegregation: The act of removing restrictions on people of a particular race that keep them socially, economically, and, sometimes, physically, separate from other groups.

desertification: The process of becoming a desert as a result of climatic changes, land mismanagement, or both.

devaluation: The official lowering of the value of a country's currency in relation to the value of gold or the currencies of other countries.

developed countries: Countries which have a high standard of living and a well-developed industrial base.

development assistance: Government programs intended to finance and promote the growth of new industries.

dialect: One of a number of regional or related modes of speech regarded as descending from a common origin.

dictatorship: A form of government in which all the power is retained by an absolute leader or tyrant. There are no rights granted to the people to elect their own representatives.

diplomatic relations: The relationship between countries as conducted by representatives of each government.

direct election: The process of selecting a representative to the government by balloting of the voting public, in contrast to selection by an elected representative of the people.

dissident: A person whose political opinions differ from the majority to the point of rejection.

dogma: A principle, maxim, or tenet held as being firmly established.

domain: The area of land governed by a particular ruler or government, sometimes referring to the ultimate control of that territory.

dormant volcano: A volcano that has not exhibited any signs of activity for an extended period of time.

dowry: The sum of the property or money that a bride brings to her groom at their marriage.

draft constitution: The preliminary written plans for the new constitution of a country forming a new government.

dry forest: A type of tropical forest where the climate features a long dry season and a short rainy season. Most trees in the dry forest lose their leaves during the dry season. Also called tropical dry forest or tropical deciduous forest.

due process: In law, the application of the legal process to which every citizen has a right, which cannot be denied.

durable goods: Goods or products which are expected to last and perform for several years, such as cars and washing machines.

dynasty: A family line of sovereigns who rule in succession, and the time during which they reign.

## E

earned income: The money paid to an individual in wages or salary.

ecclesiastical: Pertaining or relating to the church.

ecological balance: The condition of a healthy, well-functioning ecosystem, which includes all the plants and animals in a natural community together with their environment.

ecology: The branch of science that studies organisms in relationship to other organisms and to their environment.

economic depression: A prolonged period in which there is high unemployment, low production, falling prices, and general business failure.

economically active population: That portion of the people who are employed for wages and are consumers of goods and services.

ecotourism: Broad term used to describe travel that focuses on nature, adventure, and learning about different cultures. The term is also used to describe travel that is sensitive to protecting the environment. Scientific, educational, or academic purposes (such as biotourism, archetourism, and geotourism) are also forms of ecotourism.

elected assembly: The persons that comprise a legislative body of a government who received their positions by direct election.

electoral system: A system of choosing government officials by votes cast by qualified citizens.

electoral vote: The votes of the members of the electoral college.

electorate: The people who are qualified to vote in an election.

emancipation: The freeing of persons from any kind of bondage or slavery.

embargo: A legal restriction on commercial ships to enter a country's ports, or any legal restriction of trade.

emigration: Moving from one country or region to another for the purpose of residence.

empire: A group of territories ruled by one sovereign or supreme ruler. Also, the period of time under that rule.

enclave: A territory belonging to one nation that is surrounded by that of another nation.

encroachment: The act of intruding, trespassing, or entering on the rights or possessions of another.

endangered species: A plant or animal species whose existence as a whole is threatened with extinction.

endemic: Anything that is peculiar to and characteristic of a locality or region.

epidemic: As applied to disease, any disease that is temporarily prevalent among people in one place at the same time.

Episcopal: Belonging to or vested in bishops or prelates; characteristic of or pertaining to a bishop or bishops.

excommunicated: Officially banned from the church, especially the Roman Catholic Church.

exports: Goods sold to foreign buyers.

## F

faction: People with a specific set of interests or goals who form a subgroup within a larger organization.

federal: Pertaining to a union of states whose governments are subordinate to a central government.

federation: A union of states or other groups under the authority of a central government.

final jurisdiction: The final authority in the decision of a legal matter. In the United States, the Supreme Court would have final jurisdiction.

fiscal year: The twelve months between the settling of financial accounts, not necessarily corresponding to a calendar year beginning on January 1.

fodder: Food for cattle, horses, and sheep, such as hay, straw, and other kinds of vegetables.

folk religion: A religion with origins and traditions among the common people of a nation or region that is relevant to their particular life-style.

foreign exchange: Foreign currency that allows foreign countries to conduct financial transactions or settle debts with one another.

foreign policy: The course of action that one government chooses to adopt in relation to a foreign country.

fossil fuels: Any mineral or mineral substance formed by the decomposition of organic matter buried beneath the earth's surface and used as a fuel.

free enterprise: The system of economics in which private business may be conducted with minimum interference by the government.

free-market economy: An economic system that relies on the market, as opposed to government planners, to set the prices for wages and products.

fundamentalist: A person who holds religious beliefs based on the complete acceptance of the words of the Bible or other holy scripture as the truth. For instance, a fundamentalist would believe the story of creation exactly as it is told in the Bible and would reject the idea of evolution.

## G

GDP *see* gross domestic product.

global warming: Also called the greenhouse effect. The theorized gradual warming of the earth's climate as a result of the burn-

ing of fossil fuels, the use of man-made chemicals, deforestation, etc.

GMT *see* Greenwich Mean Time.

GNP *see* gross national product.

Greenwich (Mean) Time: Mean solar time of the meridian at Greenwich, England, used as the basis for standard time throughout most of the world. The world is divided into 24 time zones, and all are related to the prime, or Greenwich mean, zone.

gross domestic product: A measure of the market value of all goods and services produced within the boundaries of a nation, regardless of asset ownership. Unlike gross national product, GDP excludes receipts from that nation's business operations in foreign countries.

gross national product: A measure of the market value of goods and services produced by the labor and property of a nation. Includes receipts from that nation's business operation in foreign countries

groundwater: Water located below the earth's surface, the source from which wells and springs draw their water.

guano: The excrement of seabirds and bats found in various areas around the world. Gathered commercially and sold as a fertilizer.

gubernatorial election: An election to choose a governor.

guerrilla: A member of a small radical military organization that uses unconventional tactics to take their enemies by surprise.

## H

**hardwoods:** The name given to deciduous trees, such as cherry, oak, maple, and mahogany.

**heavy industry:** Industries that use heavy or large machinery to produce goods, such as automobile manufacturing.

**hoist:** The part of a flag nearest the flagpole.

**homogeneous:** Of the same kind or nature, often used in reference to a whole.

**human rights activist:** A person who vigorously pursues the attainment of basic rights for all people.

**human rights issues:** Any matters involving people's basic rights which are in question or thought to be abused.

**humanist:** A person who centers on human needs and values, and stresses dignity of the individual.

**humanitarian aid:** Money or supplies given to a persecuted group or people of a country at war, or those devastated by a natural disaster, to provide for basic human needs.

**hydrocarbon:** A compound of hydrogen and carbon, often occurring in organic substances or derivatives of organic substances such as coal, petroleum, natural gas, etc.

**hydrocarbon emissions:** Organic compounds containing only carbon and hydrogen, often occurring in petroleum, natural gas, coal, and bitumens, and which contribute to the greenhouse effect.

**hydroelectric potential:** The potential amount of electricity that can be produced hydroelectrically. Usually used in reference to a given area and how many

hydroelectric power plants that area can sustain.

**hydroelectric power plant:** A factory that produces electrical power through the application of waterpower.

## I

**immigration:** The act or process of passing or entering into another country for the purpose of permanent residence.

**imports:** Goods purchased from foreign suppliers.

**indigenous:** Born or originating in a particular place or country; native to a particular region or area.

**industrialized nation:** A nation whose economy is based on industry.

**infanticide:** The act of murdering a baby.

**inflation:** The general rise of prices, as measured by a consumer price index. Results in a fall in value of currency.

**installed capacity:** The maximum possible output of electric power at any given time.

**insurgency:** The state or condition in which one rises against lawful authority or established government; rebellion.

**insurgent.** A person who rebels against the established authority of government.

**insurrectionist:** One who participates in an unorganized revolt against an authority.

**interim government:** A temporary or provisional government.

**interim president:** One who is appointed to perform temporarily the duties of president during a transitional period in a government.

internal migration: Term used to describe the relocation of individuals from one region to another without leaving the confines of the country or of a specified area.

isthmus: A narrow strip of land bordered by water and connecting two larger bodies of land, such as two continents, a continent and a peninsula, or two parts of an island.

## J

Jesuit order: A religious group that is part of the Roman Catholic Church.

Judaism: The religious system of the Jews, based on the Old Testament as revealed to Moses and characterized by a belief in one God and adherence to the laws of scripture and rabbinic traditions.

Judeo-Christian: The dominant traditional religious makeup of the United States and other countries based on the worship of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

junta: A small military group in power of a country, especially after a coup.

## K

kwh: The abbreviation for kilowatt-hour.

## L

labor force: The number of people in a population available for work, whether actually employed or not.

labor movement: A movement in the early to mid-1800s to organize workers in groups according to profession to give them certain rights as a group, including bargaining power for better wages, working conditions, and benefits.

land reforms: Steps taken to create a fair distribution of farmland, especially by governmental action.

landlocked: An area that does not have direct access to the sea; it is completely surrounded by other states or countries.

least developed countries: A subgroup of the United Nations designation of “less developed countries;” these countries generally have no significant economic growth, low literacy rates, and per person gross national product of less than \$500. Also known as undeveloped countries.

leeward: The direction identical to that of the wind. For example, a leeward tide is a tide that runs in the same direction that the wind blows.

leftist: A person with a liberal or radical political affiliation.

legislative branch: The branch of government which makes or enacts the laws.

less developed countries (LDC): Designated by the United Nations to include countries with low levels of output, living standards, and per person gross national product generally below \$5,000.

literacy: The ability to read and write.

## M

maize: Another name (Spanish or British) for corn or the color of ripe corn.

majority party: The party with the largest number of votes and the controlling political party in a government.

mangrove: A tree which abounds on tropical shores in both hemispheres. Characterized by its numerous roots which arch out from its trunk and descend from its

- branches, mangroves form thick, dense growths along the tidal muds, reaching lengths hundreds of miles long.
- manioc: The cassava plant or its product. Manioc is a very important food-staple in tropical America.
- maquiladora: An assembly plant located in Mexico but owned by a company based in another country. There, lower-paid Mexican workers assemble products using parts that have been imported. Finished products are then exported.
- marine life: The life that exists in, or is formed by the sea.
- maritime climate: The climate and weather conditions typical of areas bordering the sea.
- maritime rights: The rights that protect navigation and shipping.
- market access: Market access refers to the openness of a national market to foreign products. Market access reflects a government's willingness to permit imports to compete relatively unimpeded with similar domestically produced goods.
- market economy: A form of society which runs by the law of supply and demand. Goods are produced by firms to be sold to consumers, who determine the demand for them. Price levels vary according to the demand for certain goods and how much of them is produced.
- market price: The price a commodity will bring when sold on the open market. The price is determined by the amount of demand for the commodity by buyers.
- massif: A central mountain-mass or the dominant part of a range of mountains.
- mean temperature: The air temperature unit measured by the National Weather Service by adding the maximum and minimum daily temperatures together and dividing the sum by 2.
- mestizo: A person of mixed European (usually Spanish) and American Indian (Amerindian) parentage.
- migratory birds: Those birds whose instincts prompt them to move from one place to another at the regularly recurring changes of season.
- migratory workers: Usually agricultural workers who move from place to place for employment depending on the growing and harvesting seasons of various crops.
- military coup: A sudden, violent overthrow of a government by military forces.
- military junta: The small military group in power in a country, especially after a coup.
- military regime: Government conducted by a military force.
- military takeover: The seizure of control of a government by the military forces.
- militia: The group of citizens of a country who are either serving in the reserve military forces or are eligible to be called up in time of emergency.
- millet: A cereal grass whose small grain is used for food in Europe and Asia.
- minority party: The political group that comprises the smaller part of the large overall group it belongs to; the party that is not in control.
- missionary: A person sent by authority of a church or religious organization to spread his religious faith in a community where

his church has no self-supporting organization.

monarchy: Government by a sovereign, such as a king or queen.

money economy: A system or stage of economic development in which money replaces barter in the exchange of goods and services.

Moors: One of the Arab tribes that conquered Spain in the eighth century.

mouflon: A type of wild sheep characterized by curling horns.

mulatto: One who is the offspring of parents one of whom is white and the other is black.

municipality: A district such as a city or town having its own incorporated government.

## N

NAFTA *see* North American Free Trade Agreement

nationalism: National spirit or aspirations; desire for national unity, independence, or prosperity.

nationalization: To transfer the control or ownership of land or industries to the nation from private owners.

native tongue: One's natural language. The language that is indigenous to an area.

natural gas: A combustible gas formed naturally in the earth and generally obtained by boring a well. The chemical makeup of natural gas is principally methane, hydrogen, ethylene compounds, and nitrogen.

natural harbor: A protected portion of a sea or lake along the shore resulting from the natural formations of the land.

naturalize: To confer the rights and privileges of a native-born subject or citizen upon someone who lives in the country by choice.

nature preserve: An area where one or more species of plant and/or animal are protected from harm, injury, or destruction.

neutrality: The policy of not taking sides with any countries during a war or dispute among them.

news censorship *see* censorship

North American Free Trade Agreement: NAFTA, which entered into force in January 1994, is a free trade agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The agreement progressively eliminates almost all U.S.-Mexico tariffs over a 10–15 year period.

nuclear power plant: A factory that produces electrical power through the application of the nuclear reaction known as nuclear fission.

nuclear reactor: A device used to control the rate of nuclear fission in uranium. Used in commercial applications, nuclear reactors can maintain temperatures high enough to generate sufficient quantities of steam which can then be used to produce electricity.

## O

OAS (Organization of American States): The OAS (Spanish: Organizaci3n de los Estados Americanos, OEA), or the Pan American Union, is a regional organization which promotes Latin American economic and social development. Members include the United States, Mexico, and

most Central American, South American, and Caribbean nations.

occupied territory: A territory that has an enemy's military forces present.

official language: The language in which the business of a country and its government is conducted.

oligarchy: A form of government in which a few people possess the power to rule as opposed to a monarchy which is ruled by one.

open economy: An economy that imports and exports goods.

open market: Open market operations are the actions of the central bank to influence or control the money supply by buying or selling government bonds.

opposition party: A minority political party that is opposed to the party in power.

organized labor: The body of workers who belong to labor unions.

overfishing: To deplete the quantity of fish in an area by removing more fish than can be naturally replaced.

overgrazing: Allowing animals to graze in an area to the point that the ground vegetation is damaged or destroyed.

overseas dependencies: A distant and physically separate territory that belongs to another country and is subject to its laws and government.

## P

pact: An international agreement.

Paleolithic: The early period of the Stone Age, when rough, chipped stone implements were used.

panhandle: A long narrow strip of land projecting like the handle of a frying pan.

paramilitary group: A supplementary organization to the military.

parasitic diseases: A group of diseases caused by parasitic organisms which feed off the host organism.

parochial: Refers to matters of a church parish or something within narrow limits.

partisan politics: Rigid, unquestioning following of a specific party's or leader's goals.

patriarchal system: A social system in which the head of the family or tribe is the father or oldest male. Kinship is determined and traced through the male members of the tribe.

per capita: Literally, per person; for each person counted.

periodical: A publication whose issues appear at regular intervals, such as weekly, monthly, or yearly.

petrochemical: A chemical derived from petroleum or from natural gas.

pharmaceutical plants: Any plant that is used in the preparation of medicinal drugs.

plantain: The name of a common weed that has often been used for medicinal purposes, as a folk remedy and in modern medicine. Plantain is also the name of a tropical plant producing a type of banana.

political climate: The prevailing political attitude of a particular time or place.

political refugee: A person forced to flee his or her native country for political reasons.

potable water: Water that is safe for drinking.

private sector: The division of an economy in which production of goods and services is privately owned.

privatization: To change from public to private control or ownership.

proportional representation: A form of election where representatives to a legislature are designated according to the proportion of the total votes won by the specific political parties.

protectorate: A state or territory controlled by a stronger state, or the relationship of the stronger country toward the lesser one it protects.

Protestant: A member or an adherent of one of those Christian bodies which descended from the Reformation of the sixteenth century. Originally applied to those who opposed or protested the Roman Catholic Church.

Protestant Reformation: In 1529, a Christian religious movement begun in Germany to deny the universal authority of the pope, and to establish the Bible as the only source of truth. (*Also see* Protestant)

proved reserves: The quantity of a recoverable mineral resource (such as oil or natural gas) that is still in the ground.

provisional government: A temporary government set up during time of unrest or transition in a country.

pulses: Beans, peas, or lentils.

purge: The act of ridding a society of “undesirable” or unloyal persons by banishment or murder.

## R

rate of literacy: The percentage of people in a society who can read and write.

recession. A period of reduced economic activity in a country or region.

referendum: The practice of submitting legislation directly to the people for a popular vote.

reforestation: Systematically replacing forest trees lost due to fire or logging.

Reformation *see* Protestant Reformation.

refugee: One who flees to a refuge or shelter or place of safety. One who in times of persecution or political commotion flees to a foreign country for safety.

revolution: A complete change in a government or society, such as in an overthrow of the government by the people.

right-wing party: The more conservative political party.

Roman Catholic Church: The designation of the church of which the pope or Bishop of Rome is the head, and that holds him as the successor of St. Peter and heir of his spiritual authority, privileges, and gifts.

roundwood: Timber used as poles or in similar ways without being sawn or shaped.

runoff election: A deciding election put to the voters in case of a tie between candidates.

## S

sack: To strip of valuables, especially after capture.

salinization: An accumulation of soluble salts in soil. This condition is common in desert climates, where water evaporates

- quickly in poorly drained soil due to high temperatures.
- savanna: A treeless or near treeless plain of a tropical or subtropical region dominated by drought-resistant grasses.
- secession: The act of withdrawal, such as a state withdrawing from the Union in the Civil War in the United States.
- sect: A religious denomination or group, often a dissenting one with extreme views.
- segregation: The enforced separation of a racial or religious group from other groups, compelling them to live and go to school separately from the rest of society.
- seismic activity: Relating to or connected with an earthquake or earthquakes in general.
- self-sufficient: Able to function alone without help.
- separation of power: The division of power in the government among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches and the checks and balances employed to keep them separate and independent of each other.
- separatism: The policy of dissenters withdrawing from a larger political or religious group.
- Seventh-day Adventist: One who believes in the second coming of Christ to establish a personal reign upon the earth.
- shamanism: A religion of some Asians and Amerindians in which shamans, who are priests or medicine men, are believed to influence good and evil spirits.
- shantytown: An urban settlement of people in flimsy, inadequate houses.
- shoal: A place where the water of a stream, lake, or sea is of little depth. Especially, a sand-bank which shows at low water.
- sierra: A chain of hills or mountains.
- slash-and-burn agriculture: A hasty and sometimes temporary way of clearing land to make it available for agriculture by cutting down trees and burning them.
- slave trade: The transportation of black Africans beginning in the 1700s to other countries to be sold as slaves—people owned as property and compelled to work for their owners at no pay.
- social insurance: A government plan to protect low-income people, such as health and accident insurance, pension plans, etc.
- social security: A form of social insurance, including life, disability, and old-age pension for workers. It is paid for by employers, employees, and the government.
- socialism: An economic system in which ownership of land and other property is distributed among the community as a whole, and every member of the community shares in the work and products of the work.
- socialist: A person who advocates socialism.
- softwoods: The coniferous trees, whose wood density as a whole is relatively softer than the wood of those trees referred to as hardwoods.
- sorghum: Plant grown in various parts of the world for its valuable uses, such as for grain, syrup, or fodder.
- staple crop: A crop that is the chief commodity or product of a place, and which has widespread and constant use or value.

state: The politically organized body of people living under one government or one of the territorial units that make up a federal government, such as in the United States.

student demonstration: A public gathering of students to express strong feelings about a certain situation, usually taking place near the location of the people in power to change the situation.

subcontinent: A land mass of great size, but smaller than any of the continents; a large subdivision of a continent.

subsistence economy: The part of a national economy in which money plays little or no role, trade is by barter, and living standards are minimal.

subsistence farming: Farming that provides the minimum food goods necessary for the continuation of the farm family.

subtropical climate: A middle latitude climate dominated by humid, warm temperatures and heavy rainfall in summer, with cool winters and frequent cyclonic storms.

suffrage: The right to vote.

## T

tariff: A tax assessed by a government on goods as they enter (or leave) a country. May be imposed to protect domestic industries from imported goods and/or to generate revenue.

temperate zone: The parts of the earth lying between the tropics and the polar circles. The northern temperate zone is the area between the tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle. The southern temperate zone is

the area between the tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic Circle.

terrorism: Systematic acts of violence designed to frighten or intimidate.

thermal power plant: A facility that produces electric energy from heat energy released by combustion of fuel or nuclear reactions.

Third World: A term used to describe less developed countries; as of the mid-1990s, it is being replaced by the United Nations designation Less Developed Countries, or LDC.

topography: The physical or natural features of the land.

torrid zone: The part of the earth's surface that lies between the tropics, so named for the character of its climate.

totalitarian party: The single political party in complete authoritarian control of a government or state.

trade unionism: Labor union activity for workers who practice a specific trade, such as carpentry.

treaty: A negotiated agreement between two governments.

tribal system: A social community in which people are organized into groups or clans descended from common ancestors and sharing customs and languages.

## U

unemployment rate: The overall unemployment rate is the percentage of the work force (both employed and unemployed) who claim to be unemployed.