



## Chapter 11 Expanded Key Terms

**Absolute Monarchy:** a system of government ruled by a monarch who has control of the government and state. (LO 11.2.1)

This is a rule by a king or queen in which all of the power is in the hands of royalty. French kings such as Louis XIV were strong leaders and represented an absolute monarchy. Since kings believed they received their authority from God, their authority was absolute.

**Capitalism:** an economic and political system based on private control of the production and distribution of goods and services within a free market system. (LO 11.2.1)

This is a free enterprise system that developed fully as a result of the Industrial Revolution. The system allows for a surplus of goods and wealth accumulation by individuals and corporations.

**Civil Participation:** individual and collective action to address issues of public concerns. (LO 11.1.1)

Individuals who donate to a campaign or volunteer to participate in a campaign for a special cause involve themselves in civic participation. An example would be volunteering to go door-to-door to campaign for legislation about human rights.

**Climate Change:** the weather impacts of the rising temperatures. (LO 11.1.3)

Many predictions regarding climate change's effects include extreme droughts, floodings, hurricanes, erosion, melting polar caps, and rising sea levels. Individuals, organizations, corporations, and governments are working to develop solutions to address climate change to protect future generations' resources.

**Communism:** an economic and political system based on the government's ownership and regulation of all the production and distribution of goods and services. (LO 11.2.1)

Karl Marx developed the communist model due to viewing capitalism's exploitation and inequalities. This system attempts to share the resources, and the government is equally charged with the distribution system. No pure communist system has developed due to governments becoming corrupt and unequally distributing resources, such as in the former USSR.

**Constitutional Monarchy:** a system of government in which a monarch is the Head of State and is governed by a parliament. (LO 11.2.1)

Most monarchies today are constitutional. The royalty serves as ambassadors and inspirations for the citizens of the country. There is a parliament that conducts governmental duties, and the monarchs are often ceremonial. Scandinavian countries have constitutional monarchs, and many still frequent the palaces.

**Democracy:** a system of government in which the power is vested in the people, and free elections are held. (LO 11.2.1)

This type of government is designed to be by the people and for the people, in stark contrast to totalitarianism. The U.S. is a democracy that holds elections and allows for free speech. A constitution is a key element within a democracy.

**Dictatorship:** a form of government in which a single person or political entity controls political authority. (LO 11.2.2)

Dictators are often charismatic leaders (in terms of Weber's theory) who gain power through military force or unfair elections. These leaders often rule by intimidation and imprisoning dissidents.

**Disenfranchisement:** an effort to restrict or revoke the voting rights of an individual or group. (LO 11.3.3)

Disenfranchisement occurs when those in power take action to increase the likelihood of their political party's success by putting economic, political, and social barriers in place that make it difficult for the less powerful to participate in the political process.

**Downsizing:** a reduction in the number of employees that work for the corporation. (LO 11.4.1)

This may be done to eliminate duplicate positions in the corporation, trim the size of the corporation, or simply save money.

**Economic Systems:** a framework for producing and allocating goods and services within a society. (LO 11.2.1)

The basic economic systems are capitalism and socialism. These basic structural systems provide the means for markets to emerge and for individuals to earn income.

**Global Warming:** the rise in surface temperature on the planet. (LO 11.1.3)

The term Democrat Vice President Al Gore popularized that it was initially considered to be a hoax by many conservatives and has no scientific validity. Hundreds of scientists within the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have researched global warming, and 95 percent have declared it to be caused by humans and increased carbon dioxide.

**Knowledge Workers:** employees who design, prepare, or share knowledge. (LO 11.4.1)

Knowledge workers are those whose jobs consist of manipulating, sharing, or using intellectual information. Examples include computer programmers, engineers, and scientists.

**Laissez-faire Capitalism:** a system of free enterprise without government intervention. (LO 11.2.1)

A hands-off approach by the government and regulatory bodies characterizes this type of capitalism. Businesses are allowed to operate with little to no regulation allowing for autonomy and freedom to grow and expand.

**Lobbyists:** individuals who persuade legislators to vote for a special interest of their group. (LO 11.2.3)

Although the government regulates lobbyists, their influence on politicians is still substantial. The amount of money flowing in the direction of campaigns has raised ethical concerns about whether politicians can remain unbiased and serve the needs of their constituents as opposed to wealthy donors and corporations.

**Marxist Power Model:** ruling forces formulate public policies that are in the best interest of capitalism and the ruling class. (LO 11.2.2)

This model positions the state or government in control of the resources and the perpetuation of capitalism. Power originates from the economic basis of capitalism and is concentrated among the elite within the upper class. A key component is that the ruling class exploits the masses to gain more power and resources. This classic conflict theory depicts the struggle for scarce resources among the haves and the have-nots within a society.

**Monopolies:** possessing near or complete control of commodities or producing goods and services. (LO 11.2.1)

Monopolies were common in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but have been all but eliminated in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An example of a monopoly was the American Bell Telephone Company. In 1982, the monopoly was mandated to divide into independent companies. Monopolies can control prices and exploit consumers.

**Offshoring:** corporations transferring jobs overseas. (LO 11.4.1)

Offshoring is a tool used by businesses to save money by sending jobs outside the country to be completed by workers who earn extremely low wages. By offshoring jobs, businesses save money, avoid paying health insurance, have a more flexible workforce, and have access to a global workforce.

**Outsourcing:** hiring a subcontractor or outside agency to complete the work formally done by employees within the company. (LO 11.4.1)

Outsourcing is a tool used by businesses to save money by reducing in-house employee costs and hiring contractors. By outsourcing jobs, businesses can pay lower salaries, avoid paying health insurance, and have a more flexible workforce.

**Pluralist Power Model:** power is fragmented and dispersed among groups within a society. (LO 11.2.2)

This model indicates that power in society is distributed among many groups, such as unions, corporations, professional associations, consumer-based organizations, and many more. Power is dispersed and fragmented among many members and groups within society, which is more representative than power within the hands of a few. Power and influence are distributed among insider and outsider groups through a continuous bargaining process between competing groups.

**Political Consumerism:** choosing producers and products with the goal of changing ethical or objectionable institutional or market practices. (LO 11.1.1)

One example of political consumerism is in the area of sustainability and social justice issues. Some consumers boycott companies that use sweatshop labor or exploit workers in other ways.

**Political Participation:** actions to support the government or politicians. (LO 11.1.1)

This is a generic type of participation and is the broadest of all types. Simply voting or donating to a campaign qualifies as political participation. If you have participated in a “Get Out the Vote” campaign, you have engaged in this type of action.

**Political Sociology:** the study of political groups, leadership, and social power. (LO 11.1.1)

This special field within sociology addresses topics such as special interest groups, campaign finance reform, and gender issues regarding differences of power between males and females within politics. Many sociology departments at colleges and universities offer one or more courses related to political sociology.

**Poll Tax:** a fee members of the electorate must pay in order to participate in the voting process. (LO 11.3.4)

While at face value, a poll tax is a fee voters pay to offset the cost of an election, historically, those in power have used it as a backhanded political tool to exclude certain citizens from voting. The added voting fee works by making it too expensive for those with limited incomes to vote.

**Power:** the ability to exert control over others and achieve goals with or without the support of society. (LO 11.2.2)

This concept indicates that an individual’s agency, or the ability to act as an individual and make one’s own choice, is compromised. Max Weber stated power is the ability to control others, resources, and events.

**Power Elite Model:** power is concentrated among the elite and wealthy, particularly corporations, governments, and the military. (LO 11.2.2)

This model reflects the conflict theory of power and resources being in the hands of a limited few. C. Wright Mills contended the powerful consists of the people who occupy the top positions in the government, industry, and military. The bureaucracies are composed of a small number of relatively unified individuals who are focused on the interests of the elite members of society. Through this system of elitism, the power is maintained by government officials, military leaders, and corporate leaders.

**Proportional Representation:**

a system in which a political party's representation in government is proportional to the number of votes they receive. (LO 11.3.1)

Proportional representation is based on the notion that the number of seats a political party holds in government is based on the proportion of votes that party wins in an election. This approach to government is seen by many as a way to increase the voice of minority voters because their representatives would receive a voice in government proportional to the votes they receive.

**Redistricting:** changes in the boundaries of an electoral voting district. (LO 11.3.1)

Redistricting is a way to tweak the electoral system such that certain populations are included or excluded from an election. It involves politicians manipulating the political process to their advantage.

**Service Worker:** employees who provide food, physical comfort, shelter, or mechanical support. (LO 11.4.1)

Service workers are those whose job consists of providing in-person assistance to customers. Examples include home health aides, car mechanics, and flight attendants.

**Socialism:** an economic and political system based on cooperative management or citizens' production and distribution of goods and services normally within a democratic government. (LO 11.2.1)

Scandinavian countries are socialist systems and theoretically function for the good of the whole of society rather than stressing individualism.

**Sweatshops:** factories that offer their workers low wages and long hours in dangerous working conditions. (LO 11.4.1)

Sweatshops produce large volumes of products at extremely low wages, saving corporations tremendous amounts of money. While sweatshops may offer financial savings to corporations, they often leave employees in subpar working conditions, working long hours and very little pay.

**Totalitarian:** a state-controlled government holding all authority over public and private lives. (LO 11.2.1)

Cuba has been able to control all citizens under the rule of the Castro family for over 50 years. Nearly all aspects of the lives of Cubans have been controlled by the government resulting in citizens risking their lives on small rafts and boats to escape the island and seek asylum in the U.S.