

## Glossary of key terms

<b>Administration</b>	A term with two meanings. Either (1) a term synonymous with government – e.g. the Bush administration, the Schröder administration or (2) a term synonymous with the management processes of bureaucracies – e.g. the administration of the state through bureaucratic agencies.
<b>Affirmative action (also known as positive discrimination)</b>	Policies designed to redress past discrimination. In this case, state bureaucracies may be required to increase recruitment of minority groups.
<b>Agenda setting</b>	The process by which a multiplicity of political problems and issues are continuously sorted according to the changing priority attached to them. In communication research, the theory claiming that the mass media may not exercise much influence over what we think, but can influence what we think about.
<b>Alford index</b>	A measure of class voting that calculates the difference between the proportion of working-class people voting for a left party, and the proportion of middle-class people doing the same. The higher the index, the greater the class voting.
<b>Aligned groups</b>	Pressure groups that ally themselves with a political party, the best examples being trade unions and left parties, and business organisations and right parties. Many groups try to maintain a non-aligned status if they can, because they want to work with whichever party is in power.
<b>Authoritarian attitudes</b>	A system or syndrome of attitudes based upon: prejudice, dogmatism, superstition, low tolerance for ambiguity, hostility to out-groups (anti-semitism and racism) and obedience to authority.
<b>Bill</b>	A formal proposal for a law put before a legislature but not yet accepted by it.
<b>'Black economy'</b>	The 'informal economy' in which goods and services are traded for cash, without bills, receipts, or financial records that would enable the authorities to levy taxes on them.

<b>Bureaucracy</b>	A rational, impersonal, rule-bound and hierarchical form of organisational structure set up to perform large-scale administrative tasks.
<b>Cash transfers</b>	A way to provide social security payments to citizens by giving them money. An alternative to cash benefits is the provision of goods and services.
<b>Catch-all parties</b>	Lacking a clear social basis, catch-all parties try to attract a broad range of supporters by advocating rather general policies.
<b>Caucus</b>	A small but loose-knit group of politicians (notables) who come together from time to time to make decisions about political matters.
<b>Cause groups</b>	Sometimes known as 'promotional groups' or 'attitude groups', cause groups are a type of pressure group that does not represent organised occupational interests, but promotes causes or ideas.
<b>Centre-periphery cleavage</b>	The political cleavage between the social and political forces responsible for creating centralised and modern nation-states, which usually became dominant, and other interests, usually on the periphery of the state, which resisted this process. Centre-periphery cleavages are often, but not always, geographical.
<b>Charter of the United Nations</b>	Founding treaty of the United Nations (UN) that defines the purposes of the UN and confers certain powers on it.
<b>Checking and balancing power</b>	<i>See</i> Separation of powers.
<b>Civic culture</b>	The term used by Almond and Verba to signify the balance of subject and participant political cultures that best supports democracy.
<b>Civil service</b>	The body of civilian officials (not members of the armed forces) employed by the state to work in government departments. In some countries, the term applies to all public officials (local government and teachers), but in most it includes only the officials of central government.
<b>Civil society</b>	That arena of social life outside the state and the family (i.e. mainly voluntary organisations and civic associations) that permits individuals to associate freely and independently of state regulation.
<b>Class</b>	Class is a form of social stratification that is determined by economic factors, notably the occupational hierarchy that broadly groups people into working-class (manual), middle-class (non-manual) and upper-class (wealthy property-owning) groups.

<b>Class de-alignment</b>	A process of decline in the class-based strength of attachment and sense of belonging to class-based political parties.
<b>Cleavages</b>	Cleavages are deep and persistent differences in society where (1) objective social differences (class, religion, race, language, or region) are aligned with (2) subjective awareness of these differences (different cultures, ideologies and orientations) and are (3) organised by political parties, groups, or movements. Cleavages are often the basis of political conflict.
<b>Clientelism</b>	A system of government and politics based on a relationship between patron and clients. Public sector jobs and contracts are distributed on the basis of personal and political contacts in return for political support.
<b>Coalition</b>	A set of parties that comes together to form a government. Coalition parties are usually represented in the cabinet, but sometimes one party takes all the cabinet posts with the support of a legislative coalition.
<b>Cognitive mobilisation</b>	The process by which increasing knowledge and understanding of the world helps to activate people to play a part in it.
<b>Collective responsibility</b>	The principle that decisions and policies of the cabinet or council are binding on all members who must support them in public in order to maintain the government's united front. What cabinet or council members say or believe in private is a different matter, but public disagreement should be followed by resignation from the government.
<b>Conciliation</b>	See Mediation.
<b>Confederations</b>	Organisations whose members give some powers to a higher body, while retaining their own autonomy and independence, including the right to leave the confederation.
<b>Conglomerates</b>	Single business organisations consisting of a number of different companies that operate in different economic fields.
<b>Constitution</b>	A constitution is a set of fundamental laws that determines what the central institutions and offices of the state are to be, their powers and duties, and how they relate to one another and to their citizens.
<b>Content regulation</b>	Regulation of the content of the media by public bodies in the public interest – e.g. to limit violence on TV, or ban cigarette adverts. The content regulation of news and current affairs programmes usually aims at accurate, balanced, and impartial political reporting, and fair access for the parties to the mass media.

<b>Conventions</b>	Unwritten rules that impose obligations on constitutional actors that are held to be binding, but not incorporated into law or reinforced by legal sanctions. (The term is also used to refer to meetings of political groups or parties – the Republican Party Convention, for example.)
<b>Corporatism</b>	A way of organising public policy making involving the close cooperation of major economic interests within a formal government apparatus that is capable of concerting the main economic groups so that they can jointly formulate and implement binding policies.
<b>Corruption</b>	The use of illegitimate means such as bribery, blackmail, or threats to influence or control the making of public decisions, or the secret use of public offices or resources for private purposes.
<b>Country</b>	Term usually used as a rather imprecise synonym or ‘shorthand’ for state or nation-state. It stresses the geographical location or territory of a state.
<b>Cross-cutting cleavages</b>	See Reinforcing and cross-cutting cleavages.
<b>Cross-media ownership/Multi-media conglomeration</b>	When the same person or company has financial interests in different branches of mass communication – e.g. when they own a newspaper and a TV channel, or a publishing house and TV network.
<b>Decentralisation</b>	Where some functions of the state are carried out by sub-central agencies that have a degree of discretion or autonomy from the central government.
<b>‘Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen’</b>	The seventeen articles, describing the purpose of the state and the rights of individual citizens, proclaimed by the French National Assembly in August 1789. A similar list had been proclaimed in the USA thirteen years earlier, in 1776.
<b>Delegated legislation</b>	Law or decrees made by ministers, not by legislatures, though in accordance to powers granted to them by the legislative body.
<b>Democratic deficit</b>	A term used to convey the idea that the institutions of the European Union are not fully democratic, or as democratic as they should be. The criticism is often used to support suggestions that the power of the EP should be increased at the expense of the Commission and the Council of Ministers.
<b>Democracy</b>	A political system whose leaders are elected in competitive multi-party and multi-candidate processes in which opposition parties have a legitimate chance of attaining power or participating in power (Freedom House). Terms such as ‘liberal democracy’ are often used as synonyms for democracy.

<b>Devolution</b>	Where higher levels of government grant decision making powers to lower levels while maintaining their constitutionally subordinate status.
<b>Direct election</b>	Election by the electorate at large (popular election) rather than by an electoral college, the legislature, or another body.
<b>Disproportionality</b>	See Proportionality/Disproportionality.
<b>Dominant one-party system</b>	A party system in which one party dominates all the others. Dominant party systems are found in democratic countries with competitive parties. They must be distinguished from undemocratic one-party systems where only one party is allowed to operate freely.
<b>Door-step response</b>	The tendency of those with no opinion or information to respond to polls and surveys with the first thing that comes into their head, often something they think they are expected to say (sometimes known as 'non-opinion').
<b>Dual systems</b>	System of local government in unitary states in which local authorities have more independence than in fused systems but still operate under the general authority of central government.
<b>Ecology</b>	The relationships between organisms and their environment.
<b>Electoral threshold</b>	A way of discouraging small parties, by requiring them to get a given minimum percentage of votes or seats to be elected.
<b>Empirical political theories</b>	Theories that try to understand how the political world actually works and to explain why it works that way. Empirical theory is ultimately based upon evidence and argument that can, in principle, be tested and verified by political science.
<b>Empirical statements</b>	Factual statements about or explanations of the world. Empirical statements are not necessarily true or false, but they are amenable, in principle, to disproof and falsification ( <i>see</i> normative statement).
<b>'Episodic' groups</b>	Groups that are not usually politically active but become so for a time when the need arises.
<b>Essentially contestable concept</b>	A concept that is inevitably the subject of endless dispute about their proper use (e.g. art, democracy, politics and a Christian life).
<b>Etatism</b>	Approaches to the relationships between state and society with a very strong emphasis on state power and an accompanying reduction of social and individual rights.
<b>Executive</b>	The branch of government mainly responsible for initiating government action, making and implementing public policy, and coordinating the activities of the state.

<b>Externality</b>	A cost or benefit that does not fall on those who are responsible for the decision or action that creates the externality, and which they do not take into account when they take the action.
<b>False consciousness</b>	The state of mind of the working class induced by the ruling class to conceal the real nature of capitalism and the real self-interests of the workers.
<b>Federal states</b>	Federal states combine a central authority (federal government) with a degree of constitutionally defined autonomy for sub-central territorial units of government (states, or regions, or provinces).
<b>'Fire brigade' groups</b>	Groups formed to fight a specific issue, and dissolved when it is over.
<b>Framing</b>	The theory that the way news stories are set up (framed) influences how audiences interpret them – e.g. the use of human interest stories to illustrate a social problem can deflect attention from government policies that help to cause the problem to the personal inadequacies of individuals who are the subjects of human interest.
<b>Free-ride</b>	To extract the benefits of other people's work without putting in any effort oneself. The free-rider problem is acute in collective action when some individuals benefit from a public good (clean air, for example, or public transport), though contributing little or nothing to it (continue to drive around in gas-guzzling car, not buying a ticket).
<b>Fused systems</b>	Systems of local government in unitary states in which officials appointed by central government directly supervise the work of local government and its elected officials.
<b>General competence</b>	The power of local government units to manage their own affairs, provided they observe the laws of the land and relatively few legally defined exceptions.
<b>Gerrymandering</b>	A form of electoral corruption in which electoral boundaries are drawn to favour a particular party or interest.
<b>Globalisation</b>	The growing interdependencies and interconnectedness of the world that are said to reduce the autonomy of individual states and the importance of boundaries between them.
<b>Governance</b>	The act of governing; that is, the total set of government's activities in each phase of the policy making process.
<b>Government</b>	A government executes the monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force within a state. Securing internal and external sovereignty of the state are major tasks of any government.

<b>'Grand' coalitions</b>	Oversized coalitions that include all parties or all the largest of them.
<b>Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</b>	The value of all final goods and services produced within a state in a given year. In order to compare the wealth of states the measure used is normally GDP <i>per capita</i> .
<b>Hegemony</b>	Originally a Marxist term, hegemony indicates a class that is so powerful that it does not have to rely upon force or power to maintain its rule because its values and attitudes have been accepted by all other classes. Often used now to mean all-powerful – since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the USA has become the 'hegemonic' world power, for example.
<b>Human Development Index (HDI)</b>	A UN index of national development that combines measures of life expectancy, educational attainment and wealth into one measure.
<b>Human rights</b>	The innate, inalienable and inviolable right of humans to free movement and self-determination in relation to the state. Such rights cannot be bestowed, granted, limited, bartered away, or sold away. Inalienable rights can be only secured or violated.
<b>Hyper-pluralism</b>	A state of affairs in which too many powerful groups make too many demands on government, causing overload and ungovernability.
<b>Idealism</b>	In political theory, the term 'idealism' refers to the theory that ideas have a life of their own and must be understood as the products of consciousness or spiritual ideals and values that are independent of material conditions. In international relations idealism refers to the view of politics that emphasises the role of ideas and morality as a determinant of the relations between states ( <i>see</i> Materialism).
<b>Ideal-type</b>	An analytical construct that simplifies reality and picks out its most important features, to serve as a model that allows us to understand and compare the complexities of the real world. An ideal-type is neither a standard of perfection (as in 'an ideal husband') nor a statistical average, but a simplified, theoretical abstraction from the real world that helps us compare individual cases.
<b>Ideologues</b>	Those with an informed, broad, sophisticated and more or less consistent (systematic) view of the political world.
<b>Ideology</b>	A more or less systematic, well-developed and comprehensive set of ideas and beliefs about politics consisting of both (empirical) statements about what is, and (prescriptive) statements about what ought to be.

<b>Immobilism</b>	The state of being unable to move (immobilised) or in a political system of being unable to take decisions or implement policies.
<b>Impeachment</b>	To charge a public official, usually an elected politician, with improper conduct in office before a duly constituted tribunal, usually the main elected legislative body, prior to removing the official from office if they are found guilty. Not known much outside the USA, and not often used there.
<b>Implementation</b>	The process of applying policies and putting them into practice.
<b>Incremental model</b>	The theory that decisions are not usually based upon a rational or fundamental review of problems and solution, but upon small, marginal changes from existing policies.
<b>'Insider' groups</b>	Pressure groups with access to senior government officials, often recognised as the only legitimate representatives of particular interests and often formally incorporated into the official consultative bodies.
<b>Interest aggregation</b>	The process of sorting and sifting the great variety of political attitudes and opinions on any given political issues, so that it is reduced to a set of more simple and clear-cut 'packages' of opinion.
<b>Interest articulation</b>	The process of expressing political needs and demands in order to influence public policy.
<b>Interest groups</b>	Sometimes known as 'sectional groups', interest groups are a type of pressure group that represents occupational interests. The main types are business associations, professional associations and trade unions.
<b>Interpellation</b>	A parliamentary question addressed to government requiring a formal answer and often followed by discussion, and sometimes by a vote.
<b>'Iron triangles'</b>	The close, three-sided working relationship developed between (1) government departments and ministries, (2) pressure groups and (3) politicians, that make public policy in a given area.
<b>Judicial activism</b>	Judicial activism involves the courts taking a broad and active view of their role as interpreters of the constitution and reviewers of executive and legislative action.
<b>Judicial review</b>	The binding power of the courts to provide an authoritative interpretation of laws, including constitutional law, and to overturn executive or legislative actions they hold to be illegal or unconstitutional.
<b>Judiciary</b>	The branch of government mainly responsible for the authoritative interpretation of law and applying it to particular cases.

<b>Knowledge gap</b>	The gap between those with a good education and understanding of the world, which enables them to acquire knowledge and understanding at a faster rate than those with less education and understanding.
<b>Labour productivity</b>	The average production per labourer in a specific period (for instance, the average number of ballpoints produced per labourer in a ballpoint pen factory in one year).
<b>Laissez-faire doctrines</b>	The literal translation from the French is 'to let to do'. Laissez-faire is the principle of maximum freedom for the economic forces of the market, and minimum intervention from the state.
<b>Legislation</b>	Legislation is the body of laws that have been passed by the legislature. Legislating is thus the act of initiating, debating and passing such laws.
<b>Legislative oversight</b>	The role of the legislature that involves the scrutiny or supervision of other branches of government, especially the executive and the public bureaucracy.
<b>Legislature</b>	The branch of government mainly responsible for discussing and passing legislation, and keeping watch on the executive.
<b>Legitimacy</b>	The condition of being in accordance with the norms and values of the people. The 'legitimate use of power' refers to the use of power that is accepted because it is in accordance with the norms and values of the people it concerns.
<b>Legitimation</b>	The process of making something morally acceptable, proper or right in the eyes of the general public according to accepted standards and values.
<b>Liberal democracy</b>	The form of democracy that tries to combine the powers of democratic government with liberal values about the freedom of the individual.
<b>Lobby</b>	A popular term for pressure groups (based on the mistaken belief that pressure group representatives spend a lot of time in the 'lobbies' or ante-rooms of legislative chambers).
<b>Low information rationality</b>	Where citizens do not have a great deal of factual political information but have a broad enough grasp of the main issues to make up their mind about them, or else they take their cues about the issues from sources they trust (sometimes known as 'gut rationality').
<b>Market regulation</b>	The regulation of the media market by public bodies, often to avoid cross-media ownership, foreign control of important channels of national communication, or cases of market failure.

<b>Mass society</b>	A society without a plurality of organised social groups and interests, whose mass of isolated and uprooted individuals are not integrated into the community and who are therefore vulnerable to the appeals of extremist and anti-democratic elites.
<b>Materialism</b>	The theory that ideas are rooted in the material or physical conditions of life, as opposed to spiritual ideals and values which are constructs of the mind which can be independent of material and physical conditions ( <i>see</i> Idealism).
<b>Means testing</b>	In contrast to public benefits that are universally available, means testing involves investigating a person's income and means of support to ensure that they cannot afford to pay for the service themselves. Means testing is often resented by welfare applicants and is politically controversial.
<b>Mediamalaise</b>	The attitudes of political cynicism, despair, apathy, distrust and disillusionment (among others) that some social scientists claim are caused by the mass media, especially TV.
<b>Median voter</b>	The median is the middle number in any distribution of numbers. The median voter is in the middle of the distribution with equal numbers of voters to the left and right. The support of the median voter is usually necessary to win an election.
<b>Mediation</b>	Attempt by a third party to reach an agreement between disputing parties by suggesting terms of settlement.
<b>Meso-government</b>	A middle level or tier of government between central and local authorities, and often known as state, regional, provincial or county government.
<b>Military-industrial complex</b>	The close and powerful alliance of government, business and military interests that is said by some to run capitalist societies.
<b>Minimum winning coalition (MWC)</b>	The smallest number of parties necessary for a majority of votes in parliament.
<b>Minority government</b>	A government or coalition that is smaller than a MWC.
<b>Mixed economy</b>	An economy that is neither wholly privately owned (a capitalist market economy), nor wholly publicly owned (a communist command economy), but a mixture of both.
<b>Multi-member districts</b>	<i>See</i> Single-member/Multi-member districts.
<b>Multi-party systems</b>	Where several or many main parties compete, often with the result that no single party has an overall majority.
<b>Nation</b>	<i>See</i> nation-state.

<b>Nation-state</b>	A state based on the acceptance of a common culture, a common history and a common fate, irrespective of whatever political, social and economic differences may exist between the members of the nation-state.
<b>New Public Management (NPM)</b>	New Public Management (NPM) refers to the reforms of the public sector in the 1980s and 1990s, based mainly on what were thought to be private sector practice and consisting mainly of privatisation, deregulation, business management techniques and 'marketisation'. Known also as 'reinventing government', it is said to have had the effect of 'hollowing out' the state.
<b>New Social Movements</b>	Loosely knit organisations ('networks of networks') that try to influence government policy on broad issues, including the environment, nuclear energy and nuclear weapons, economic development, peace, women and minorities.
<b>Non-decision</b>	The decision not to deal with an issue, perhaps not even to consider it.
<b>Non-governmental organisation (NGO)</b>	A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is a non-profit making, non-violent private organisation that is independent of government and seeks to influence or control government policy without actually seeking government office.
<b>Normative political theories</b>	Theories about how the world should be or ought to be. Normative theory is based upon philosophical arguments, and ultimately on subjective values and judgements. Sometimes it is known as prescriptive theory, political theory, or political philosophy.
<b>Normative statements</b>	Statement that are based upon faith, or contain a value judgement or an evaluation. Sometimes referred to as prescriptive, or evaluative statements. Normative statements are neither scientific nor unscientific, but non-scientific ( <i>see</i> empirical statements).
<b>Oligarchy</b>	Government by a few.
<b>Ombudsman</b>	A state official appointed to receive complaints and investigate claims about maladministration (improper or unjust action) and to report their findings, usually to the legislature.
<b>One-party systems</b>	Government systems in which a single party forms the government.
<b>Outcomes</b>	The impacts, or effects, of outputs.
<b>Outputs</b>	The policy decisions as they are actually implemented.
<b>'Outsider' groups</b>	Groups with no access to top government officials.
<b>'Oversized' (surplus majority) coalitions</b>	A coalition that is larger than a MWC.

<b>Parliamentary systems</b>	Parliamentary systems are characterised by (1) a directly elected legislative body, (2) the fusion of executive and legislative institutions, (3) a collective and collegial executive that emerges out of the legislature and is responsible to it and (4) a separation of head of state and head of government.
<b>Participatory democracy</b>	That form of democracy in which citizens actively participate in government and political processes.
<b>Partisan de-alignment</b>	A process of decline in the strength of attachment and sense of belonging to the political parties.
<b>Partisan re-alignment</b>	A process in which social and economic groups show signs of a long-term change in their old party identifications in favour of new ones.
<b>Party families</b>	Groups of parties in different countries that have similar ideologies and party programmes.
<b>Party identification (ID)</b>	The stable and deep-rooted feeling of attachment to and support for a political party.
<b>Party systems</b>	The pattern of significant parties within a political system, especially their number and the party families represented.
<b>Peak associations</b>	See 'Umbrella' organisations.
<b>People</b>	Group of persons living together on the territory of a state whose common consciousness and identity usually form them into a collective entity.
<b>Performance</b>	Actual activities and results; how well government is doing or how successful it is in offering citizens what they prefer.
<b>Pluralism</b>	A situation where power is dispersed among many different groups and organisations that openly compete with one another in different political arenas.
<b>Pluralist democracy</b>	The theory of modern democracy arguing that political decisions are the outcome of the conflict and competition between many different groups and organisations representing many different interests.
<b>Police</b>	The branch of government employed to maintain civil order and to investigate breaches of the law.
<b>Policy communities</b>	Small, stable and consensual groupings of government officials and pressure group representatives that form around particular issue areas.
<b>Policy networks</b>	Compared with policy communities, policy networks are larger, looser, and more conflictual networks that gather around a particular policy area.
<b>Political alienation</b>	A feeling of detachment, estrangement, or critical distance from politics, often because the alienated feel there is something basically wrong with the political system.

<b>Political behaviour</b>	Term used to refer to all political activities of citizens as well as the attitudes and orientations relevant for these activities.
<b>Political cleavage</b>	A political division caused by the overlap of social differences (religion, race, language, class, culture, history) with ideological differences. Such cleavages are especially important if they coincide with territorial divisions.
<b>Political culture</b>	The pattern of attitudes, values and beliefs about politics, whether they are conscious or unconscious, explicit or implicit.
<b>Political elite</b>	The relatively small number of people at the top of a political system who exercise disproportionate influence or power over political decisions. If it exercises enough power in the system, it is a 'ruling elite'.
<b>Political marginality</b>	The condition of being on the fringes of politics, and therefore of having little influence.
<b>Political orientation</b>	A predisposition or propensity to view politics in a certain way.
<b>Political parties</b>	Organisations of politically like-minded people who seek political power and public office in order to realise their policies.
<b>Political socialisation</b>	The process by which individuals acquire their political values, attitudes and habits. Childhood socialisation is most important, but socialisation continues in adulthood as well.
<b>Presidential systems</b>	In presidential systems a directly elected president is the executive, with a limited term of office and a general responsibility for the affairs of state, who governs with a separate and independently elected legislature.
<b>Pressure groups</b>	Private and voluntary organisations that try to influence or control particular government policies but do not want to become the government or control all government policies.
<b>Prevention</b>	Attempt to hinder or deter delinquent behaviour.
<b>Priming</b>	The theory that the mass media can prime us to focus on certain things and in certain ways by highlighting some issues rather than others – e.g. focusing on foreign rather than domestic policy favours parties that are thought to be better at foreign policy than domestic policy.
<b>Privatisation</b>	The process of converting public services and amenities to private ones.
<b>Productivity</b>	<i>See also</i> Labour productivity.

<b>Proportionality/ Disproportionality</b>	A measure of the ratio of seats to votes. The more proportional the system, the closer the ratio of seats to votes. In the most proportional voting system a party getting 43 per cent of the votes should get 43 per cent of the seats, or close to this figure, since seats are not divisible.
<b>Protest vote</b>	Where citizens vote for a party not because they support it, but because they oppose other parties.
<b>Provision of goods and services</b>	A way to provide social security for citizens by offering them not money but specific facilities such as housing or job training. Cash transfers are an alternative to goods and services.
<b>(Public) policy</b>	Some general set of ideas or plans that has been officially agreed on and which is used as a basis for making decisions. A public policy is the long series of activities, decisions and actions carried out by officials of government in their attempts to solve problems that are thought to lie in the public or collective arena.
<b>Public-private partnerships (PPPs)</b>	Formal cooperations between government and private groups to obtain specific goals.
<b>Public sector</b>	That part of social, economic and political life that is not private but controlled or regulated by the state or its agencies.
<b>Public service model</b>	The system of organising radio and TV in which broadcasting licences are granted to public bodies, usually supported by public funds, for use in the public interest rather than for profit.
<b>QUANGOs (Quasi-autonomous Non-Governmental Organisations)</b>	Organisations that are partially or wholly funded by the government to perform public service functions but not under direct government control.
<b>Realism</b>	In international relations realism refers to the view of politics that emphasises the role of self-interest as a determinant of state policies and hence the importance of power in these relations. In realist theory states (and other actors such as business organisations) are presumed to act more or less rationally to promote their own interests.
<b>Referendum</b>	The submission of a public matter to direct popular vote. Sometimes known as a plebiscite.
<b>Reinforcement theory (also known as minimal effects theory)</b>	The theory that the mass media can only reflect and reinforce public opinion, not create or mould it.

<b>Reinforcing and cross-cutting cleavages</b>	Reinforcing cleavages are laid one on top of the other, making them more potent. Cross-cutting cleavages are laid across one another, thereby reducing their capacity to divide.
<b>Representative democracy</b>	That form of democracy in which citizens elect leaders who govern in their name.
<b>Ruling elite</b>	A political elite that is so powerful that it can make all the important decisions in government.
<b>Salient</b>	Something that is important, significant, or prominent in people's minds.
<b>Semi-presidential system</b>	Semi-presidential government consists of a directly elected president who is accountable to the electorate and a prime minister, who is appointed by the president from the elected legislature and accountable to it. The president and prime minister share executive power.
<b>Separation of powers</b>	The doctrine that political power should be divided among several bodies or officers of the state, often between bodies or officers performing different government functions, as a precaution against too much concentration of power.
<b>Single-member/ Multi-member districts</b>	Single-member districts have one representative each in parliament, while multi-member districts have two or more to make it easier to attain proportionality.
<b>Social capital</b>	The features of social organisations, such as trust, social norms and social networks, that improve social and governmental efficiency by encouraging cooperation and collective action.
<b>Social expenditures</b>	Social expenditures are the provision by public (and private) institutions of benefits to households and individuals in order to provide support during circumstances which adversely affect their welfare. This is the definition used by the OECD.
<b>Social stratification</b>	The hierarchical layering of society into socially unequal groups. It includes peasants and landowners, castes, classes and status groups.
<b>Sociotropic voting</b>	Deciding which party to vote for on the basis of general social or economic circumstances. The opposite is 'pocket-book voting' that is based on private interests of the voter.
<b>Sovereignty</b>	A state is sovereign when it holds the highest power and, in principle, can act with complete freedom and independence. Internal sovereignty means that, on its own territory, the state can act as it wishes and is independent of other institutions. External sovereignty refers to the fact that the state is seen as autonomous by other states.

<b>Spectrum scarcity</b>	The shortage of terrestrial broadcasting frequencies for radio and TV, which meant that there could be only a few channels.
<b>Spin-doctors</b>	Public relations specialists employed to put the best possible light on news about their clients. Often used in political life to imply attempts to manipulate the news.
<b>State</b>	An organisation that issues and enforces rules that are binding for the people living in a given territorially defined area.
<b>Status</b>	A form of social stratification determined by social prestige rather than economic factors or occupation. It is sometimes said that class is determined by how people make their money, status by how they spend it. Sometimes class and status are combined in the single measure of social and economic status.
<b>Street-level bureaucrats</b>	The bureaucrats who regularly come into contact and deal with the public.
<b>Subjective or internal competence/efficacy</b>	The extent to which ordinary citizens feel that they can make their views and actions count in the political system. The opposites of the term are 'powerlessness', 'inefficacy' or 'low competence'.
<b>Sub-central/sub-national government</b>	All levels of government below national/central government. Sub-national government covers everything below central government from community and neighbourhood government, through local government of all kinds, to the middle or meso-level of state, regional and provincial government.
<b>Subsidiarity</b>	The principle that decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level of government – that is, at the level closest to the people affected by the decisions. Usually the term subsidiarity is used in connection with the territorial decentralisation of government, but it is not limited to this form.
<b>Suffrage</b>	The right to vote. Hence 'suffragettes' were women who fought for the right of women to vote.
<b>Supra-national government</b>	Organisations in which countries pool their sovereignty on certain matters to allow joint decision-making.
<b>System or external efficacy</b>	The extent to which ordinary citizens feel that political leaders and institutions are responsive to their wishes.
<b>Territory</b>	Terrain or geographical area.
<b>Terrorism</b>	The use of violence (such as murder, torture, bombing, kidnapping, hijacking, violent resistance) to spread fear and horror for political aims. What some regard as terrorism is seen as 'freedom fighting' by others.

<b>'Third wave' (of democracy)</b>	Democratisation across the world is often divided into 'three waves'. The first, from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, saw between twenty-five and thirty states achieve a degree of democratic stability, depending on how 'democracy' is defined. The second, from about 1950 to 1975, was mainly the result of decolonisation. The third, from about 1975 to 2000, was mainly the result of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the spread of democracy in Latin America and Asia.
<b>Tri-partism</b>	A looser and less centralised system of decision making than corporatism involving close government consultation – often with business and trade union organisations.
<b>Two-party systems</b>	Party systems in which two large parties dominate all the others.
<b>'Umbrella'/organisations</b>	Associations that coordinate the activity of their member organisations.
<b>Unitary states</b>	In unitary states the central government is the only sovereign body. It does not share <i>constitutional</i> authority with any sub-central units of government.
<b>Values</b>	Basic ethical priorities that constrain and give shape to individual attitudes and beliefs.
<b>Volatility</b>	The opposite of stability, volatility involves change in voting patterns from one election to another. Some voting studies refer to it as 'churning'.
<b>Vote of confidence</b>	A vote of confidence (or no confidence), to test whether the government of the day continues to have the majority support of members of the assembly. Its importance lies in the normal convention that governments losing a vote of confidence should resign.
<b>Voting system</b>	The arrangements by which votes are converted into seats on representative bodies.
<b>Voting turnout</b>	The number of citizens casting a valid vote expressed either as a percentage of those eligible to vote (adult citizens), or as a percentage of those on the electoral register.
<b>Welfare states</b>	Democracies that accept responsibility for the young and old, the sick and disabled and the unemployed and poor. Welfare states are characterised by resource redistribution policies.