

MK'Isms (Must Know'Isms)

1. **Humanism** – (1450 – Present) The new emphasis in the Renaissance on human culture, education and reason, sparked by a revival of interest in classical Greek and Roman literature, culture, and language. Human nature and the dignity of man were exalted and emphasis was placed on the present life as a worthy event in itself (as opposed to the medieval emphasis on the present life merely as preparation for a future life).
2. **Absolutism** – (1600s-1700s) Used to describe the government of Ancien Regime states, especially France, Russia, Spain and Prussia. The term indicates that the only legitimate source of power in such states was the monarch. In particular the rules of such states tried to deprive the aristocracy and the church of the ability to compete with the monarch. This ideal was rarely achieved. The term does not mean that the monarch had immediate and direct control of everyday life. For that, see totalitarianism.
3. **Constitutionalism** (1600s – present)- The belief that governments will defer to the rules and principles enshrined in a constitution and uphold the rule of law.
4. **Mercantilism** \$(1500s-1600s) - international commerce should primarily serve to increase a country's financial wealth, especially of gold and foreign currency. To that end, exports are viewed as desirable and imports as undesirable unless they lead to even greater exports.
5. **Capitalism** \$– an economic system run self-interest controlled by competition where individuals own property. Used by the US
6. **Socialism** \$– an economic system where the government controls the economy. Used by the Soviet Union
7. **Communism** - no\$- a social system where there is no private property, no social classes, and no government. It has never been used it is a utopia.
8. **Imperialism** – (1870-1914) when one country takes over the Economic, Social and Political life of another country
9. **Nationalism** (1800s-early 1900s) having pride in your country or ethnic group.
10. **Totalitarianism** - System of government where a one party dictatorship has total control over its citizen's lives. Uses Propaganda, Censorship, Secret Police and outlaws Religion.
11. **Fascism (1930s-1945)** – a militaristic and extremely nationalistic government that uses totalitarianism. (Hitler and Mussolini)
12. **Modernity** (1450-1800s)– A term which encompasses the development of Western society from the Renaissance until the 20th century. It is characterized by a belief in progress, reason (science), individualism (humanism and capitalism) and the development of a centralized nation-state.
13. **Postmodernism**(Late 1800s – present) – A term which encompasses the rejection of modernism seen in Western society today. Its roots go back to the 1800s but it really gains steam after WWI and the Great Depression. It is characterized by cultural relativism, moral pluralism, and a rejection of the notion of progress. (Existentialism, Nihilism)