

Vocabulary for Unit 6

deism: Belief that God exists and created the world but is not active in the universe or human life.

dogma: Teachings recognized as central to Church teaching, defined by the Magisterium and accorded the fullest weight and authority.

empiricism: The philosophical position that all human knowledge comes from experience—especially sensory experience.

ex cathedra: A Latin term literally meaning “from the chair,” referring to pronouncements concerning faith or morals made by the Pope, acting with full Apostolic authority, as pastor and teacher of all Christians.

fideism: A theological doctrine holding that religious truth is a matter of faith and cannot be established by reason.

pantheism: The belief that everything is God; in particular, the belief that God is identical to nature and everything in it, and that God therefore changes just as nature changes.

rationalism: A term that refers to a broad range of philosophical positions that maintain that human reason is the final determinant of truth.

Reign of Terror: A period of violence that occurred after the start of the French Revolution, marked by mass executions of “enemies of the revolution.”

