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Social Studies Word Roots, Prefixes & Suffixes

Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning	Social Studies Word(s)	Definition/Meaning
agri or agro	fields or soil	**agriculture**	Farming
		agrarian	Farming way of life
-al	action, result of action	**capital**	Use of Money/Resources
-an, ian	person	**artisan**	A person instructed in the arts. (metal working)
		historian	A person instructed in history
-ance or -ence	action, state of, quality or process, to make	**independence**	A country/government which is independent from another country/government
anim	mind, life, spirit, anger	**animism**	The belief in nature or life spirits
anti, ant	opposite/against	**anti-Semitism**	The belief of being against someone of Jewish origin.
aqu	water	**aqueduct**	A system for carrying water
-arch	related to a ruler	**patriarch**	Father rules/head of family / father to son
-ar	resembling, related to	**secular**	To be void of religion/ non-religious government
-ation	action, resulting state of, to make	**democratization**	To make a country/region a democracy (rule by the people)
auto	Self	**autonomous**	Self-rule or rule by themselves
		autobiography	A book written by one's self about one's self
bio	life	**biography**	A book about a person's life
chron	time	**chronology**	A timeline
circum	around	**circumnavigate**	Go around
civ, cit	citizen, government	**citizen**	A person in a government
		civil	Government
crat, cracy	rule	**democracy**	People Rule
dei, div	god	**deity**	A god
		divine	God, god like
demos	people	**democracy**	People Rule
geo	earth	**geocentric**	Earth centered universe
helio	sun	**heliocentric**	Sun centered universe
-ian, an	related to, one that is	**totalitarian**	A person who has total/complete control over a country and its people
-ic, ics	related to the arts & sciences	**economic**	Related to the art & science of managing trade
inter	between	**interdependent**	Countries who rely on each other or something that each country relies on between each other to survive.
-ion, -tion	to make, to be	**democratization**	To make a country a democracy
		colonization	To make a colony, to make an area/region dependent on a mother country
		industrialization	To make a place have an industry/factories
-ism	doctrine, belief, action or conduct	**communism**	The belief in living in a community with everyone equal (Politically, Socially, Economically)

Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning	Social Studies Word(s)	Definition/Meaning
-ist	person or member	**capitalist**	A person who practices capitalism (trade & business to make a profit)
-ize	cause	**democratization**	
judice	judge	**prejudice**	To judge someone in a positive/negative light
leg, leag	law	**legislature**	A law making branch of a government
liber	free	**liberty**	To have freedom
liter	Letters	**literature**	A collection of words, books
Lith	Stone	**paleolithic**	Old Stone Age
ology	Study of	**ideology**	Political Beliefs (study of)
magn, magna	Great	**Magna Carta**	The Great Charter of England (1215)
matri	Mother	**matrilineal**	Mother's heritage line of descendants
medi	Middle	**medieval**	Middle Ages
-ment	Condition, result	**government**	The result of ruling (governing) people
meso	Middle	**meospotamia**	Land between the rivers (Tigris, Euphrates)
migra	movement	**Migration**	To move from one place to another
		Emigrate	To leave your homeland/country
		Immigration	To arrive to a new country from your old country
mono	One	**Monotheism**	Belief in one god
neo	New	**Neolithic**	New Stone Age
olig	few, little	**Oligarcy**	Rule by a few
paleo	Old	**Paleolithic**	Old Stone Age
phe	Speech	**Philosopher**	A wise person who loves to speak about problems
philo	a love of	**Philosopher**	A wise person who loves to speak about problems
polis	City	**Acropolis**	High City
poly	Many	**Polytheism**	Belief in many gods
pre	Before	**Prewar**	Before the war
psych	Mind	**Psychology**	Study of the mind
-ship	Condition of	**Dictatorship**	Under an absolute/total control ruler
soci	To join	**Society**	People joining together
soph	Wise	**Philosopher**	A wise person who loves to speak about problems
super, supra	Over, above	**Surplus**	Above, more than you need/have
the, theo	God, a god	**Monotheism**	Belief in one god
		Polytheism	Belief in many gods
		Theology	Study of God/Religion
		Theocracy	Government Rule by Religious leaders
uni	One	**Unity**	Act as one