



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)



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-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	meopotamia	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