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.”