

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

G102 Theme 2 - Social Movements, Democracy and Power

ABSOLUTE RULER

Government by a single person who has full political authority. Often describes a dictator. Absolute monarchs are now rare.

AUTHORITARIAN REGIME

A government where political power is often concentrated in a small number of people not legally responsible to the population for their actions and policies and generally not democratically elected by them. Dictatorships often fall into this group.

DISSIDENTS

Describes people who oppose official government policy, especially that of an authoritarian state, and may face sanction, such as imprisonment, exile or death.

NEW MODEL TRADE UNIONS

A type of trade union that developed during the 1850s and 1860s, designed exclusively for skilled workers. Had a 'conservative' outlook and relied on negotiation in the event of disputes.

NEW UNIONISM

Unions which were developed in the 1880s, aimed at semi and unskilled workers. They were less exclusive in membership than New Model Unions and more likely to be associated with militancy and a willingness to go on strike.

NGO

NGO's are mostly non-profit making organisations that operate independently of government for some social or political purpose, such as providing a service, running development projects or promoting a cause. In some cases they may be partly or wholly publicly funded.

SUFFAGISTS

A movement which advocated the right to vote by adult women by solely peaceful means. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS, aka Suffragists) was founded by Millicent Fawcett in 1897.

SUFFRAGETTES

An active part of the late 19th and early 20th century women's movement aimed at gaining the vote in parliamentary and local elections for adult women, sometimes by violence or other illegal means. Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU, aka Suffragettes) in 1903.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

Denotes the right to vote in parliamentary and local elections by all adults.