

# Edexcel IAL Geography

## Superpowers Glossary of Key Terms



**Bipolar World** - Two superpowers exist, each with opposing ideologies.

**Capitalism** - The belief that individuals may gain wealth and status through business ventures, the hours they work and their skills.

**The Cold War** - Tensions between the USA and USSR from 1950 to the 1990s due to their conflicting ideologies and competition to become a unipolar superpower.

**Colonialism** - The act of gaining control, building an empire and exerting influence over other countries.

**Communism** - The belief that everyone in a population should be equal financially, the property they own and politically.

**Democracy** - A political system where every member of the population has an equal vote.

**Dictatorship** - One individual controls a country, rather than an elected government.

**Economic Alliances** - Trade blocs that promote trade between members, offer each other financial assistance and loans and allow the migration of workers between states.

**Emerging States** - Countries that have quickly gained influence, developed and have notable culture. Emerging States may become superpowers in the future.

**Empire** - A collection of countries, ruled over or influenced by a single government.

**Environmental Alliances** - Groups of countries that discuss and pledge to reduce greenhouse emissions and protect the natural environment.

**Frank's Dependency Model** - Describes neo-colonialism and how a country can gain control over a neo-colony through exploitation and economic dependency.

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** - The investment of money, infrastructure or assets by a foreign government or business.

**Hard Power** - Exerting a country's influence over another through the use of economic or military intervention.

**Human Resources** - The available workforce and skills of the population, which can contribute to a country's status.

**Ideology** - Beliefs and values that are shared within a population.

**Imperial Era** - The period of 18th and 19th Century, when European states created empires, using hard power to rule over America, Africa and Asia.



**Intellectual Property** - The ownership of ideas and designs, such as patents and copyrights.

**Military Alliance** - A group of states that share weapons & intelligence, offer military assistance and discuss international affairs such as terror attacks, national security, etc.

**Multi-Polar World** - There are several superpowers, each with a characteristic strength, competing for global influence and status.

**Physical Resources** - The natural assets such as fossil fuels, minerals or crops, that can be sold for profit or political gain.

**Sanctions** - Restrictions put into place against a country who breaks international law or agreements.

**Soft Power** - Exerting a country's influence over another through cultural diffusion, political reform and FDI.

**Spheres of Contest** - Areas of competition for superpowers and emerging states, e.g. land ownership, intellectual property, state borders.

**Unipolar World** - There is one superpower who dominates economically and politically.

