CHAPTER 1

VOCABULARY WORDS (Vol. II Enhanced)

altercation
—noun
a vehement quarrel.

anarchism
—noun
1. the theory or doctrine that all forms of government are oppressive and undesirable and should be abolished.
2. active resistance and terrorism against the state, as used by some anarchists.
3. rejection of all forms of coercive control and authority.

anti-Semitism
—noun
1. hostility toward or prejudice against Jews or Judaism.
2. discrimination against Jews.

appall
—verb (used with object)
to fill with consternation or dismay.

apprehension
—noun
1. fearful or uneasy anticipation of the future; dread.
2. the act of seizing or capturing; arrest.
3. the ability to apprehend or understand; understanding.

avenger
—noun*
one who seeks vengeance.

avenge
—verb (used with object)
1. to inflict a punishment or penalty in return for; revenge.
2. to take vengeance on behalf of.

avert
—verb (used with object)
1. to turn away.
2. to ward off (something about to happen); prevent.
avow
—verb (used with object)
1. to acknowledge openly, boldly, and unashamedly; confess.
2. to state positively.

benefactor
—noun
one that gives aid, especially financial aid.

bequeath
—verb (used with object)
1. Law. to leave or give (personal property) by will.
2. to pass (something) on to another; hand down.

berate
—verb (used with object)
to rebuke or scold angrily and at length.

bier
—noun
1. a stand on which a corpse or a coffin containing a corpse is placed before burial.
2. a coffin along with its stand.

bilk
—verb (used with object)
1. to defraud, cheat, or swindle.
2. to evade payment of.
3. to thwart or frustrate.
4. to elude.
—noun
1. one who cheats.
2. Obsolete. a hoax or swindle.
blight
—noun
1. any of numerous plant diseases resulting in sudden wilting and dying of affected parts, especially young, growing tissues.
2. an extremely adverse environmental condition, such as air pollution.
3. something that impairs growth, withers hopes and ambitions, or impedes progress and prosperity.
—verb (used with object)
1. to cause (a plant, for example) to undergo blight.
2. to have a deleterious effect on; ruin.
—verb (used without object)
to suffer blight.

brazen
—adjective
1. marked by flagrant and insolent audacity.
2. having a loud, usually harsh, resonant sound.
3. made of brass.
4. resembling brass, as in color or strength.
—verb (used with object)
to face or undergo with bold self-assurance.

burgeoning
—verb (used without object), bur geon, bur geon ing, bur geoned
1. to put forth new buds, leaves, or greenery; sprout.
2. to begin to grow or blossom.
3. to grow or develop rapidly.

clannish
—adjective
1. of, relating to, or characteristic of a clan.
2. inclined to cling together as a group and exclude outsiders.

clemency
—noun
1. a disposition to show mercy, especially toward an offender or enemy.
2. a merciful, kind, or lenient act.
3. mildness, especially of weather.

convulsive
—adjective
1. marked by or having the nature of convulsions.
2. having or producing convulsions.
curdle
—verb (used without object)
1. to change into curd.
2. to become congealed as if by having changed into curd.
3. to go bad or become spoiled.
—verb (used with object)
to cause to change into or as if into curd.

cynical
—adjective
1. believing or showing the belief that people are motivated chiefly by base or selfish concerns; skeptical of the motives of others.
2. selfishly or callously calculating.
3. negative or pessimistic, as from world-weariness.
4. expressing jaded or scornful skepticism or negativity.

daunting*
—adjective
overwhelming; discouraging.

demagogue
—noun
1. a leader who obtains power by means of impassioned appeals to the emotions and prejudices of the populace.
2. a leader of the common people in ancient times.
—verb (used with object)
to speak about (an issue, for example) in the manner of a demagogue.

demean
—verb (used with object)
1. to debase, as in dignity or social standing.
2. to humble (oneself).

denigrate
—verb (used with object)
1. to attack the character or reputation of; speak ill of; defame.
2. to disparage; belittle.

depreciate
—verb (used with object)
1. to lessen the price or value of.
2. to think or speak of as being of little worth; belittle.
—verb (used without object)
to diminish in price or value.
deride
—verb (used with object)
to speak of or treat with contemptuous mirth.

destitute
—adjective
1. utterly lacking; devoid.
2. lacking resources or the means of subsistence; completely impoverished.

disavow
—verb (used with object)
to disclaim knowledge of, responsibility for, or association with.

discreditable
—adjective
harmful to one's reputation; blameworthy.

disgruntled
—adjective
discontented; displeased with events.

dynamism
—noun
1. any of various theories or philosophical systems that explain the universe in terms of force or energy.
2. a process or mechanism responsible for the development or motion of a system.
3. continuous change, activity, or progress; vigor.

émigré
—noun
one who has let a native country, especially for political reasons.

emulate
—verb (used with object)
1. to strive to equal or excel, especially through imitation:
2. to compete with successfully; approach or attain equality with.

enfranchise
—verb (used with object)
1. to bestow a franchise on.
2. to endow with the rights of citizenship, especially the right to vote.
3. to free, as from bondage.
enmity
—noun
deep-seated, often mutual hatred.

ensue
—verb (used without object)
1. to follow as a consequence or result.
2. to take place subsequently.

epithet
—noun
1. a term used to characterize a person or thing, such as
2. a term used as a descriptive substitute for the name or title of a person, such as
3. an abusive or contemptuous word or phrase.

estimable
—adjective
1. possible to estimate.
2. deserving of esteem; admirable.

expedient
—adjective
1. appropriate to a purpose.
2. serving to promote one's interest:
3. based on or marked by a concern for self-interest rather than principle; self-interested.
4. Obsolete. speedy; expeditious.
—noun
1. something that is a means to an end.
2. something contrived or used to meet an urgent need.

forebode
—verb (used with object)
1. to indicate the likelihood of; portend.
2. to have a premonition of.
—verb (used without object)
to prophesy or predict.

frenetic
—adjective
wildly excited or active; frantic; frenzied.
gilded*
—adjective
1. covered or embossed with a gold color.
2. unnecessarily adorning an item.

harangue
—noun
1. a long pompous speech, especially one delivered before a gathering.
2. a speech or piece of writing characterized by strong feeling or expression; a tirade.
—verb (used with object)
to deliver a harangue to.
—verb (used without object)
to deliver a harangue.

havoc
—noun
1. widespread destruction; devastation.
2. disorder or chaos.
—verb (used with object)
to destroy or pillage.

homily
—noun
1. a sermon, especially one intended to edify a congregation on a practical matter and not intended to be a theological discourse.
2. a tedious moralizing lecture or admonition.
3. an inspirational saying or platitude.

inimitable
—adjective
defying imitation; matchless.

injunction
—noun
1. the act or an instance of enjoining; a command, directive, or order.
2. Law. a court order prohibiting a party from a specific course of action.

insolence
—noun
1. the quality or condition of being insolent.
2. an instance of insolent behavior, treatment, or speech.
inter
—verb (used with object)
to place in a grave or tomb; bury.

lambaste
—verb (used with object)
1. Informal. to give a thrashing to; beat.
2. to scold sharply; berate.

laudable
—adjective
deserving commendation; praiseworthy.

libel
—noun
1. a false publication, as in writing, print, signs, or pictures, that damages a person's reputation.
2. the act of presenting such material to the public.
—verb (used with object)
to publish a libel about (a person).

loathe
—verb (used with object)
to dislike (someone or something) greatly; abhor.

malignancy
—noun
1. the state or quality of being malignant.
2. Pathology. a malignant tumor.

pacify
—verb (used with object)
to ease the anger or agitation of.
to end war, fighting, or violence in; establish peace in.

paternalism
—noun
a policy or practice of treating or governing people in a fatherly manner, especially by providing for their needs without giving them rights or responsibilities.
patronage
—noun
1. the support or encouragement of a patron, as for an institution or cause.
2. support or encouragement proffered in a condescending manner.
3. the trade given to a commercial establishment by its customers.
4. customers or patrons considered as a group; clientele.
5. the power to distribute or appoint people to governmental or political positions.
6. the act of distributing or appointing people to such positions.

patronize
—verb (used with object)
1. to act as a patron to; support or sponsor.
2. to go to as a customer, especially on a regular basis.
3. to treat in a condescending manner.

perfidy
—noun
1. deliberate breach of faith; calculated violation of trust; treachery.
2. the act or an instance of treachery.

platitude
—noun
1. a trite or banal remark or statement, especially one expressed as if it were original or significant.
2. lack of originality; triteness.

politico
—noun
a politician.

posturing
—verb (used with object), —ed, —ing
1. to put into a specific posture; pose.
—verb (used without object)
1. to assume an exaggerated or unnatural pose or mental attitude; attitudinize.
2. to assume a pose.
—noun.
1. a position of the body or of body parts.
2. an attitude; a pose.
3. a characteristic way of bearing one's body; carriage.
4. relative placement or arrangement.
5. a stance or disposition with regard to something.
6. a frame of mind affecting one's thoughts or behavior; an overall attitude.
precedent
—noun
1. an act or instance that may be used as an example in dealing with subsequent similar instances.
2. Law. a judicial decision that may be used as a standard in subsequent similar cases.
3. convention or custom arising from long practice.

pretense
—noun
1. the act of pretending; a false appearance or action intended to deceive.
2. a false or studied show; an affectation.
3. a professed but feigned reason or excuse; a pretext.
4. something imagined or pretended.
5. mere show without reality; outward appearance.
6. a right asserted with or without foundation; a claim.
7. the quality or state of being pretentious; ostentation.

protestations
—noun, plural
1. an emphatic declaration.
2. a strong or formal expression of dissent.

provincialism
—noun
1. a regional word, phrase, pronunciation, or usage.
2. the condition of being provincial; lack of sophistication or perspective.
3. the act or an instance of placing the interests of one's province before one's nation.

raucous
—adjective
1. rough-sounding and harsh.
2. boisterous and disorderly.

refurbish
—verb (used with object)
to make clean, bright, or fresh again; renovate.

regalia
—noun, plural
1. the emblems and symbols of royalty, such as the crown and scepter.
2. the rights and privileges of royalty.
3. the distinguishing symbols of a rank, office, order, or society.
4. magnificent attire; finery.
reiterate
—verb (used with object)
to say or do again or repeatedly.

render
—verb (used with object)
1. to give what is due or owed.
2. to surrender or relinquish; yield.
3. to represent in verbal form; depict.
4. to represent in a drawing or painting, especially in perspective.
5. to express in another language or form; translate.
6. to deliver or pronounce formally.
7. to cause to become; make.
—noun
a payment in kind, services, or cash from a tenant to a feudal lord.

replete
—adjective
1. abundantly supplied; abounding.
2. filled to satiation; gorged.

repudiation
—noun
1. the act of repudiating or the state of being repudiated.
2. the refusal, especially by public authorities, to acknowledge a contract or debt.

resolute
—adjective
firm or determined; unwavering.

rhetoric
—noun
1. the art or study of using language effectively and persuasively.
2. a treatise or book discussing this art.
3. skill in using language effectively and persuasively.
4. a style of speaking or writing, especially the language of a particular subject.
5. language that is elaborate, pretentious, insincere, or intellectually vacuous.
6. verbal communication; discourse.

rifflaft
—noun
people regarded as disreputable or worthless.
rubbish; trash.
roust
—verb (used with object)
to rout, especially out of bed.

row
—noun
1. a boisterous disturbance or quarrel; a brawl.
2. an uproar; a great noise.
—verb (used without object)
to take part in a quarrel, brawl, or uproar.

scion
—noun
1. a descendant or heir.
2. a detached shoot or twig containing buds from a woody plant, used in grafting.

scorn
—noun
1. contempt or disdain felt toward a person or object considered despicable or unworthy.
2. the expression of such an attitude in behavior or speech; derision.
3. one spoken of or treated with contempt.
—verb (used with object)
1. to consider or treat as contemptible or unworthy.
2. to reject or refuse with derision.
—verb (used without object)
to express contempt; scoff.

shirker*
—noun
one who avoids or neglects responsibility, work, or duty.

sinews
—noun, plural
1. a tendon.
2. vigorous strength; muscular power.
3. the source or mainstay of vitality and strength. Often used in the plural.
—verb (used with object)
to strengthen with or as if with sinews.
skewer  
—noun
1. a long metal or wooden pin used to secure or suspend food during cooking; a spit.
2. any of various picks or rods having a function or shape similar to a skewer.
—verb (used with object)
to hold together or pierce with or as if with a skewer.

spindly  
—adjective
slender and elongated, especially in a way that suggests weakness.

spurious  
—adjective
lacking authenticity or validity in essence or origin; not genuine; false.

staid  
—adjective
1. characterized by sedate dignity and often a strait-laced sense of propriety; sober.
2. fixed; permanent.

stewardship*  
—noun
the act of taking care of another’s property or business.

steward  
—noun
1. one who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs.
2. one who is in charge of the household affairs of a large estate, club, hotel, or resort.
3. a ship's officer who is in charge of provisions and dining arrangements.
4. an attendant on a ship or airplane.
5. an official who supervises or helps to manage an event.
6. a shop steward.
—verb (used with object), —verb (used without object)
to serve as a steward or as the steward of.
**stout**
—*adjective*
1. having or marked by boldness, bravery, or determination; firm and resolute.
2. strong in body; sturdy.
3. strong in structure or substance; solid or substantial.
4. bulky in figure; thickset or corpulent.
5. powerful; forceful.
6. stubborn or uncompromising.
—*noun*
1. a thickset or corpulent person.
2. a garment size for a large or heavy figure.

**stringent**
—*adjective*
1. imposing rigorous standards of performance; severe.
2. constricted; tight.
3. characterized by scarcity of money, credit restrictions, or other financial strain.

**suave**
—*adjective*
smoothly agreeable and courteous.

**subside**
—*verb (used without object)*
1. to sink to a lower or normal level.
2. to sink or settle down, as into a sofa.
3. to sink to the bottom, as a sediment.
4. to become less agitated or active; abate.

**subsistence**
—*noun*
1. the act or state of subsisting.
2. a means of subsisting, especially means barely sufficient to maintain life.
3. something that has real or substantial existence.

**succinct**
—*adjective*
characterized by clear, precise expression in few words; concise and terse.
tawdry
—adjective
1. gaudy and cheap in nature or appearance.
2. shameful or indecent.
—noun
cheap and gaudy finery.

teeming*
—adjective
busily full; swarming.

temperance
—noun
1. moderation and self-restraint, as in behavior or expression.
2. restraint in the use of or abstinence from alcoholic liquors.

troubadour
—noun
1. one of a class of 12th-century and 13th-century lyric poets in Southern France, northern Italy, and northern Spain, who composed songs often about courtly love.
2. a strolling minstrel.

trough
—noun.
1. a long, narrow, generally shallow receptacle for holding water or feed for animals.
2. any of various similar containers for domestic or industrial use, such as kneading or washing.
3. a gutter under the eaves of a roof.
4. a long, narrow depression, as between waves or ridges.
5. a low point in a business cycle or on a statistical graph.

unscrupulous
—adjective
devoid of scruples; oblivious to or contemptuous of what is right or honorable.

urbane
—adjective
polite, refined, and often elegant in manner.
veneer
—noun
1. a thin surface layer, as of finely grained wood, glued to a base of inferior material.
2. any of the thin layers glued together to make plywood.
3. a decorative facing, as of brick.
4. a deceptive, superficial show.
—verb (used with object)
1. to overlay (a surface) with a thin layer of a fine or decorative material.
2. to glue together (layers of wood) to make plywood.
3. to conceal, as something common or crude, with a deceptively attractive outward show.

vicissitudes
—noun, plural
1. a change or variation.
2. the quality of being changeable; mutability.
3. one of the sudden or unexpected changes or shifts often encountered in one's life, activities, or surroundings. Often used in the plural.

wag
—verb (used without object)
1. to move briskly and repeatedly from side to side, to and fro, or up and down.
2. to move rapidly in talking. Used of the tongue.
3. to walk with a clumsy sway; waddle.
—verb (used with object)
to move (a body part) rapidly from side to side or up and down, as in playfulness, agreement, admonition, or chatter.
—noun
the act or motion of wagging.

welter
—noun
1. a confused mass; a jumble.
2. confusion; turmoil.
—verb (used without object)
1. to wallow, roll, or toss about, as in mud or high seas.
2. to lie soaked in a liquid.
3. to roll and surge, as the sea.

wily
—adjective
full of wiles; cunning.