Vocabulary – Chapter 1

authority	The legal right or power to give orders and enforce rules.
government	Institutions and officials organized to establish and carry out public policy.
power	The ability to cause others to behave as they might not otherwise choose to do.
legitimacy	The quality of being accepted as an authority, often applied to laws or those in power.
public good	A product or service that is available for all people to consume, whether they pay for it or not.
nation-state	An independent state, especially one in which the people share a common culture. In a nation-state, people have a sense of belonging to one country, even if they have different ethnic backgrounds.
sovereignty	The right to exercise supreme authority over a geographic region, a group of people, or oneself.
politics	The process and method of making decisions for groups. Although generally applied to governments, politics is also observed in all human interactions.
institution	An established organization, especially one providing a public service, and the rules that guide it.