



Cornel West

American philosopher known for powerful speeches and deep vocabulary.

Rank #4

Elite 10

#	Word	Definition / Example
1	christological	relating to the study of Christ and his significance "His Christological reading of justice insists that the crucified must be recognized in every body discarded by the market."
2	dialectical	relating to the art of investigating or discussing the truth of opinions "Dialectical tension between the prophetic tradition and pragmatic politics is where his most productive thinking consistently operates."
3	theodicy	an explanation of why a good God allows evil or suffering in the world "Every theodicy that explains away Black suffering rather than confronting it honestly becomes complicit in the suffering it purports to address."
1	prophetic	adj. foretelling events as if by supernatural intervention "The prophetic tradition demands we speak truth to power even when the powerful refuse to listen."
4	tragicomic	having both tragic and comic elements "The tragicomic nature of the human condition demands we hold grief and laughter in the same breath."
5	cataclysmic	relating to a sudden and violent event that causes great destruction "The cataclysmic legacy of racial capitalism has rent the social fabric in ways no electoral cycle alone can begin to mend."
5	ontological	relating to the nature of being or existence "We face an ontological crisis of democracy that strikes not merely at its procedures but at the very being of the republic."
5	soteriological	the study of salvation and how people can be saved "His soteriological vision of justice draws equally from the Black church and radical democratic tradition."
6	commodification	the process of turning something into a product that can be sold "The commodification of education strips it of its most essential purpose — the examined and liberated life."
7	oligarchical	a system of government where a small group has control over a country or organization "Oligarchical power consolidates silently while citizens remain distracted by spectacle and entertainment."
8	teleological	adj. of or pertaining to the philosophical doctrine that final causes and design and purpose exist in nature "A teleological reading of history as progress must be resisted — suffering does not resolve itself automatically."
9	eschatological	relating to the end of the world or the final events in history "His eschatological urgency reminds us that justice deferred is not merely delayed — it is systematically denied."
13	internationalist	a person who supports cooperation and understanding among countries "A committed internationalist, he insists solidarity cannot stop at borders drawn by imperial convenience."
14	ameliorative	adj. tending to make or become better or to improve "Ameliorative reforms, however necessary, must never be mistaken for the transformative justice we ultimately need."
15	maieutic	a method of bringing out ideas or knowledge through questioning "His maieutic method unsettles audiences into confronting the truths they have organised their entire comfort around"