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dictionary

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English
Language



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göt·ter·däm·mer·ung or **Göt·ter·däm·mer·ung** 🗣️ (göt'ər-däm ə-rŭng', gœt'ər-dēm ə-r ng')

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n.

A turbulent ending of a regime or an institution: *"The nation had been flirting with forms of götterdämmerung, with extremes of vocabulary and behavior and an appetite for violent resolution" (Lance Morrow).*

[After *Götterdämmerung*, an opera by Richard Wagner, from German, twilight of the gods : *Götter*, genitive pl. of *Gott*, god (from Middle High German *got*, from Old High German; see **gheu(ə)-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *Dämmerung*, twilight (from Middle High German *demerunge*, from Old High German *demerunga*, from *demar*, twilight).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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