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in·qui·si·tion (in'kwī-zīsh'ən, ɪŋg'-) *n.*

1. The act of inquiring into a matter; an investigation. See Synonyms at [inquiry](#).
2. *Law* An inquest.
3.
 - a. **Inquisition** A tribunal formerly held in the Roman Catholic Church and directed at the suppression of heresy.
 - b. An investigation that violates the privacy or rights of individuals, especially through rigorous or harsh interrogation.
 - c. A rigorous or severe questioning.