Impact on Canadians at the Homefront

“Wars are made by masses of people, and masses are made up of individuals, with their own motives and experiences, joys, terrors and tragedies.” - Desmond Morton

1914-1919 World War 1 & 1939-1945 World War 2
What Do You Already Know About The Lives of Canadians During Both World Wars?

Economy?

Rationing?

Women in Workplace?
Key Words

**War Bonds**
A government issued debt that barrows money for finance defence and military operations during a war.

**Conscription**
Forcing of citizens to join in army during wartime. Example: Men aged 20 to 45 subject to call-up for military service during War.

**Referendum**
A direct vote that an entire electorate is to vote on a particular proposal. WW2

**Enemy Aliens**
Individuals who emigrated from a nation that was considered enemy of place they live in now and do not yet have citizenship or has been taken away. Example: Japanese Internment WW2.
World War 1 Economy:

During World War 1 Canada’s Economy spiraled out of control with unemployment rates quickly becoming higher due to men going into war. The prewar budget was about $185 million with dept at its peak being $740 million.

By 1915 spending on war matched the entire spending on government expenditure of 1913.

During November 1915 British Ministry of Munitions created (IMB) - Imperial Munitions Board. Created planes, explosives ships and shells sent overseas... Employed 150 000 workers.

In World War 1, growing pressure grew in Ottawa to tax wealthy businesses and people. There were some periodic profiting by corrupt individuals who made headlines with Canadians saying they “needed to do their bit.”

Business Profitis War Tax Act In 1916 made all Canadian Corporations that had $50 000 dollars or more had to file a yearly tax return.

Government ended up introducing Victory Bonds which covered 80% of total war costs but created large dept, the campaign for loans brought in $100 million by 1917.
INCOME WAR TAX ACT, 1917.

WITH EXPLANATIONS BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(As reported in Hansard)

AND INSTRUCTIONS OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

7-8 GEORGE V.

CHAP. 28.

An Act to authorize the levying of a War Tax upon certain incomes.

[Assented to 20th September, 1917.]

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada,

Temporary Income Tax-1917
Politics: Election of 1917

Took place December 17, 1917
Main Issue: Conscription
Two clear sides: Government (in favor of conscription) or Opposition (opposed to)
Women who had family serving overseas could vote in the Federal election (Wartime Elections Act of 1917)
Took away the right to vote for people who immigrated from countries that were enemies of Canada

Argued to be one of Canada’s most significant elections - Canadian History Document
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sir Robert Borden</th>
<th>VS.</th>
<th>Sir Wilfrid Laurier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prime Minister 1911-1920 (Conservative)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prime Minister 1896-1911 (Liberal)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He believed that government should resort to conscription even though promising not to resort to it in past</td>
<td></td>
<td>He believed that if government decided to choose to enact conscription it would just divide the nation and was not necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was on “government” side</td>
<td></td>
<td>Was on “opposition” side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He believed conscription was the only war for Canada to conquer the War</td>
<td></td>
<td>English Canadians did not support him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Canadians did not support him</td>
<td></td>
<td>Many Farmers and Union heads supported Laurier because they did not agree with conscription. Farmers stormed Ottawa in protest of Conscription</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continued...

Laurier received 82 seats and 62 from Québec

Borden’s Union government received 153 seats

The way that Borden got his votes has been criticized...

He manipulated votes overseas by creating floating votes that only applied where necessary

He made sure people who were pro conscription needed to vote in the election.

If you were against he would not want you to vote
Conscription-Timeline

- During summer of 1915 Prime Minister Borden goes overseas and observes the horrible conditions that Canadian troops are experiencing in the trench warfare.

- Mid 1916 volunteers going into the war started lowering. Part because of horrible stories coming out about the war. Canadian Expeditionary Force needed more volunteers.

- May 1917 Sir Robert Borden announced his official plan for Conscription being implemented in Canada.

- December 17th, 1917 the election that would determine if Conscription was implemented took place. Individuals that were from places at war with Canada (ex: Japan) were not able to vote in this election.
Continued

- August 29, 1917 Military Service Act was implemented, made male citizens of age 18-41 but did not take clergymen, teachers, medically unfit individuals and certain industrial workers. 99,561 men were conscripted as reinforcements for Canada.

- 1918 Québec Riots over conscription take place becoming violent killing 4 individuals.

- End of War: From all of this only 24,100 men actually fought in the war.

- This ended up dividing Canadians even more, Borden ending up losing support in the West and eventually got defeated in the next federal election.
Rationing During World War 1:

Propaganda was used in order for people to want to ration and comply with rationing policies. They were told that if they did this, Germans would be defeated in war.

Government used cookbook magazines.

Flour, butter, meat, sugar, tea and margarine were all rationed.

Any person that did not comply with these wartime rules would be fined and in some cases receive jail time.
HOW TO EAT WELL THOUGH RATIONED

Edited by
Josephine Gibson

WARTIME CANNING and COOKING BOOK

save
1-wheat use more corn
2-meat use more fish & beans
3-fats use just enough
4-sugar use syrups
and serve the cause of freedom
U.S. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

food
1-buy it with thought
2-cook it with care
3-serve just enough
4-save what will keep
5-eat what would spoil
6-home-grown is best
don't waste it

DOMINION OF CANADA
Temporary War Ration Card
Rationnement de Guerre Carte Temporaire
Serial No. WR 126818

Name
McLean C. Olver

City

Age if under 16 yrs.
Age, au-dessus de 16 ans

Issued by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board
Emise par la Commission des prix et du commerce au temps de guerre

Ration Cards

Cookbooks
Victory Bonds:

In 1915, the government started releasing these war bonds and quickly 100 million dollars worth were bought despite the government asking for Canadians to together buy 50 million dollars worth. The Victory Loan Domination Publicity Committee came out with 5 campaigns that from 1915-1919 with each poster created in order to urge people to buy them. Towards the end in 1918-1919 the second and third round of victory loans were released which brought in 1.34 billion

The Bonds ending up covering about 80% of all war costs

“The Man, be rich or poor is little envied, who at this supreme moment fails to bring forward his life savings for the security of the country” Was a slogan created by the government during the campaign

Communities that raised significant amounts of war bonds were rewarded with a Victory Loan Honour Flag
Women at the Homefront:

The women at the homefront were volunteers mostly by the family members and wives of men serving overseas at the time, there were 3141 nurses serving overseas and in Canada.

Military Hospital Commission was formed for the sick and wounded

During this time a patriotic fund for people who had husbands and fathers overseas were created as well as organizations were created such as The daughters of the Empire, Red Cross and Dorcas Club

Around 30 000 women found work in factories

Once the war came to an end in 1919 the government anticipated women would stop working and go back to taking care of things in the home
Women’s Roles During Wartime

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vo3cUX2yT6I
Indigenous Peoples at Homefront

For the first time Indigenous people were included in Conscription which caused many protests. For the most part Indigenous men did not volunteer to fight in war effort.

Indigenous people fundraised around $45,000 from Bank Funds. Women joined organizations engaged in war efforts for the first time including the Red Cross Charity and patriotic leagues.

During this time Indigenous employment rose quickly, for example: Packaging companies such as fish canneries where Indigenous people made up of 32% of people employed. The first Indigenous patriotic organization was formed in World War 1 called “Six Nations Women’s Patriotic League” They helped create sweaters, bandages, knitted socks and more for soldiers overseas. Many social events were created to help fund money, they made beadwork and traditional crafts in order to help fundraise.
New Brunswick During Wartime:

During WW1 around 32,000 nurses and soldiers are linked to the war effort who were either born in New Brunswick or emigrated before the war took part in war efforts.

Sussex Military Camp

This training camp was a facility used for the active Militia as well as the Non-Permanent Active Militia. During World War 1 it was the first training Camp for the New Brunswick Battalion. It was in use throughout 1885-1969. It was eventually renamed the 1st Depot Battalion of 1918.
World War 2

1939-1945
Prime Minister at Time: Mackenzie King

Life before World War 2 - The Great Depression in Canada

- Unemployment Rates nationwide were 19%
- Crippling droughts in Prairies
- One in five Canadians were dependant on government relief for basic survival
- Unemployment rates remained above 12 per cent until the start of WW2 in 1939
Social services created during this time period still exist today, King created: 
- Unemployment Insurance 1940 & Family Allowance in 1945

When Canada turned its efforts to the war, restrictions were much more strict than in World War 1
To control civilians they punished “profiteers” who were individuals selling goods illegally. Many consumer goods became hard to find.

Canada’s shipbuilding increased producing 41- merchant vessels and 206 corvette (navy’s anti submarine and export ship) As well, Canada saw an increase of demand for natural resources- during the war Canada supplied allies with 40 percent of aluminum, 75% of nickel and 20% of its zinc used in wartime.

As well, the government controlled wages were created to avoid people wanting unreasonable wages. They created this so skilled individuals in their trades would not demand higher wages
Victory Bonds

Re Introduced to help finance war efforts

Victory Bonds: A promise of money that would be repaid after the war ended at return of a higher interest rate

This was looked at well in the public and Raised 12 Billion for War efforts during a 9 part “series” of campaigns

About 52% of the money was from corporations and the rest from individuals

Today’s Canada Saving Bonds are inherited from these wartime efforts
Propaganda: Governments Wishes

*Journal of Abnormal & Social Psychology Objectives:* 1) rely on emotions, never argue; 2) cast propaganda into the pattern of ‘we’ versus an ‘enemy’; 3) reach groups as well as individuals; 4) hide the propagandist as much as possible.”

During World War 2 a Wartime Information Board was established in order to control what Canadians saw and started to censor radio broadcasting.

The government made it impossible not to hear wartime propaganda for people to join not to hear playing it on radio, newspapers, theaters, magazines, etc...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL4r5OiXv-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL4r5OiXv-w) Historica Canada - Wartime Propaganda Posters
WOMEN IN THE HOMEFRONT OF WORLD WAR 2

CHANGING TIMES
During **First World War** women were encouraged and in cases forced to leave the jobs they had received in times of war

During the **Second World War** women were once again needed at homefront, The Canadian Government used propaganda in order to encourage women to join. About 50,000 women served in war efforts.

Created **one million** jobs (running streetcars as conductors, driving trucks, working in construction, worked in munition factories, telephone operators/messengers, etc...)

There were many training centers that opened up for new nurses (The Canadian Women's Army Corps - 21,600 members) were set up in places like Vermillion, Alberta and Kitchener, Ontario

Popular images at this time “**Rosie the Riveter**” and “**The Bren-Gun Girl**” served as women that were strong role models for women to start wearing pants.
Women in World War 2 - Stories

Elsie MacGill:
Macgill was the first women in Canada to graduate with a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Toronto in 1927 as well as the first women in North America with a degree in Aeronautics. She was the first woman ever to become a aircraft designer. She became one of the most pivotal people in production of the Hawker Hurricane in Canada during the war. She designed series of modifications to enhance airplanes in the war including de-icing and skis that helped planes during cold weather flying.

Veronica Foster:
Foster known as the Bren Gun Girl was a icon that represented the women working in war efforts during World War 2, she worked in a manufacturing plants sector that produced mutations and materials during World War 2 (John Inglis Co. LTD)
Politics: Conscription Crisis Round 2

Once World War 2’s volunteers in Canada were lowering. There was a vote that was focused on the possibility of conscription unlike the creation vote like in WW1. This was known as the referendum (Prime Minister at the time Sir Mackenzie King) said to the public that it is “Not necessity Conscription but, Conscription if necessary”

Reading: Excerpt from Mackenzie King April 7- Textbook Reading

A Draft was created 1944, men serving in National Resources were targeted for conscription at time. Many men serving put up a fight and protested not to go into war. Draft Definition: Enforcement by government of its constitutional right to require all citizens of sufficient age and capacity to take part in war effort
The Referendum of 1942:

Vote focused on possibility rather than implementation which was different than World War I

The results in Québec were 73% “No”

At the time newspapers had created for propaganda for citizens to vote no.

Québec was the only province with a majority of no votes

King saw this and did not pursue in conscription until later events and more casualties changed his decision

At the end, only 2463 conscripts were sent overseas

Yes: 65.62%
No: 34.38%
Food Supply During War:

During this war Canada did something much different than in World War 1, they exported a huge amount of food to support Canadians and its allies.

Farmers in Canada increased production by making prisoners of war harvest foods as well as students.

In 1941, following warnings from government the country’s leading nutrition experts said 60% of the country was suffering from some sort of mineral deficiency.

It was described as one of Canada’s weapons of war.
Rationing:

Canadians at the time were encouraged by the government to not keep an excess amount of food at their house to make use of what is available.

Rationed Items included: Meat, Coffee, Butter, Gasoline and Tobacco.

This did work in controlling food supply in the country but compared to some nations it was not much (Britain and United States).
Jewish Immigrants In Canada: Anti-Semitic Views

The MS St.Louis

A “None is Too Many” immigration policy, less than five thousand Jewish people who were fleeing from Hitler’s power were allowed in the country.

On May 23th, 1939 the boat departed from Hamburg, Germany in hopes of taking refugee in Cuba. On June 7th 1939 Canada started denying these refugees that had previously been denied in Cuba than United States. Frederik Blair in change of immigration put this into place.

On board there were 607 passengers.

The ship sailed back to Europe where 254 people died in the Holocaust mostly in the Concentration camp Sobibor, The majority of the rest were sent to Britain and about everyone survived.
The MS St. Louis

NONE IS TOO MANY
Canada and the Jews of Europe
1933–1948
IRVING ABELLA AND HAROLD TROPER
Dark History of World War 2

Japanese Internment

Published February 20, 2019
Japanese Internment: Canada Not Innocent

Before World War 2 started there was a long history of racism against Japanese people. Riots took place in Vancouver. Known as the “Little Tokyo Riot”

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941, Canada declared war on Japan which furthered the tensions of Japanese citizens. Wartime Measures Act created a stop on Civil Liberties and made them go into protected area. There property was sold and they were not allowed to leave.

They were given less than a 24 hour notice that this was happening. Nevertheless, they were normally separated from their families with men who were “able bodied” sent to work. These restrictions on civil liberties were not abolished until 1949. Not until 1988 did the Canadian Government provide compensation for these losses. Canada eventually gave $24 million to establish the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to help stop racism as whole in Canada.
September 1907 | March 1941 | Early 1942 | September 1942
---|---|---|---
Little Tokyo | Japanese citizens were considered “Enemy Aliens” | War Measures act was put into place, limited civil liberties. A 100 mile strip along the coast was named “protected area”. All male Japanese Canadians ages 18-45 were removed from area and taken to these camps | 22,000 Japanese men, women and children were evacuated and interredent in Canada. This was about 90% of the population
Vancouver Riot Takes Place. White Canadians beat up people and destroyed property- Organized Vandalism |
Conclusion

In all, Canada during these two wars has shaped us into the nation we are today in terms of social services we get to enjoy, roles of women in the workplace, how we handle military, how we spend our money (Taxation) and the types of innovations we use.

The MS St. Louis is a key part in history and something that most people do not know about. It documents that just because we were fighting Hitler does not mean we were accepting of Jewish people.
Discussion Questions:

#1 Open Discussion: rating events-texts we read

#2 What do you believe was the most significant event that happened at the homefront of the wars that changed life in Canada today?

#3 If you put yourself in the shoes of a young person at this time period would you be in support of conscription? (Do you think it could have been avoided?)

#4 How does the MS St. Louis and Japanese Internment incidents document Canada’s views during time? Is Canada as innocent as individuals make it out to be?
Homefront Events (WW1 + WW2)

Fill in Blanks:

Main Players, Economics, Employment, Events, ?????
Links:

http://www.oldmagazinearticles.com/Vancouver_Race_Riot-1907#.XZ5n1y0ZMdU

https://ingeniumcanada.org/channel/articles/canadian-economy-and-second-world-war

https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1414152378639/1414152548341


https://www.striking-women.org/module/women-and-work/world-war-i-1914-1918

http://ww1.canada.com/home-front/womens-words-of-war

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XROrVLPuZY