



# Canadian History

## Foreign Affairs: 1867 -1931



From Confederation through the Great War to the Statute of  
Westminster

# Klondike Gold Rush (1898)

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- ▶ After gold was discovered in California (1849) and the Fraser river valley (1850's), gold rush fever continued north into the Klondike region of the Yukon.
- ▶ Chilkoot Pass, Dawson City, Sam Steele and the NWMP
- ▶ This would lead to the Alaskan Boundary Dispute.



# Alaskan Boundary Dispute

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- ▶ Alaska had been purchased by the Americans from the Russians in 1867.
- ▶ The Canadian-American boundary had been set by the Treaty of Ghent.
- ▶ The 49<sup>th</sup> parallel would mark the border from Lake of the Woods to the Pacific.
- ▶ However, the border between Alaska and British Columbia was less defined.



# Alaskan Boundary Dispute

- ▶ The dispute centred around the Alaskan pan-handle and specifically the port city of Skagway.
- ▶ Skagway was strategically important because the country that controlled its port would control the access to the Klondike and its gold.



# Alaskan Boundary Dispute

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- ▶ A tribunal was set up to resolve the dispute.
- ▶ The tribunal consisted of 3 American judges and 3 “Canadian” judges that included one British judge.
- ▶ Fearful of American President Theodore Roosevelt’s threats to not take ‘no’ for an answer, the British judge voted with the Americans.
- ▶ Some Canadians began to see a necessity to distance relations with the British and develop more autonomy.



# Wilfrid Laurier

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- ▶ **1896 – 1911: Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier**
  - ▶ “Sunny Ways”
  - ▶ British Imperialism vs. Canadian Nationalism
- ▶ **1897 marked Queen Victoria’s diamond jubilee.**
- ▶ **Colonial Conference**
  - ▶ Colonies need to support the Royal Navy
  - ▶ Laurier disagrees, says money should go towards Canada’s own defence.
  - ▶ Laurier would soon be tested.



# Boer War

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- ▶ Also known as the South African War (1899-1902)
- ▶ Conflict between British and Dutch settlers (Boers) in South Africa over rights to diamond and gold deposits.



# Canada's Role

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- ▶ Laurier was under immense pressure from two sides:
  - ▶ Empire Loyalists wanted Laurier to send Canadian troops.
  - ▶ French Canadians refused to serve in a British imperial conflict.
  - ▶ Laurier: Sunny Ways





# Laurier's Compromise

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- ▶ Laurier compromised by equipping a volunteer force and having Britain pay for their service. Over 7000 Canadian troops served in the conflict.



# Tin Pot Navy

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- ▶ As imperial tensions grew around the globe, specifically between Great Britain and Germany, the British began pressuring Canada to increase the strength of their military.
- ▶ Robert Borden, the Conservative Party leader, criticized Laurier saying that he was not doing enough fast enough.
- ▶ Quebec premier Bourassa criticized Laurier for doing too much.



# Laurier's Decision

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- ▶ Laurier eventually pledged to increase the size of Canada's Navy.
- ▶ Navy Service Bill (1910)
- ▶ Because of the small size of the new navy, it was dubbed a "tin pot" navy by critics of Laurier.



# Laurier's Demise

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- ▶ Laurier's campaign during the 1911 election was based on the signing of a reciprocity agreement with the USA.
- ▶ By doing so, Laurier hoped to please the western farmer.
- ▶ The Conservatives under Borden ran their campaign under the slogan of "No truck or trade with the Yankees".
- ▶ Laurier ends up losing the election to Borden.



# Canada in World War I

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- ▶ **Causes of the war:**
  - ▶ Nationalism
  - ▶ Militarism (Arms Race)
  - ▶ Economic Rivalry
  - ▶ System of Alliances



# Canada in World War I

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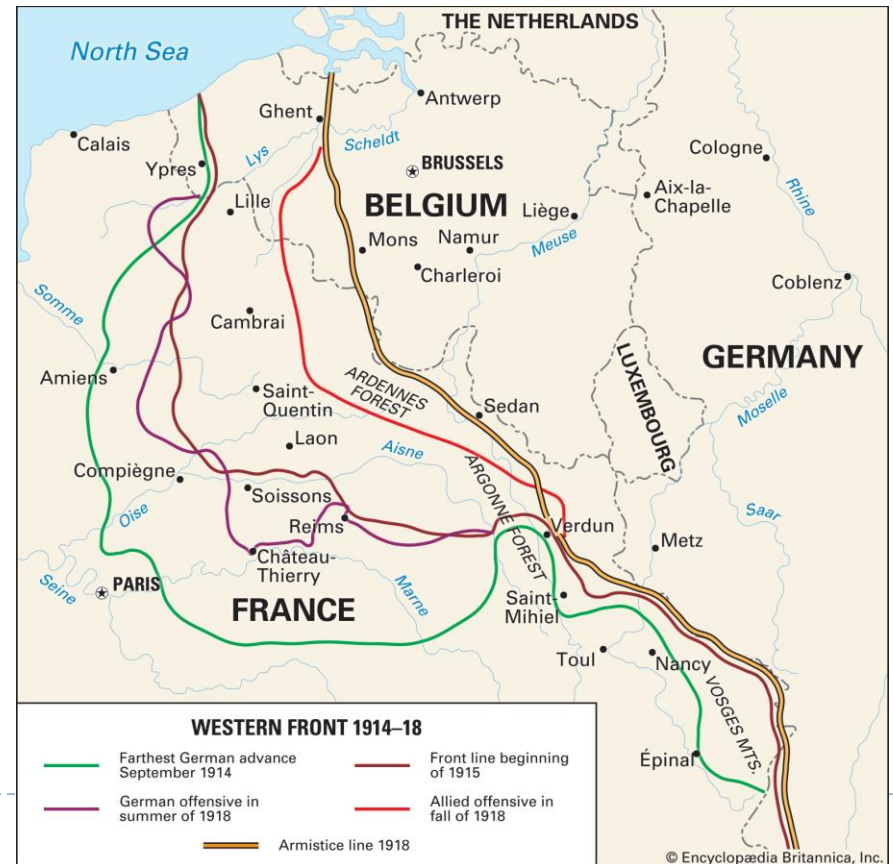
- ▶ Canada's Response
  - ▶ Relationship to great Britain
  - ▶ Imperial obligation
  - ▶ Numbers:
    - ▶ 3,200 regular troops, “tin pot navy”
    - ▶ Within weeks: 32, 000
  - ▶ “Home by Christmas”



# Canada in World War I

## ▶ The Nature of War

- ▶ Rapid early movement, extending the line (600 miles)
- ▶ Trench Warfare (Trench-foot, lice, influenza, etc.)



# Canada in World War I

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## ▶ Canadian Battles:

- ▶ Ypres, 1915 (poison gas, Ross Rifles, 1/3 casualties)
  - ▶ St. Eloi, St. Julien Hill 61, 62
- ▶ The Somme
  - ▶ Beaumont-Hamel (Royal Newfoundland Regiment)





# Canada in World War I

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- ▶ Vimy Ridge
  - ▶ Preparation (surveillance, tunnels, bombardment)
  - ▶ Attack, Easter Monday, April 9, 1917
  - ▶ All Canadian divisions united for the first time under Julian Byng (Arthur Currie)
  - ▶ Canadian Nationalism



# Canada in World War I

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- ▶ Passchendaele (Third battle of Ypres)
  - ▶ Battlefield Conditions
  - ▶ 4,000 + killed , 16,000 casualties
- ▶ Canada's 100 Days
  - ▶ August 8 – November 11, 1918
  - ▶ Amiens (Germany's Black Day)
  - ▶ Canal du Nord, Cambrai, Mons
- ▶ Armistice – November 11, 1918
- ▶ Paris Peace Conference and Treaty of Versailles, 1919



# Canada in World War I

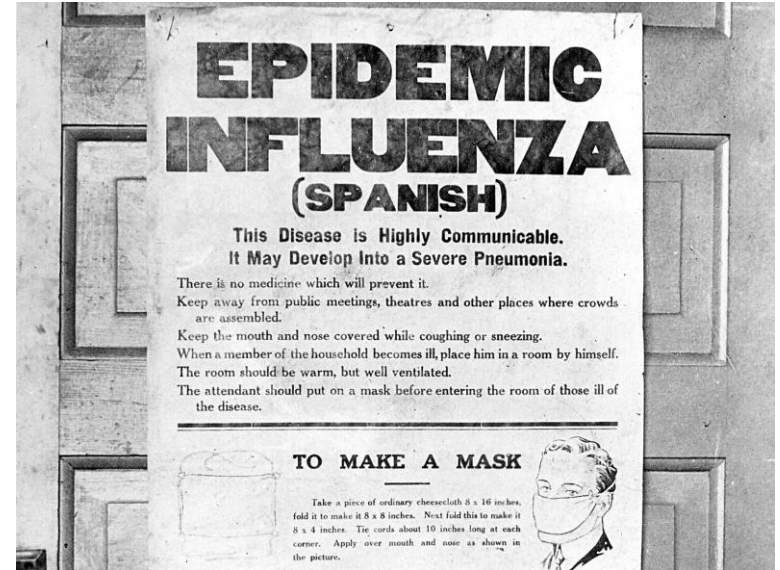
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- ▶ **Sea and Air**
  - ▶ Larger Navy
  - ▶ Billy Bishop
- ▶ **Other:**
  - ▶ Valour Road
  - ▶ Military records
  - ▶ Women
  - ▶ First Nations



# Canada in World War I

- ▶ Home Front:
  - ▶ Conscription Crisis
  - ▶ Factories
  - ▶ Enemy Aliens
  - ▶ Women
  - ▶ Spanish Influenza



## HOW TO DODGE "FLU"

**K**EEP feet and clothing dry.  
Avoid crowds.  
Protect your nose and mouth in the presence of sneezers.  
Gargle your throat three times a day with a mild anti-septic if only salt and water.  
Don't neglect a cold.  
Keep as much as possible in the sunshine.  
Don't get "scared."

BY J. H. DUCKWORTH

(Warmth and tonic are important)

# Canada and the World 1920 - 1931

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- ▶ Canadian Nationalism
- ▶ League of Nations, 1920
- ▶ Mackenzie King:
  - ▶ Greater independence from Great Britain
    - ▶ Chanak Affair, 1922
    - ▶ Halibut Treaty, 1923
    - ▶ Balfour Declaration, 1926
    - ▶ Establishment of Canadian diplomatic offices abroad
- ▶ Statute of Westminster, 1931

