

Name/Date:

Social Studies 11 Unit 2 Canada, Eh? Politics & Identity

2F: The Laurier Era - Canada at the Turn of the Century



Summary

Canada at the turn of the century (1900) was becoming a different nation. Steeped in Victorian values and loyalty to Britain (for the English, mainly) Canada was showing itself capable of engaging with the world as a independent nation. Technology and immigration made a significant impact on Canadian society

Source: Canada's Science & Technology Museum site

<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/collection/bikes6.cfm>

While Canada threw open its doors to new American and European immigrants at the beginning of the 20th century, it also made immigration more difficult for others, particularly Asians. Attempts to assimilate Aboriginal peoples, the difficulty of rising from poverty for many, and the challenges faced by woman in gaining rights all speak to a Canada that might be called intolerant. Nonetheless, Canada seemed like a place that was building towards something, but perhaps they did not yet know what that was.

Reference

Cranny, M., Moles, G. (2010). *Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues*. Toronto: Prentice Hall.

Reading

"Power read" chapter one of *Counterpoints*, a quick skim through, taking time to focus on ideas which you find very new, interesting, or confusing. The re-read p. 4-12 a bit more slowly.

Keynote

Use this space to take some notes from the presentation "A Different Canada" ...two or three interesting facts or ideas about Canada at the turn of the century.

Vocab - Provide a brief definition (and/or example) for the following terms & ideas:

- Victorian

- suffragists

- imperialists
- nationalists
- autonomy
- ethnocentric
- head tax
- injustice
- Indian Act
- residential schools
- urbanization

Questions

1. Who set the standards for morals and manners of the day? Provide examples of the "Victorian" lifestyle. How did the law show evidence of a "Victorian" philosophy?

2. How were women discriminated against, according to our current Charter of Rights and Freedoms. What issues were of concern to the **suffragists**? Identify a well-known suffragist of the day.

3. What problem arose from the fact that Canada had its own government but was unable to resolve disputes with other countries? Give a specific example.

4. Examine the timeline on p. 4-5: When did the Laurier era begin and end?

5. Respond to questions for the following pictures or diagrams

-Figure 1-2 Alaska Boundary Dispute

-Figure 1-3 The British Empire

6. Think about or respond to the practice questions from the Activities on pages 8. We will discuss some of these in class.

-attitudes & values

-status of women

-ties to Britain

7. What did Prime Minister Laurier do to encourage settlement of the Canadian West? (p. 9)

8. Describe life for the homesteaders on the Prairies. (p. 9)

9. Explain why many newcomers to Canada faced discrimination? Why were Eastern Europeans, especially Ukrainians and Poles “targets of ethnic prejudice”? (p. 9)

10. What did the federal government do in an attempt to limit immigration from Asia? (p. 9)

11. What happened with the **Komagata Maru** in 1914?

12. What impact did immigration to the west have on Aboriginal peoples? (p. 12)

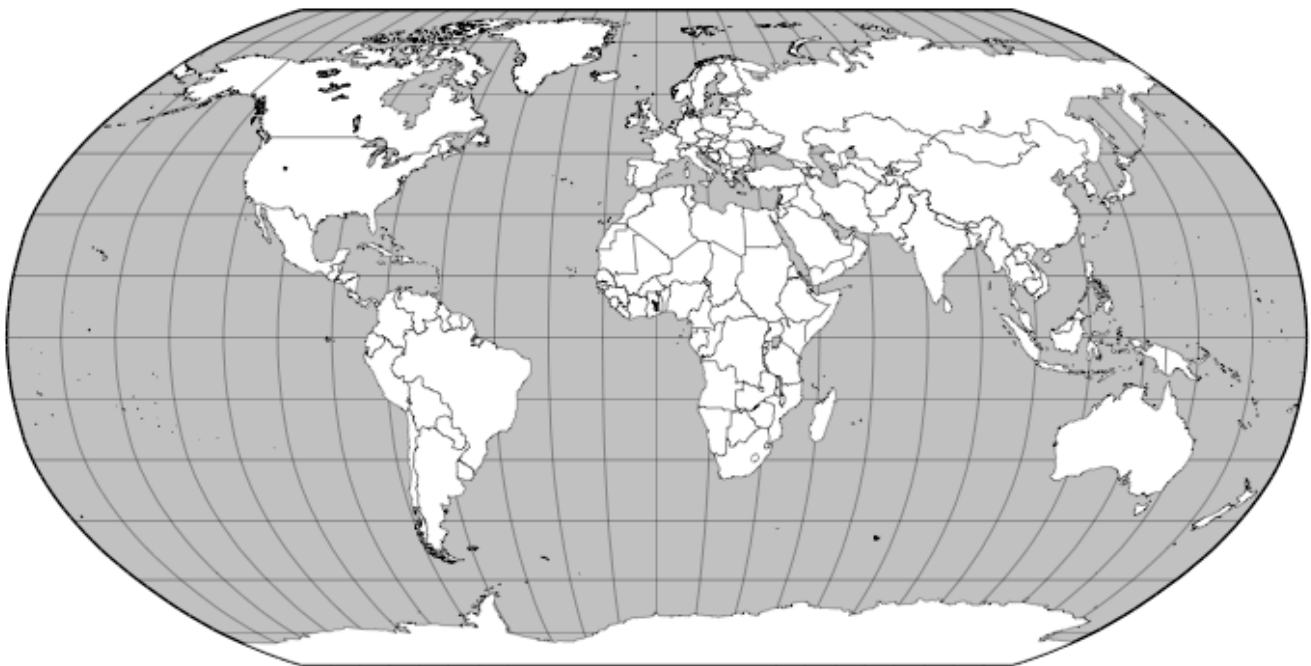
13. What did the Indian Act of 1876 do? What was the purpose of the **reserves** for Aboriginal peoples of the 1880’s? (p. 12)

14. Explain the federal government’s policy of **assimilation**. What did the treatment of our Aboriginal peoples allow to happen in later years? (p. 12)

15. How have the borders of Canada changed? Indicate by drawing the borders and labeling the provinces/territories on the map below as they were in 1905 (class presentation or look it up online).



16. **The British Empire in 1910:** Label the seven continents on the map below. Then shade or colour the countries that made up the British Empire in 1910. Check your answers against Figure 1-3 on p. 8 of your text. Note: the national borders on the map below are modern.



Primary Sources: excerpts from speeches by Wilfrid Laurier

1 I will say this, that we are all Canadians. Below the Island of Montreal, the water that comes from the north, from the Ottawa, unites with the waters that comes from the western lakes, but uniting they do not mix. There they run parallel, separate, distinguishable, and yet are one stream, flowing within the same banks, the mighty St. Lawrence and rolling on toward the sea, bearing the commerce of a nation upon its bosom - a perfect image of our nation. We may not assimilate, we may not blend, but for all that, we are still the component parts of the same country.

- Wilfrid Laurier, Toronto, 1886

2 Why, so soon as French Canadians, who are in a minority in this House and in the country, were to organise as a political party, they would compel the majority to organise as a political party, and the result must be disastrous to themselves.

- Wilfrid Laurier 1886

3 I denounce the policy of protection as bondage - yea, bondage; and I refer to bondage in the same manner in which American slavery was bondage.

I am a subject of the British Crown, but whenever I have to choose between the interests of England and Canada it is manifest to me that the interests of my country are identical with those of the United States of America.

Let them look to the past, but let them also look to the future; let them look to the land of their ancestors, but let them look also to the land of their children.

Two races share today the soil of Canada. These people had not always been friends. But I hasten to say it. There is no longer any family here but the human family. It matters not the language people speak, or the altars at which they kneel.

I appeal now to any friend of liberty in this House; I appeal not only to the Liberals who sit beside me, but to any man who has a British heart in his breast, and I ask, when Subjects of her Majesty have been petitioning for years for their rights, and these rights have not only been ignored, but have been denied, and when these men take their lives in their hands and rebel, will any one in this House say that these men, when they got their rights, should not have saved their heads as well, and that criminals, if there were criminals in this rebellion, are not those who fought and bled and died, but the men who sit on these Treasury benches? Sir, rebellion is always an evil, it is always an offence against the positive law of a nation; it is not always a moral crime.

- Wilfrid Laurier, 1890

4 I tell you nothing but what you know when I tell you that the nineteenth century has been the century of the United States development. The past hundred years has been filled with the pages of their history. Let me tell you, my fellow countrymen, that the twentieth century shall be the century of Canada and of Canadian development. For the next seventy-five years, nay for the next hundred years, Canada shall be the star towards which all men who love progress and freedom shall come.

To those, sir, who have life before them, let my prayer be this: Remember from this day forth, never to look simply at the horizon as it may be limited by the limits of the Province, but look abroad over all the continent ... and let your motto be: "Canada first, Canada last, and Canada always."

- Wilfrid Laurier, Massey Hall, Toronto, 1904