

CHAPTER 3

1939 TO PRESENT-DAY

Modernization of Québec,

Quiet Revolution

& Contemporary Québec

PART 1

1939-1945

The Second World War

How did the war start?

The World Crisis (1930-1939)

- **Japan** had a powerful army and was looking to conquer neighboring countries for reasons like the control of natural resources
- Japan, led by **Emperor Hirohito**, invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria in 1931
- Japan attacked China in 1937 (bloody and brutal war).



Japanese Territorial Expansion, 1931–1940



How did the war start?

The World Crisis (1930-1939)

- **Europe was unstable.** Many European countries were dissatisfied with the peace treaties signed at the end of WW1:
 - Under the **Treaty of Versailles (1919)**, **Germany** had been held responsible for WW1 and was now collapsing under the weight of the war reparations it had to pay to the Allies
 - Several countries contested the new boundaries drawn after WW1
- The **Great Depression** created serious socio-economic problems in Europe.



Europe before and after WW1

Fascism

- *A governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism.*

How did the war start?

The World Crisis (1930-1939)

- In this context, **political parties with extreme ideologies** came into power:
 - Prime Minister **Benito Mussolini** led a fascist regime in Italy
 - Chancellor **Adolf Hitler** led the German Nazi Party
- The major European powers were **re-arming** themselves.

How did the war start?

The World Crisis (1930-1939)

- **Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party** was elected in Germany in 1933 and became a **brutal dictatorship**
- Hitler's discourse was militaristic, nationalistic and discriminatory against minorities, particularly Jews. He blamed them for the problems experienced by Germany.



How did the war start?

The World Crisis (1930-1939)

- Hitler was intent on responding to the “insults” of the *diktat of Versailles* by quickly establishing a modern army and air force for example
- Hitler promised **to avenge the defeat of WW1, restore Germany to greatness and created jobs for the unemployed**
- With little or no resistance, Germany took:
 - **Austria** in 1938
 - **Czechoslovakia** in 1938-39.





How did the war start?

The World Crisis (1930-1939)

- Britain and France tried to appease these ruthless regimes in an effort to avoid another world war – a policy supported by a majority of Canadians
- On September 1, 1939, Hitler ordered the **invasion of Poland** with the goal of expanding Germany's territory. **He partitioned Poland with the Soviet Union**
- Consequently, France, the UK and Canada (its own decision) declared war on Nazi Germany. **This was the start of WW2.**








2 alliances

1. The Axis Powers:

- In 1940, **Italy, Japan and Germany** signed the **Tripartite Act**
- In June 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union, with whom it had signed a non-aggression pact in 1939
- In December 1941, Japan launched attacks on British territories in Southeast Asia and the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The USA declared war against Japan, which was followed by Germany's declaration of war against the USA.

2. The Allies:

- **The USA, the UK, the Soviet Union and China** formed the Allies
- **Canada** was also part of this alliance.

**Legend** Axis forces Maximum extent of Axis forces in 1942 Allied nations and territories in 1940 Allied nations and territories in 1942 Neutral nations
(countries not engaged
in the war)

Wartime government

In 1939, Mackenzie King's Liberal government imposed the *War Measures Act*:

- MAIN OBJECTIVE: mobilizing all of Canada's resources to win the war
- The *War Measures Act* allowed the federal government to:
 - suspend civil liberties
 - interfere with the powers of the provinces
 - bypass parliament to govern by decree (to create laws more quickly)
 - to requisition products and services required by the military
 - to limit the movement of civilians
 - impose rations (rubber, gasoline, meat, butter and sugar)
 - sell Victory Bonds and increase income tax
- **Canada's debt rose** from \$5 billion in 1939 to \$18 billion in 1945.



William Lyon Mackenzie King
Prime minister of Canada
1921–26, 1926–30 and 1935–48

Wartime government

Propaganda and censorship

- The federal government used propaganda and censorship to:
 - promote its agenda and various aspects of the war effort
 - suppress defeatist views and information leaks
- Aspects of the war effort promoted:
 - military recruitment
 - volunteering
 - resource conservation
 - participation of women
 - purchase of Victory Bonds.



Wartime government

Propaganda and censorship

- Some of the mediums used:
 - the National Film Board
 - state-run radio.

A war propaganda poster in Canada.



Immigration and enemy aliens

During WW2, Canada changed its immigration policy:

- Canada reduced the number of immigrants it received
- Few immigrants settled in Canada
- It closed its doors to many Europeans trying to flee the Nazi regime
- It interned 24,000 Canadians who were originally from enemy countries in more than 40 work camps (mostly Japanese, German and Italian Canadians).



*An internment camp for
Japanese Canadians in
British Columbia, 1945.*

Plebiscite on conscription

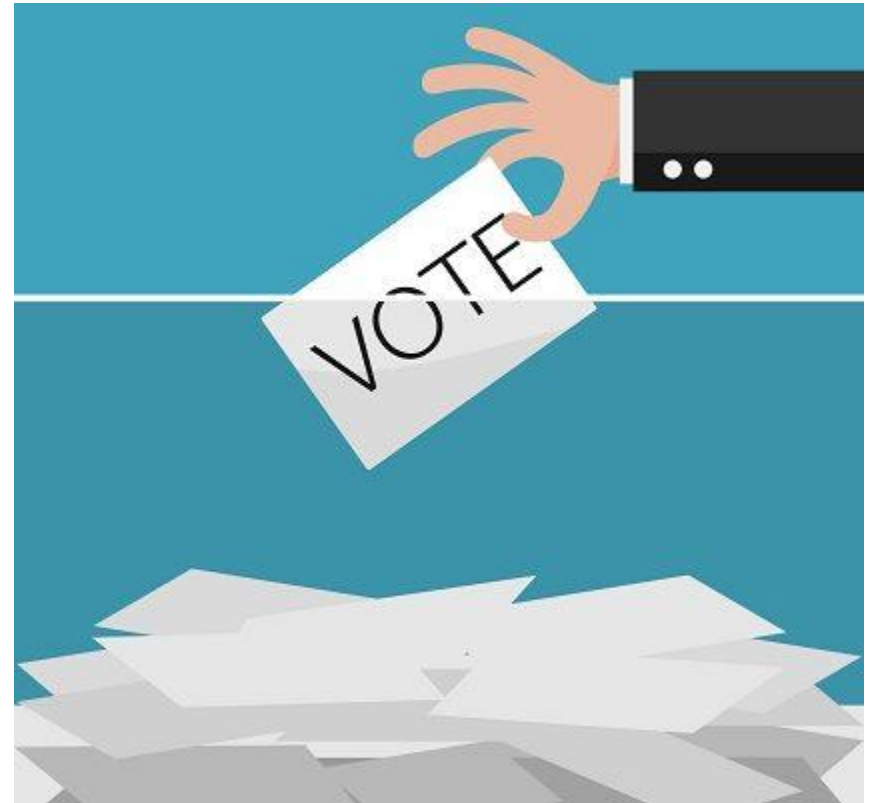
- A key element of the war effort was **sending soldiers overseas**
- When the war first broke out, **enlistment in the army was voluntary**
- In 1940, the ***National Resources Mobilization Act***:
 - required all men and women aged 16-60 to register on a list
 - the government would use it to enroll people in the war effort – to be part of the military or to work in the war industry
- **Camilien Houde**, the mayor of Montréal:
 - declared in front of journalists that he denounced countrywide registration and would **oppose any future conscription**
 - was arrested by the RCMP
 - sent to an internment camp in Petawawa (ON) during the war.

Plebiscite on conscription

- There were **far fewer French Canadian volunteers than English Canadian volunteers**
- In 1942:
 - 40% of the population of English Canada served in the war
 - 9.9% of the population of Québec served in the war.
- **Reasons why French Canadians' participation in the war was so low:**
 - Strong nationalism in opposition to British imperialism
 - Government of Canada's initial promise to not use conscription
 - Difficulty for francophones to integrate into Canadian military life, which was entirely in English.

Plebiscite

➤ *A direct **vote** on an **important public question**.*



Plebiscite on conscription

- At the war front, allied armies were very **short of men** due to heavy casualties.
- In 1942, Prime Minister King held a plebiscite:
 - OBJECTIVE: **to ask the Canadian population to release PM King from his commitment not to use conscription**
 - Some French-Canadian nationalists formed an anti-conscription movement, the *Defense League of Canada*
 - The results of the plebiscite illustrate a clear difference of opinion:
 - In Québec: 71.2% of the population voted NO
 - Other provinces: 80% of the population voted YES
 - In the end, **PM King imposed overseas conscription in 1944.**

Men and women's contribution to the war effort

- Canada had to update its military arsenal dating back to WW1
 - Old factories were transformed and new factories were built to begin the large-scale production required to meet the military's needs:
 - uniforms
 - explosives
 - weapons
 - munitions
 - ships
 - planes
 - tanks
- then shipped to the UK.



Men and women's contribution to the war effort

- Québec's economy **boomed**
- High demand for labour brought **unemployment** levels to **below 1%**
- **WW2 brought an end to the Great Depression of the 1930s.**
- **Women**, married and single, had jobs in the war industry
- The federal government encouraged the **creation of daycares** for children 12 years and under to allow mothers to work.
- **Unions** were able to negotiate **salary increases** and **more social benefits** in the labour market.

Men and women's contribution to the war effort

Why did men volunteer to go to the front?

- They were motivated by employment
- They were motivated by the adventure
- They desired to defend their country.



Men and women's contribution to the war effort

- Canada played a role in many of the battles in Europe.



Men and women's contribution to the war effort

Dieppe Raid (France, August 1942):

- 5,000 Canadians took part
- Unfortunately for the Allies, Germany had been warned of the potential attack
- It resulted in a large number of Canadian casualties and prisoners of war
- **The raid was a failure for the Allies.**



Men and women's contribution to the war effort

Normandy landings (France, 1944):

- Also known as “D-Day”.
- The Allied forces had:
 - a greater logistical efficiency
 - better equipment
 - a more secure intelligence service
- The **success** of the Normandy landings was the beginning of the liberation of France.



The Holocaust

- The 'Holocaust' refers to the persecution and extermination of 6 million European Jews by the Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945
- Other groups, like the Roma, homosexuals and the disabled, were also victims of Nazi persecution during this period.

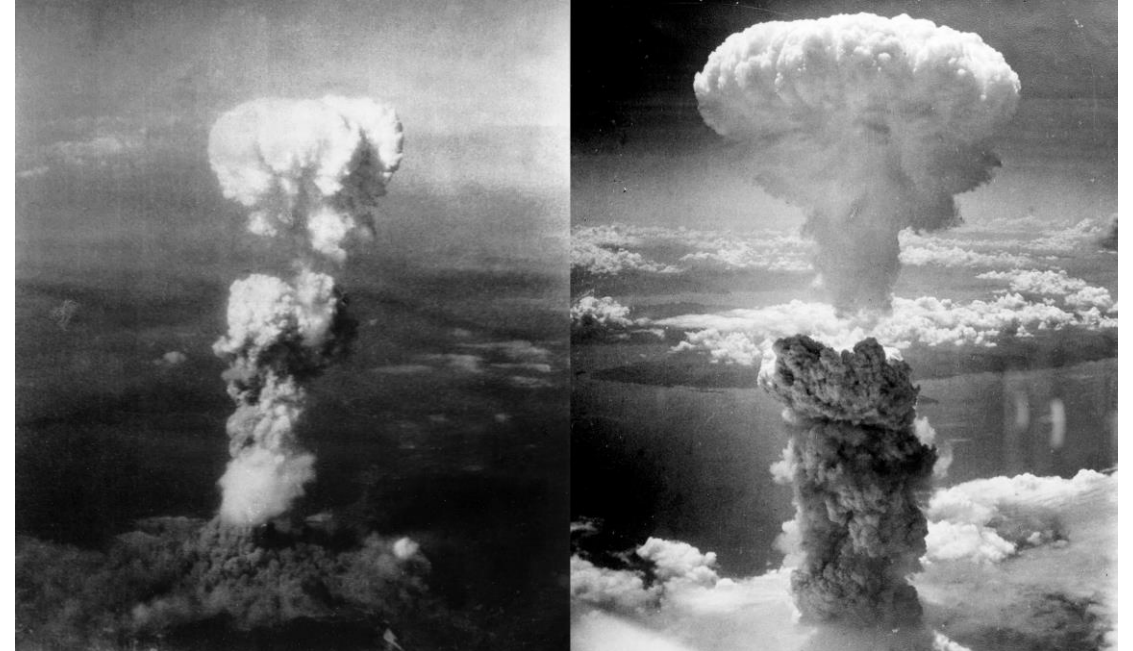


The Holocaust

- **Anti-Semitism:** hostility against the Jews
- This hostility was present in Germany in the first half of the 20th century
- In 1933, the Nazis instituted measures against the Jews. They did the same in countries they conquered and occupied in the early years of the war
- Entire populations were crammed into ghettos before being sent to concentration camps
- Starting in December 1941, extermination camps were set up. Jews from all over Europe were deported to these camps and killed.

Demobilization

- In **Europe**, the war ended on May 8, 1945 after **Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces**
- On September 2, 1945, **Japan** formally **surrendered** after the USA dropped 2 atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Demobilization

- Of the 1 million Canadians who enlisted, more than 610,000 fought in Europe
- About 45,000 Canadians died
- Over 45,000 Canadians returned wounded, were reported missing or were never repatriated
- Many veterans struggled with the physical and psychological scars caused by the war
- Millions of people died worldwide.



Demobilization

- Canada joined the **United Nations** (UN) shortly after the end of WW2
- This new international organization (UN) aimed to maintain peace, security and respect for human rights.

