

Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues, 2nd Ed.
Reading Guide for Chapter 5

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Canada and the Second World War

Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues, 2nd Ed., Chapter 5, pages 118-161

The Rise of Totalitarianism: pages 120-123

1. What is a "dictator"?
2. What is a "totalitarian state"?
3. Where did totalitarian governments develop after WWI?
4. What are "five-year plans"?
5. Describe Stalin's direction of life in the Soviet Union after 1928.
6. Define the term "fascist".
7. Who was Benito Mussolini?
8. How did his Blackshirts treat his opponents?
9. How did he gain power?
10. What was the "Weimar Republic"?
11. Why did Germans distrust the "Weimar Republic"?
12. What were "Nazis"?

13. How was Adolf Hitler able to gain control of the German government in the 1930s?
14. What actions did Hitler take after he gained control of the German government?
15. What did the Nazis define as a "Aryans"?
16. How did they view other peoples and those with whom they differed?
17. What were "concentration camps"?
18. What were the "Nuremberg Laws"?
19. What was "Kristallnacht"?
20. What is "persecution"?
21. How did persecution of Jewish people in Germany increase after Kristallnacht?
22. What was the "holocaust"?
23. Who were the "Mac Paps"?
24. Who were the "Nationalists" in the Spanish Civil War?
25. What was the Canadian response to the Spanish Civil War?
26. What countries actively supported Franco and his rebels?
27. Who was Francisco Franco?
28. List some elements that Japan shared with the fascist countries of Europe.
29. What did the groups that took political control of Japan in the 1930s do with their new power?

Causes of the Second World War: pages 124-126

30. How were the totalitarian leaders of Japan and some European countries imperialistic?
31. How did France and Britain react to Hitler's occupation of the Rhineland and annexation of Austria?
32. What was the "Munich Agreement"?
33. What is meant by "appeasement"?
34. What was the outcome of British Prime Minister Chamberlain's policy of appeasement in Czechoslovakia?
35. What is a "non-aggression pact"?
36. Why did Hitler and Stalin sign one in August 1939?
37. Why do you think Hitler ignored the British and French demand that he withdraw from Poland?
38. Why was the League of Nations unable to fulfill its mandate to maintain peace?
39. How did the League respond to the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931?
40. What was the response of Japan?
41. How did the League of Nations respond to the 1935 Italian invasion of Abyssinia?

Canada's Response to the Threat of War: pages 127-129

42. What is meant by "isolationism"?
43. Why did PM King follow a policy of isolationism?
44. How did PM King perceive Adolph Hitler when he met him in 1937?
45. What are "refugees"?
46. What is "anti-Semitism"?

47. In November 1938 Cabinet Minister Thomas Crerar recommended that 10,000 Jewish people be allowed to emigrate to Canada. Why do you think PM King's Cabinet turned down his recommendation?
48. Describe the plight of the passengers aboard the S.S. St. Louis.

Canada Declares War: pages 130-132

49. How was Canada's entry into WWII different from its entry into WWI?
50. What assurance did PM King give Justice Minister Ernest Lapointe and the people of Quebec during the debate about whether or not to declare war on Germany? Why?
51. Which political leader argued against entering a war with Germany? Why?
52. Explain why you agree/disagree with his position.
53. Describe the state of Canada's armed forces on September 10, 1939.
54. Describe recruiting efforts in September 1939.
55. What role did PM King prefer for Canada in the war? Why?
56. What was the "BCATP"?
57. Describe its scope.
58. What is meant by the term "total war"?
59. What was CD Howe's role in Canada's war effort?
60. What were "crown corporations"?
61. Why did Howe create them?
62. What was the "Wartime Information Board"?

Axis Advances: pages 133-137

63. Who were the "Allies" in WWII?
64. What was the "Axis" in WWII?
65. Describe the German's "blitzkrieg" tactic.
66. Where was it first used?
67. What happened at Dunkirk?
68. What was the "Luftwaffe"?
69. What was "Operation Sea Lion"?
70. What was "the Blitz"?
71. What was the "Battle of Britain"?
72. What was the Desert War?
73. Why was control of the Mediterranean of strategic importance?
74. What was "Operation Barbarossa"?
75. Why did Hitler launch this attack?
76. Why did attack stall in December 1941?
77. Why did Germany attack southern Russia in 1942?
78. What happened at Stalingrad?
79. What is "Pearl Harbor"?
80. What was the "Battle of Hong Kong"?

81. What was "Black Christmas"?

Canada's Contribution to the War Effort: pages 138-141

82. What was the "Battle of the Atlantic"?

83. How did the Germans attack Allied shipping?

84. How were the Allies able to defeat the German u-boats?

85. What were "corvettes"?

86. What were "WRENS"?

87. How did the RCAF expand during the war?

88. What was the "Bomber Command"?

89. What was the result of repeated Bomber Command attacks on the German city of Hamburg in July 1943?

90. Why was the Bomber Command directed to attack German cities?

91. Do you think the Allies were justified in launching such massive, indiscriminate attacks on German cities? Explain.

92. What were RCAF casualty rates as part of Bomber Command?

93. List several technological developments during WWII and their effects on the war and/or the future.

The Tide Turns: pages 142-145

94. What was the "Dieppe Raid"?

95. Why was the attack made?

96. What was its outcome?

97. What was the "Italian Campaign"?

98. What was the Battle of Ortona?

D-Day – The Normandy Invasion: pages 146-151

99. What was "D-Day"?

100. Describe it.

101. What are "paratroopers"?

102. What is "Juno Beach"?

103. What was significant about the Battle of the Scheldt?

104. What role did Canadian troops take on in the winter of 1944-1945?

105. What was the significance of the Yalta Conference?

106. What is "VE Day"?

107. What tactic was the US using against Japan after March 1945 to force the Japanese to surrender? What effect did it have?

108. What was the "Manhattan Project"?

109. What was Canada's role in this project?

110. What were the effects of the use of the atomic bomb against Japan?

111. Compare the views of Admiral William Leahy and Colonel Paul Tibbets regarding the use of the atomic bombs on Japan. Which do you support? Why?

Crimes Against Humanity: page 152

112. What was the Nazi government's "Final Solution"?

113. What is "genocide"?

114. Describe how people were treated at concentration camps such as Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz.
115. What were the Nuremberg Trials?
116. What is a "tribunal"?
117. What are "war crimes"?
118. What are "crimes against humanity"?
119. What were the "Tokyo Trials"?
120. Germans and Japanese committed war crimes during WWII by their treatment of people. Do you think German and Allied attacks against cities also represent "war crimes"? Explain.

The War at Home: pages 153-157

121. What effect did the war have on the Home Front in Canada?
122. How did the War change Canadian attitudes to women in the work force?
123. How did the war foster social change in Canada?
124. What is meant by "cradle to grave social security"?
125. What was the "NRMA"?
126. What is a "plebiscite"?
127. Why was one held in 1942?
128. What was the outcome?
129. Why was PM King finally forced to send conscripts overseas in 1944?
130. What is meant by the term "enemy aliens"?

131. How were Japanese Canadians treated in Canada during WWII?
132. How were they compensated in 1988?

What the War Meant to Canada: pages 158-159

133. What was the meaning behind Franklin Roosevelt's 1940 slogan "arsenal of democracy"?
134. In what way did Canada's economy change during WWII?
135. What were "war brides"?
136. Why did Canada allow displaced persons from some European countries come to Canada after the war?
137. Was the Second World war good for Canada? Explain.