

Canada at War

Canada's effort in World

War II

1939 -1945

6.1 The Road to War

- In the summer of 1939, Canadians watched events unfolding in Europe
- Germany was demanding territory from Poland
- Britain and France warned Germany not to enter Poland



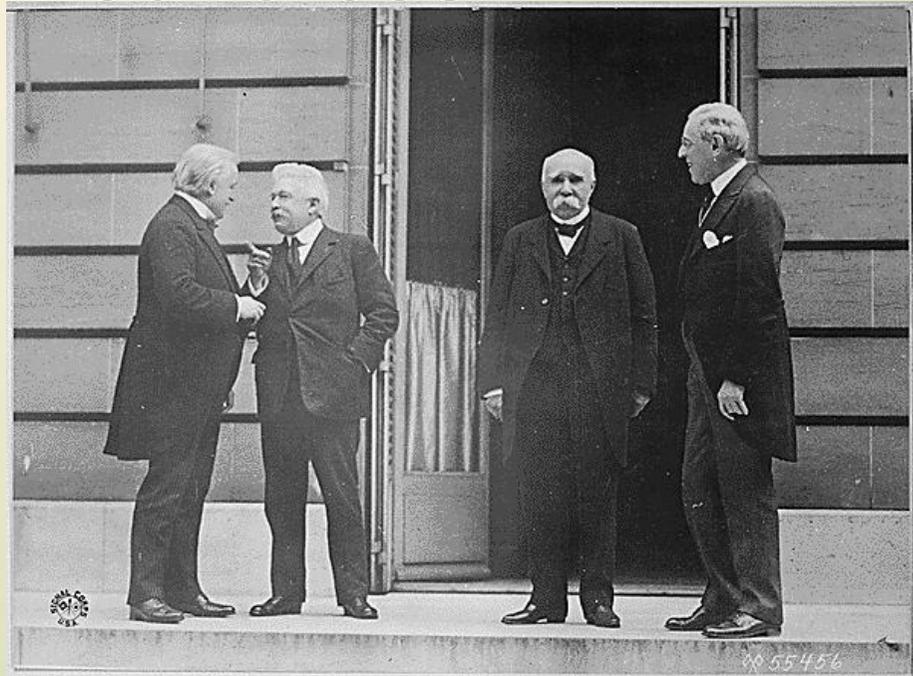
Why war?

- Why after only 20 years was the world ready to go to war again?
- Wasn't the last war supposed to be the 'war to end all wars'?
- Why did Germany and Japan want war?



The Treaty of Versailles 1919

- _Germany punished for starting World War I
- forced to pay **reparations** (compensation) to the winners
- loss of land
- reduce the nation's armed forces



Rise of Hitler

- Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist party (NAZIS) were elected to power in 1933 using the anger of the people.
- Hitler promised to tear up the treaty and rebuild the nation to its former glory
- Hitler outlawed other parties and became the dictator of Germany
- He began to break the terms of the treaty.



The Other Nations

- Britain, France and the United States wanted to avoid another war at all costs
- They did not take a stand against the violations of the treaty
- Britain argued that relaxing the terms would satisfy the Germans
- The term for this was **appeasement** (giving into demands of an unfriendly power)

Canada at War

- since 1931 Canada could decide on their own whether to go to war
- Canada decided to formally declare war on Germany September 10, 1939
- Canada's identity would evolve on the world stage



6.2 Phases of the War

Phase 1: September 1939 - June 1940

- The "phony war" - little happened in Western Europe (Germans did invade Western Europe in April 1940 using a tactic called **blitzkrieg**)
- Germany and Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact and divided Poland
- The Allies - Britain (and her commonwealth) and France
- The Axis - Germany, Italy and Japan

Canada's Contribution

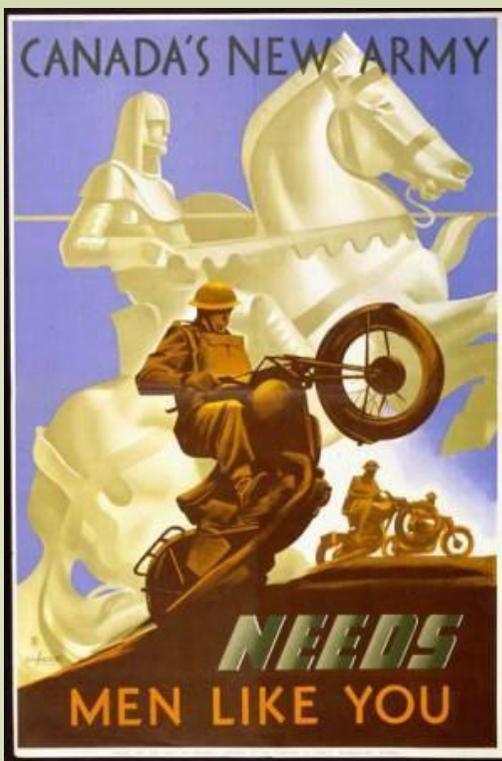
- small volunteer army raised and sent to Britain by December 1939
- merchant marines** were needed to transport personnel and war goods
- many ships were sunk by German U-Boats immediately



1939 British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) put in place to train allied pilots in Canada

1940 Mackenzie King wins Federal election maintains a small volunteer army abroad with large scale war production at home

May 1940 Germany's wins through Holland, Belgium and France changed Canada's position to full commitment- **National Mobilization Act (NMRA)**



Phase 2: June 1940 - July 1943

- Germany invades Soviet Union
- Japan surprise invasion of the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - December 7, 1941 - "a day that will live in infamy"
- June 1942 - Midway - U.S. destroys much of Japan's naval and air forces
- Germany suffers massive defeat in USSR

Canada experiences success and failures

Success

- Turn the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic by mid-1943 using new anti-submarine techniques

Failures

- Hong Kong 1941 - Japanese killed 290 while capturing 1685 (POWs)
- Dieppe, France 1942 - 900 Canadians killed 1900 POWs

dieppe refresher -
YouTube2.mp4

Phase 3: July 1943 - June 1944

Allies on the offensive on all **fronts**

- U.S. pushing back the Japanese and recapture the Philippines
- Soviets push back the Germans
- Allied aerial bombing of Germany escalated



Canada

· Canadian Air force greatly expanded and joined in the bombing of German industrial targets

· Canada's fighting force now a full scale army and joined the allied invasion of Sicily. They moved on to the Italian mainland where they distinguished themselves in the house to house, hand to hand battle for the city of Ortuna

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=0Znr-eaov20

Phase 4: June 1944 - September 1945

- June 6, 1944 **D-DAY** (Operation Overlord)
(fighting a war on two fronts)
- Canadians landed on a beach, code named 'Juno', the Americans and British landed nearby on the beaches of Normandy
- The march to Berlin was begin with the capture of Caen (a roan and rail centre), Falaise fell and Paris was liberated as the Germans retreated



The Canadian Army pushes on!

- First Canadians assigned to clear coastal areas and ports (key port: Antwerp, Belgium) Germans opened the dykes and flooded the fields.

Canadians given nickname 'water rats'

- Next job was to liberate the Netherlands! Over 6000 Canadian casualties are still honoured by the Dutch

- VE occurred May 8, 1945 with the death of Hitler and the German surrender but there was still work to do

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=hNQH-Srmmkg

6.3 War in the Pacific

▬ After the German defeat, all eyes turned to Asia. Canada's navy and air force had a small role in the Pacific.

- May, 1945 80 000 Canadians volunteered to join the Pacific war, however, they did not have time to take part

- The United States dropped the Atomic Bomb in August, 1945

The Atomic Bomb

Code Name: "Manhattan Project"

Purpose: a) destroy the ability of the Japanese to continue to wage war

b) Save the lives of thousands of Allied troops

- August 6, 1945 Hiroshima

- August 9, 1945 Nagasaki

Hundreds of thousands died in the initial explosions and the radiation aftermath

- Japan surrenders September 2, 1945

6.4 Holocaust

· Few people knew the extent of the Nazi commitment to what they called the **Final solution**

· January 1942, Hitler's deputy announced a plan to murder all Jews and any others they wanted

· The **genocide** would shock the world

· This slaughter would become known as the **Holocaust**

War Crimes Trials, Nuremburg

- German leaders were held accountable for their roles in this horrific event early 1946 (Hermann Goering among others sentenced to death)

- Other trials were held through the years as Nazi leaders were caught and put on trial for crimes against humanity in Israel

A Jewish Homeland

- 1948 the State of Israel was established as a Jewish Homeland
- The area is sacred to Jewish people , Christians and Muslims
- The geographic location as well as the religious and political interests has made this area a powder keg!

Attachments
Appender - YouTube2.mp4
