Chapter 2
1896-1945: Nationalisms and the Autonomy of Canada

Section 1: Wilfred Laurier & Canada’s Status in the British Empire
Pages that correspond to this presentation

Canada’s Status in the British Empire: Pages 114-121
What is chapter 2 all about?... A quick summary

• Between 1896-1945 → Canada in its ‘adolescence stage’ → searching for an identity independent from England and the British Empire
• Demand for more political independence from the British Empire
• New waves of immigrants to Canada → British, Northern European, Eastern and Southern European and Asian immigrants
• New provinces established within Canada
• A slow but steady increase in Women’s rights in Canada/Quebec
• First Nations continued to fight rights and for their traditional lifestyles/culture
What is chapter 2 all about?... A quick summary

- Debates between English Canadians, Imperialists and French Canadian Nationalists over Canada’s involvement in ‘British wars’ and participating within the British Empire
- The French Canadian population pushes for its own identity within Canada as a whole
- Capitalism and industrialization transformed cities and American capital flooded into Quebec
- Natural resources extraction in Quebec became even more important to the economy
- WWI helped push Canada into the ‘Roaring 20s’
What is chapter 2 all about?... A quick summary

- By 1929 → stock market crash with kicks off the Great Depression
- Urbanization took over → In Quebec: more people were living in cities than rural areas by 1921
- The Catholic Church got involved with the creation of Catholic unions
- The Great Depression led to new ideas on how society could function: Socialism, etc.
- Quebec continued to fight for autonomy from the Canadian federal government
What word do we find within the word ‘Nationalism’?

- **Nation** → in your own words, what is a ‘nation’?
- **People**/ group of people
- Within a **territory** or more than one territory
- **Shared** ideas, values, religion, language, culture
- Can different forms of Nationalism co-exist?
- What does **Nationalism** mean?
What word do we find within the word ‘Nationalism’?

- ‘ism’ → in your own words, what is an ‘ism’?
- Can you think of any examples of words that have ‘ism’ in them
- What do these words have in common
- After discussing ‘nation’ and ‘ism’ → how can we define ‘nationalism’?
- How can we apply nationalism to Canada in more contemporary times?
Post Confederation Background

• Canada becomes an independent country on July 1\textsuperscript{st}, 1867
• Canada is a dominion
• Some rules:
  – Can’t sign any treaties by themselves $\rightarrow$ they need England
  – Can’t have any politicians that represent Canada in other countries
  – If England goes to war $\rightarrow$ Canada goes to war to support England
Post Confederation Background

• 4 provinces initially
• Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
• French Canadiens (FC) in Quebec, Ontario, NB, Manitoba
• Country grows after land is purchased from England and more provinces join Canada
• WAVES of immigrants come to Canada and settle in Quebec and other provinces
• Different cultures = different ideas
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

• After July 1st, 1867 → Canada NOT a colony
• Dominion
• Still have to follow some British ‘rules’
• IMPERIALISM → the mother country influences the political and cultural aspects of colonies/dominions
• British government still tries to influence Canada after 1867
• Imperialists wanted to consolidate British interests:
  – Politics / style of government
  – Military
  – Economy
  – Culture
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

A map of the British Empire in 1910

- The British Empire in the late 1800s/early 1900s was the largest empire in history
- Some territories had more control over local laws than others
- Remember: Canada was a DOMINION at the time

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

A political cartoon of ‘John Bull’ and the influence of the British Empire

- ‘John Bull’ was a fictional character/personification of The British and the Government of England in general
- What is this cartoon trying to tell the readers?

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

• How was Imperialism expressed in Canada in the late 1800s/early 1900s?

• Naming of places after important British figures
  – Bridges
  – Roads
  – Buildings

• Events (like parades) → ‘Diamond Jubilee Parade-London in 1897’ attended by Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier

• Newspapers that support the British government

• Sports that are linked to England (cricket, rugby, etc.)
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal - 1907

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Cricket match at McGill University - 1890

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Victoria skating rink- costume carnival party -1870

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Dufferin Fancy Dress Ball – February 23rd, 1876 in Ottawa

• How could this event be considered as ‘Imperialism’?

Can you believe Darlene has the same dress as me?!?!? What a b-word!
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

• The Diamond Jubilee parade in 1897
• Queen of England = Queen Victoria
• 60th anniversary of her ascension to the throne
• Major event
• Canada’s prime minister at the time → Sir Wilfred Laurier of the Federal Liberal Party
  – Went to London, England for the celebrations
  – Was asked constantly about Canada’s ‘role’ in the British Empire → Will Canada support England unconditionally?
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Queen Victoria in 1897

Diamond Jubilee Parade- 1897

You smell that?!?!

Yeah... must be... horse farts...

You must that?!?!

Suuure....Blame it on the horses.....


Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

• At the Diamond Jubilee celebrations:
  – Laurier did not say he would unconditionally support England

• Laurier continued to say ‘no’ to connections to England
  – Military connections
  – Economic connections

• People called him “Sir Won’tfrid”

• However, it seemed as though he could only say ‘no’ so many times...
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Wilfred Laurier around 1897

Laurier’s precession in the Diamond Jubilee Parade-1897

Source: Wikicommons.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sir_Wilfrid_Laurier_c._1897.jpg>

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia.
French Canadian Nationalism

• All over Canada → not just Quebec
• Proud of French language, Catholic religion and French Canadien culture
• Canadian, but wanted autonomy from British empire
• Did not want to spend money or send soldiers to fight for British interests
• Wanted equal rights for both languages, bilingualism & biculturalism within Canada
French Canadian Nationalism

- Henri Bourassa
- Journalist & politician
- Member of the Canadian House of Commons as a Liberal
- Started newspaper “Le Devoir”
- Fought for FC rights/ideologies within Canada

My ‘stache is much better than O’Neill’s Movember beard

Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia.
French Canadian Nationalism

- He did not want Canada to build ties with England → he wanted a more independent Canada
- Openly opposed sending troops to Boer war and WWII → later opposed any form of conscription (we will discuss these events later)
- Opposed Canadian naval bill → did not want to pay so England could use Canadian navy

Source: Biographi.ca. 
Commemorative stamp of Henri Bourassa
French Canadian Nationalism

- Bourassa’s Newspaper, ‘Le Devoir’ became extremely popular in 1910 when it was founded.
- Bourassa tried to unite Canadians (both French and English) and push them away from imperialist ideas.
- Bourassa understood that English and French Canadiens were different → respect the differences.

French Canadian Nationalism

- Lionel Groulx
- Priest, teacher and journalist
- Edited a French journal called “Action-Francaise”
- Fought for French Canadian rights within Canada
- French Canadiens should NOT be subordinate to English Canadians
- Language and religion important for FC culture → French Canadiens must stand up for their language, religion and culture in Canada
- Fought against conscription during WWI (1917)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Groulx>
What about a Canadian identity...?

• In the late 1800s/early 1900s we see another form of Nationalism → one that does not entirely agree with FC Nationalists OR Imperialists...

• This sentiment has sometimes been called ‘Canadian Nationalism’

• People who considered themselves ‘Canadian Nationalists’ thought that:
  – Canada should have an attachment to the British Empire
  – This attachment should not DEFINE who/what Canada is → Canada should have an identity separate from the British Empire
What about a Canadian identity...?

• The **Canadian Red Ensign flag** was a good symbol when considering Canada’s push for its own identity.
• The Red Ensign flag still had the British Union Jack but it also had the Canadian coat of arms to reflect the provinces within Canada.
• The coat of arms changed when new provinces joined Canada.


The Canadian Red Ensign flag used in 1868.
What about a Canadian identity…?

• In 1897 → Wilfred Laurier was invited to London by the British Prime Minister, Joseph Chamberlain, to help plan to create an Imperial Council with all other British colonies/Dominions

• This council would work towards what was important for the British Empire → not necessarily what was good for Canada

• Laurier said ‘no’ to the council → he was concerned that Canada would not be able to decide what was important for itself → it would not have a voice
What about a Canadian identity...

The Colonial Conference in London, England- 1897

Wilfred Laurier is the 2nd from the left in the front row
Important Events that helped shape a Canadian Identity in the early 20th century

- Canadian military support for the United Kingdom/British Empire
  - The Boer War
  - The Canadian Naval Services Bill

- These events were crucial moments for Canada
- They were moments that forced Canadians to think about how they wanted to participate within the Empire at the start of the 20th century moving forward
The Boer War: Context

• The United Kingdom colonized many regions in Africa in the 1800s → in particular what is now known as South Africa

• This region was important for the UK:
  – diamond and gold mines
  – Counterbalance the regions colonized by Germany

• The Boers → descendants of Dutch settlers who lived in areas spotted with potential for mining next to British held territory

• The Boer territories were called ‘Transvaal’ & ‘Orange Free State’

• The British and the Boer would dispute the territory and go to war
The Boer War: Context

A Boer farmer family in 1886

The Boer War: Context

World map with disputed region circled

The Boer War: Context

Map of the southern portion of Africa: British held territory & Boer held territory

Orange territory = Boers
Green territory = British

The Boer War: Context

- The Boer people wanted their territories to be recognized as independent states.
- The British wanted control of ‘Transvaal’ and the ‘Orange Free State’.
- The Boers had no where to move → regions are all colonized by European countries → they had no choice but to fight the British for their land.
- The Boer War began in 1899.

Aquatint Print of a camp of ‘Trekboers’ by artist by Samuel Daniell

The Boer War

• The British **wanted support** from its colonies and dominions in the war against the Boers
  – Financial support → $$$
  – Military support → send soldiers

• Many Canadians of British origin wanted to help the British fight against the Boers

• However → Many Canadians, especially French Canadiens did not think supporting the British was helpful to Canada

• French Canadians like Henri Bourassa thought that if Canada helps in the Boer War → they WILL HAVE TO HELP in every single war after
The Boer War

• Laurier could not continue to say ‘no’ to England
  – Many Candians wanted to support England
  – But many DID NOT...

• Wilfred Laurier was known for compromises ➔ he called this strategy ‘Sunny Ways’

• His/Liberal Party’s strategy was to equip and transport volunteer soldiers to South Africa

• This started with approximately 1000

• Eventually ➔ 7000 Canadian volunteer soldiers left for South Africa from 1899-1902

• Approximately 250 of these soldiers died

• This was the FIRST time Canada had sent soldiers overseas to fight
The Boer War

Canadian Military Propaganda Poster during the Boer War

Top Right: Second Canadian Mounted Rifles in the Transvaal-1902
Bottom Right: A Colt machine gun and galloping carriage-1902

Source: The Canadian Anglo-Boer War Museum. 
<http://angloboerwarmuseum.com/Boer93o1_sheet_intro.html>

Source: National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces. 
<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vo6/no2/history-histoire-eng.asp>
The Boer War

- Henri Bourassa along with many French Canadiens were unhappy with Laurier’s ‘compromise’
- He felt Laurier was a ‘sell-out’ to British imperialism
- As a form of protest → Bourassa resigned from the Federal Parliament (House of Commons)
- He would later be re-elected → Bourassa became very popular because of his beliefs → standing up to imperialism
- Eventually the British defeat the Boers in 1902
- This event had created a sentiment of distrust between French Canadiens and Canadian imperialists as to where Canada SHOULD be involved when it came to England’s demands
The Canadian Naval Services Bill

• Since Confederation in 1867 → British authorities have tried to persuade Canada into developing its own Naval fleet (Buy or build ships)

• Defend Canadian waters/ protect against American fishermen crossing over into Canadian waters

• Many Canadian politicians thought this was a bad idea → England could commandeer the ships and possibly use them in British wars

• England wanted Canada to purchase a ‘Dreadnaught’ ship → Not a good Idea → Canada has 2 coasts to defend
The Canadian Naval Services Bill

• By 1909 → ‘arms race’ between England and Germany

• 2 countries indirectly competing to build up military forces → naval fleet

• 1909 panic in Britain over amount of ships built by Germany

• In response → England pressures its dominions (like Canada) to build up their own naval fleets to support the Empire

• This is another issue that divides Canadian Imperialists and French Canadiens
The Canadian Naval Services Bill

• 1910 → Canadian Naval Services Bill/Act
• Laurier and the Liberal Party develop another ‘compromise’
• Canada will purchase ships to protect its own waters
• Will only allow England to use these Canadian ships IF Parliament votes in favour of it
• In addition, Canada would start recruiting and training sailors for its navy
The Canadian Naval Services Bill

Top Left: HMS Invincible in 1907 - A ‘Dreadnaught’ ship

Right: Canadian navy recruitment poster around 1914


The Canadian Naval Services Bill

Left: Group of men that were part of the First recruits for the Canadian Navy
Right: HMCS Niobi – acquired by Canada after 1910


Why am I doing this? I can’t even swim... I used those floaty things on my arms....
The Canadian Naval Services Bill

• Like Laurier’s ‘compromise’ on the Boer war → Naval Services Bill was unpopular
• French Canadians like Henri Bourassa thought it was going ‘too far’ to help England
• Canadian Imperialists wanted Canada to build more ships and let England use these ships without consent
• Laurier could not win...
  – “I am branded as a traitor to the French, and in Ontario as a traitor to the English... In Quebec I am attacked as an imperialist and in Ontario as an anti-imperialist. I am neither. I am Canadian.”

– Wilfred Laurier in 1911

The Boer War & the Naval Services Bill: Why were they important?

- These two events brought up sentiments on many sides over how to proceed with the British Empire.
- It was clear that many Canadians still considered themselves and Canada as an important part of the British Empire.
- French Canadians wanted more independence from the Empire → they saw themselves as Canadian.
- These issues would force Wilfred Laurier to make compromises that would not satisfy many Canadians.
- These issues foreshadowed the division in Canada that would play out in other events later on in the 20th century.
Wilfred Laurier: An Imperialist or a Canadian Nationalist?

• It can be said that he was both
• As Prime Minister, Laurier had to make sure he was good at balancing the different nationalisms in Canada:
  – French Canadian Nationalism
  – British Imperialism
  – Canadian Nationalism
• He wanted to make everyone happy → Canadians and England/British Empire
• Laurier used compromise to try and please everyone → it called this “the sunny way”
Connections to the Precisions of Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canada’s status in the British Empire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Imperialism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. French-Canadian nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Canadian military support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Statute of Westminster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>