Canada and the Second World War
Peace in Our Time

- Neville Chamberlain returned from the Munich Conference announcing "Peace in our Time"
- Chamberlain had reached an agreement with Hitler at Munich, stating that Hitler could have the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia if Hitler didn’t take any more territory...this is referred to as Appeasement (*) (giving in to Hitler)
Czechoslovakia Falls

- In March, 1939, Hitler ignored the agreement and ceased the rest of Czechoslovakia...Hitler betrayed Chamberlain and war seemed inevitable.
- King George VI and Queen Elizabeth come to Canada to rally support.
King Apprehensive

- King did not want to bring Canada into another World War
- Knew that if he brought in Conscription, he would lose French support
- Canada was emerging from the Depression, didn’t want a war
Canada Joins the Allies

- On September 1, 1939 Hitler invades Poland with *Blitzkrieg* (lightning war) – Tanks (Panzers), Planes, Paratroopers, Radio
- 2 days later, France and Britain declare war on Germany
- In WWI, Canada was automatically at war when Britain went to war
- On September 10, Canada declared War on Germany *willingly* (*)
- King only had support from the Conservatives, to get French support, King promised not to conscript Canadians (Oops)
Axis and Allies - 1939

**Axis**
- Germany (Hitler)
- Italy (Mussolini)
- Japan (Hirohito)

**Allies**
- Britain (Churchill)
- France (Daladier)
- Canada (King)
Canada: Mobilizing for War

- Small army, air force, and navy with old equipment and few recruits
- No cheering crowds - Canadians remembered the horrors of WWI
- Still, in September, 58,330 volunteered for service!
Canada: Mobilizing for War

- Aboriginals volunteered a higher percentage than any other group.
- African Canadians rejected...only allowed in later in the war.
- First troops sailed from Halifax on December 10, 1939.
British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP)

- Canada was the perfect place for training pilots with its open skies and distance from enemy warplanes.
- British instructors would train pilots from Britain and the Commonwealth.
British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP)

- Was a major Canadian contribution to the war
- 130,000 pilots, navigators, flight engineers were trained in Canada
- Cost $2.2 billion dollars, of which Canada paid 70%
Total War

War no longer about the number of troops on the battlefield, but about the resources of the Countries involved – a strong economy for war production.
Total War

April 1940, King established the department of Munitions and Supplies with C.D. Howe as its minister. Howe was direct and impatient. Had Vancouver making ships, Montreal making bombers, and car companies making military vehicles. More, More, More!
Canada – Air, Sea, Land
Sea – Battle of the Atlantic

- Canadian navy started with only 13 ships and 1800 sailors
- Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) rushed into massive building and training
- Britain was dependant on food and supplies from Canada and the U.S.
- Allies sailed in *Convoys* across the Atlantic to protect from German “Wolf Packs” (groups of U-Boats or submarines)
Sea – Battle of the Atlantic

- “Wolf Pacs” sunk millions of tonnes of cargo
- The Canadian Corvette – quick, small, maneuverable...but not very seaworthy. They were cramped and miserable.
- Allies were losing the Sea battle up until Christmas 1942. German U-Boats were decimating the convoys and sunk ships in the St. Lawrence River. The Canadian Corvette was pulled and re-armed.
Sea – Battle of the Atlantic

- The British cracked the German Naval code – Enigma
- Allies reached a point where more ships were being built, than destroyed.
- 1943 – German Navy had suffered great loses and supplies were largely reaching their destination (Half by Canadian ships)
- By 1945 – Canada had 400 vessels, 100,000 sailors (men and women)
Air – Bombing Campaign

- Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) grew quickly after war began
- 250,000 Canadians joined the RCAF during the war
- Largely involved in bombing campaigns – Germany, North Africa, Italy, and South East Asia
Air – Bombing Campaign

- Night Raids on German Cities – massive bombings
- Lancaster Bomber – One of the best aircraft
- No precision bombing-carpet bombed cities, significant civilian death
- Bombs caused fire storms – Dresden and Hamburg
- RCAF Women’s Division (WD) – Clerks, cooks, mechanics and a few pilots. Not allowed in combat, only to fly the planes to Britain
- 10 000 Canadian pilots died in the war (1/4 of Canadian deaths)
Land – Dieppe, France
Dieppe

August 19, 1942 – 6,000 troops attacked (5000 Canadian)

Stalin put on pressure to open a second front

Goals: charge in, secure beach head, scale a 200 foot cliff, eliminate coastal defenses, capture the port, and secure the area of machine gun nests (in 30 minutes)
Dieppe

- A Disaster and a Canadian slaughterhouse!
- No bombardment – wanted to be a surprise (Oops)
- No cover of darkness
- Men dropped at wrong sites
- Tanks got stuck in the sand
- Complicated and unrealistic plan (over 100 pages)
- Troops were inexperienced (but had great heart)
- Was supposed to be lightly guarded, but was a fortress
**Dieppe**

- Lasted 9 hours – 3,300 casualties with 900 killed
- 1900 taken prisoner and British battle plans captured
- Was justified that it gave the Allies crucial information for D-Day on how NOT to go about invading a coastal town... was it worth the cost? Need massive bombardments & open beaches
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSKK_n8VWek&feature=related
Fall of France
Fall of France

- The French had built a highly fortified “Maginot Line” but they had not built it all the way along the Belgian Border.
- Hitler decides to avoid the Maginot Line, and attack France through Belgium.
- French and British troops are devastated by Blitzkrieg – especially the concentrated Panzer tank divisions.
Fall of France

- British and French troops were surrounded and trapped by the Germans at the port town of Dunkirk (*).
- From May 26 to June 4, 340,000 men were rescued by hundreds of boats (ferries, fishing boats and pleasure craft).
- The German military annihilated the French forces, and on June 22 the French were forced to surrender in the same train car that the Germans surrendered in, in 1918.
- The French had been defeated in only 6 weeks!!!
Battle of Britain
**Battle of Britain**

- Britain was now left alone to fight Germany, but this fight would take place in the skies over Britain.

- Hitler planned to invade Britain through *Operation Sea-Lion*

- On July 10, 1940 the *Luftwaffe* (German air force) started a massive bombing campaign – targeting harbours, shipping facilities, airfields, and aircraft factories.
**Battle of Britain**

- The Luftwaffe was met with stiff defense from the RAF (Royal Air Force) – *Spitfires* and *Hurricanes*, with the help of British Radar, were especially effective against the Germans.

- Germans were winning the Battle of Britain – until Hitler makes a fatal mistake on Sept. 4-- to switch from military to civilian targets. (The bombing of English cities is called the “Blitz”)}
Battle of Britain

- The British got much better at shooting down German bombers and in May 1941, Hitler gave up his attempt to invade Britain and turned his attention elsewhere...
- RADAR!!!! (*)
- 23,000 civilians were killed in the Blitz
- 86 Canadian Pilots fought in the Battle of Britain
- Winston Churchill – "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."
Operation Barbarossa
Operation Barbarossa

- In 1939, the Nazi-Soviet Pact was a non-aggression treaty signed between Germany and the Soviet Union...
- ...but Hitler stabs Stalin in the back when he invades the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. (Hitler had always planned to invade!)
- Hitler wanted Russia’s vast territory for “Lebensraum” or “living space.” “We have only to kick in the door and the whole rotten structure will come crashing down” — Hitler
THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, I BELIEVE
THE BLOODY ASSASSIN OF THE WORKERS I PREMISE?
Operation Barbarossa

- Stalin, a moron, had been warned multiple times that Hitler was going to attack, but he naively ignored these warnings.

- Germans smashed through the USSR, but the Russians were able to slow down the Germans with a “scorched earth” policy.
Mother Winter

The Germans, by Autumn, pushed all the way to the outskirts of Moscow, but were stopped by "mother winter" (Russia’s greatest ally).
Battle of Stalingrad

In 1942, Germany launched another offensive into the oil rich fields in the south. This time the Germans made it to Stalingrad, the biggest battle in the history of human kind (3 million casualties).
Battle of Stalingrad

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEh9jIING0nQ&feature=fvw
Canada and the Home Front
Wartime Economy

Fear of Inflation

With increased production and employment, suddenly Canadians had more money to spend...but few goods to spend it on, which resulted in inflation. (Inflation crippled Germany between the wars)
Victory Bonds

- Mackenzie King created Victory Bonds (*), which Canadians could purchase to help fund the war effort and to help prevent inflation.
- In 1941 the Wartime Prices and Trade Board drastically froze all wages and prices as another way to prevent inflation.
- In 1942, King introduced food rationing (eg. 1 kg of meat a week/family)
KEEP THESE HANDS OFF!

BUY the New VICTORY BONDS
I'm making bombs and buying bonds!

Buy VICTORY BONDS
Conscription Crisis – Part Deux
Oops …

Remember that Mackenzie King had promised earlier that he would not conscript Canadians, but Canadians were shocked with Hitler’s speedy victories in Europe.
NRMA(*)

King passed the National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA) - mobilize all the nations’ resources for the war effort, including conscripts for HOME defense. (Zombies)

However, King was under fire from the conservatives to send Canadian conscripts overseas.
“Conscription if Necessary…”

In April 1942, King held a plebiscite, asking Canadians to release him from his promise not to conscript Canadians for overseas duty. “Conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription” (*)

Quebec voted *No* by 73%, but the rest of Canada voted *Yes* by 80%
Conscript the Zombies!

King was able to stall for 2 more years, but he finally had to bring in the draft in 1944…but he drafted the zombies, home troops, of which 13,000 went overseas and only 69 of which were killed in action.

There were some riots in Montreal and Terrace, B.C., but for the most part, King had managed to bring Canadians through the war united.
Women

- 45,000 women signed up for military service in WWII
- Women also played a key role filling jobs that the men had worked before the war. "Rosie the Riveter" was a popular nickname for those working women.
Japanese Internment

- After Japan attacked the U.S. at Pearl Harbour, Canadians feared that the Japanese living in Canada might assist in a Japanese attack.
- By 1941, 23 000 Japanese living in Canada, 22 000 (in BC).
- NO evidence to suggest that they supported Japan.
- Japanese Canadians had even fought in World War I.
Japanese Internment

- In 1942, due to public pressure, all Japanese-Canadians living in B.C. were round up and put into internment camps. (75% Canadians)
- Families were split up and the conditions were terrible
- Their property was also confiscated and auctioned off with profits as high as 200% (houses, cars, shops, fishing boats etc).
Japanese Internment

- Even after the war, the Japanese Canadians were interrogated and 4,000 of them were deported from the country.
- Given the Vote in 1949
- It was not until 1988 that Canadian government officially apologized for this travesty, offering each surviving member $21,000.
Hong Kong
Hong Kong

- Only hours after Japanese Planes bombed Pearl Harbour, Japanese troops began their surprise invasion of the British colony, Hong Kong.
- The Japanese launched their attack on December 18, 1941, and by Christmas Day, Hong Kong had fallen to the Japanese.
1900 Canadian troops were stationed in Hong Kong, and were forced to fight the Japanese. The British and Canadians were surrounded and outnumbered....they were annihilated by the Japanese forces.
Hong Kong *(Don’t Write this down)*

- Sergeant-Major John Osbourn from Winnipeg saved a handful of his men by throwing himself onto a live grenade. The Japanese bayoneted wounded soldiers, nurses, and anyone who surrendered.
550 Canadians were killed, and the rest were put into harsh P.O.W. camps.

Canadians would be left out in the sweltering heat in tiny cages without water or food for days at a time.
End of the War
Manhattan Project

- It was estimated that an invasion of Japan would cost over 1 million American lives and that success was not guaranteed.
- Harry Truman, U.S. President, had the choice between invading or using the new product of the Manhattan Project – the Atomic Bomb.
Atomic Bombs

On August 6th and August 9th, 1945 – the Americans dropped two atomic bombs – the first on Hiroshima and the second on Nagasaki.

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the Enola Gay was named “little boy” and the bomb dropped on Nagasaki was called “fat man.”
Japan Surrenders

- "Little Boy" immediately killed 70,000 – another 70,000 were left mutilated, but still alive.
- "Fat Man" killed 40,000 people immediately, with another 25,000 wounded.
- 1000’s more died over the years from radiation poisoning and cancers caused by the blast. Japan surrenders on August the 15th.
**H-Bomb vs. A-Bomb**

- Soviet H-Bomb in 1962 was 4000 times greater than the Hiroshima A-Bomb.
Significance for Canada
Canada’s Contribution
Canadian Contributions

- Under its policy of total war, Canada had made both significant economic and military contributions to the Allies.
- In 1939 – Canada had contributed $5.6 billion in goods.
- In 1945 – Canada had contributed $11.8 billion in goods.
- Canada had also supplied the Allies with $3.4 billion in aid.
Canadian Contributions

- At the end of the war, Canada had the world’s third largest navy and fourth largest air force (*) (...what happened?)
- Canada was now a Middle Power (*)
- Of the 1,086,343 men who served in WWII, 42,042 were killed and 53,145.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Men in War</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
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Post-War Economic Boom

- Virtually every sector of the economy boomed.
- Oil fields were discovered in Alberta – fuel was important for tanks, trucks and airplanes.
- Canada’s G.D.P. (gross domestic product) continued to rise consistently from 1935 to 1945.
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product is the value of all goods (e.g. food, cars etc.) and services (e.g. education) produced in a country in one year.

A significant change from agriculture, once the most important sector in Canada’s economy, to industry (*) (the manufacturing of goods and products)
Post War Boom

- Rise of Canadian cities and the industrial areas around them, which led to a massive post war immigration – contributing to our multicultural society today.
- The greatest change in Canada’s economy occurred during the ten years between 1935-1945.
Significance

(*) Canada had gone from a British colony to one of the most powerful nations in the world.

World War II was a defining moment for Canada as a nation.
“It was a good war. I’m not talking about a good war from the standpoint of a high moral purpose. If going out and killing millions of [Germans] to get Hitler off his pedestal... is a high moral purpose, then I’m all for it. But it was a good war for Canada too, because it made us a great nation. I mean...it showed us what we could do. We just weren’t a bunch of wheat farmers and Nova Scotia fisherman and lumbermen in B.C. We were a nation. A big and tough and strong nation.”
The End