

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century



**allies:** the name for the group of nations who were fighting Germany, Italy and Japan during the Second World War

**American Indian Movement:** The part of the American Civil Rights Movement which fought for the rights of Indigenous Americans

**Anglo-Saxons:** people whose ancestors come from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales

**anti-Semite:** person who wants to limit the rights and freedoms of Jewish people.

**artillery:** weapons that could lob large shells that exploded on impact.

**Aryan:** the name for Northern European people who Hitler thought were supermen, the master race, a “superior” breed of tall, blonde, blue-eyed, small-nosed people.

**Auschwitz:** name of the most well-known German death camp in Poland.

**Austria:** birth country of Adolph Hitler

**Avro Arrow:** post-Korean war, Canadian fighter jet scrapped by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker due to money concerns and Canada trying to stay out of the Cold War as much as possible.

**axis:** name for Germany, Italy and Japan during the Second World War

## B

**Battle of Britain:** name of the year-long WWII conflict in which England kept the German air force from invading and conquering their country.

**Beatles:** the most successful British Invasion rock band of the early 1960s.

**Belgium:** the European country known for excellent chocolate, waffles, the Smurfs and Tintin comics, where the battles of Ypres took place.

**Betty Boop:** cartoon character, a scantily-clad flapper

**Billy Bishop:** WWI fighter ace from Owen Sound, Ontario who shot down a large number of German aircraft.

**R.B. Bennett:** Prime Minister of Canada elected in 1930, blamed for the Great Depression here.

**blitzkrieg:** German term meaning “lightning war”

**bootlegging:** illegally smuggling alcoholic beverages during prohibition

**Brown Bomber:** nickname of famous black boxer Joe Louis, who won the World Heavyweight Boxing Championship in Chicago in 1937

**Roy Brown:** Carleton Place native who was credited with shooting down the Red Baron while he was in pursuit of Wop May, another Canadian fighter pilot.

**Eva Braun:** Adolf Hitler’s secret girlfriend and mistress who he married shortly before they killed themselves to avoid being captured by Russian soldiers when WWII was drawing to a close.

## C

**Kim Campbell:** First female Canadian Prime Minister.

**chlorine gas:** weapon the Germans employed for the first time at the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Ypres in WWI.

**Christian Women’s Temperance Union:** the group responsible for bringing about the criminalization of alcohol in much of North America during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Winston Churchill:** Britain’s Prime Minister during WWII. Before the Battle of Britain he said “We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender!”

**civil rights movement:** movement centred in the southern States in the 60s, involving ethnic minorities demanding equal rights, such as complete access to public facilities and transportation.

**cold war:** term for living in fear of being bombed with nuclear weapons, even though no official war has been declared.

**communism:** system of government in which the common people, or “workers” make the decisions rather than a ruling class, and no one is to possess great wealth. The state owns your income and things.

**conservative:** the philosophy of needing to keep the good things we have and not make large changes. Values hard work, tradition and family.

**credit:** money borrowed with interest charged until it is all paid off in full

## D

**D-Day:** name for the day when Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, to start taking it back from the Germans, during the Second World War.

**destitute:** broke, having no money and no way of getting any.

**John Diefenbaker:** Canadian prime minister who annoyed John F. Kennedy by refusing to allow free nuclear warheads into Canada and also cancelled production of the Avro Arrow.

**Dieppe:** French town where Canadian troops were sent on a bloody, impossible mission during WWII, later described as “another Passchendaele”

**Dirty Thirties:** nickname for the decade, due to dust storms, and unwashed homeless people

**discrimination:** unfair treatment because of who you are, your ancestry, what you believe and so on.

**dogfights:** small battles between airplanes.

**draft dodgers:** American men who moved to Canada in the 60’s and 70’s to avoid serving in the Vietnam war.

**drought:** a period in which there is a lack of rainfall, resulting in problems for farmers

**Dunkirk:** a town in France where British troops, trapped and about to be taken by the German war machine during the Second World War, were rescued during a period of heavy fog by civilian ships.

## E

**election:** an opportunity for citizens to select a political representative.

**empire:** like a country, but claiming ownership over various other parts of the planet.

**enemy aliens:** term used to describe people living in Canada who'd been born in countries that Canada was now at war with.

**Estevan riot:** miner's protest in Saskatchewan culminating in the RCMP shooting three people to death.

**Eva Braun:** Hitler's girlfriend, who he married shortly before the two of them took their own lives. Her name means "Eve Brown" in English.

**Europe:** continent where Canadian soldiers did the majority of their fighting during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## F

**Famous Five:** once women had the right to vote, these five women from Alberta won the "persons case," officially allowing women to hold positions of public office as well (eg. Senator or Member of Parliament).

**feminist:** a person who is primarily concerned with bettering the lives of female people.

**Ian Fleming:** a WWII British naval intelligence officer who wrote the *James Bond* spy novels once he retired.

**Franz Ferdinand:** archduke whose assassination started the already-brewing First World War.

**flappers:** 20's party girls. Liked alcohol, short hair and dancing to jazz music.

**FLQ:** French-Canadian terrorist organisation that resorted to bombing and kidnapping while attempting to achieve independence from the rest of Canada for Quebec. Stands for Front de la Liberation de Quebec.

**Fokker:** the kind of plane the Red Baron, deadly WWI German fighter ace, flew.

**Fortress Europe:** term used to describe a Europe controlled entirely by Hitler, which was his plan during the Second World War.

**Terry Fox:** ran most of the way across Canada with one leg, to raise money for a Cancer Cure during the 1980s.

## G

**gas masks:** after many Canadian soldiers dying in their first WWI battle, these items became standard military issue.

**Germany:** country Canada is at war with in both world wars.

**Gibson Girls:** a kind of popular style and kind of girl in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century who was "just for looks," with no real skills, wanting to marry wealth rather than learn skills. Poofy dresses and hair.

**Governor General:** political position linking the prime minister to the British monarch.

**Great Depression:** a time of drought, homelessness, unemployment and general financial problems during the 1930's.

**Great War:** another name for the First World War (used until there was a Second World War.)

## H

**Halifax explosion:** until the bombing of Hiroshima, this was the largest man-made explosion in the world.

**hippies:** rock music loving young people who formed a pacifist counterculture to the clean-cut, corporate, militaristic 1960's.

**Hiroshima:** the name of the city where the first atomic bomb was dropped

**Adolf Hitler:** a failed Austrian painter and veteran of the First World War, he went on to invent genocide.

**hobo jungle:** a part of town where homeless people all lived

**Holocaust:** the systematic attempt to make Jewish people extinct in the mid-twentieth century.

**horse:** people like J.R.R. Tolkien felt that, once these were no longer a key part of modern warfare, all nobility and grace and heroism was lost, or at least greatly diminished.

**Sam Hughes:** former businessman and Defense Minister in charge of equipping and training the Canadian soldiers before sending them to Europe in WWI. Provided very cheap, terrible gear.

## I

**Independence, (War of):** What Americans call the fighting they did during the revolution in which they split off from British rule and became their own, self-governed country.

**indian:** word used until modern times to describe native Americans, all due to Christopher Columbus, who didn't know where he was, exactly, when he named indigenous peoples of the Caribbean this.

**indigenous:** term that replaced native, which replaced the term "Indian."

**Imo:** the Norwegian ship which collided with the Mont Blanc, causing the Halifax Explosion

**imperialism:** an approach to foreign policy which involves conquering territory all over the world.

## J

**Japan:** ancient global empire Canadians were at war with in the Second World War.

**Jeep:** name for an all-purpose military “get-around” unarmoured, usually unarmed vehicle. Now a brand name owned by Chrysler.

**Peter Jennings:** famous television news anchor in the second half of the twentieth century

**Jews:** people who are connected to Israel by race and/or religion

**Juno Beach:** the stretch of beachfront that Canadians were responsible to capture during the D-Day invasion of Normandy during the Second World War.

## K

**Kamloops:** town in B.C. where a residential school was initially thought to contain the remains of roughly 200 former indigenous students.

**William Lyon Mackenzie King:** Canada’s Prime Minister during WWII. Liked attending seances constantly so he could talk to dead Prime Ministers, his dead mother, or any of his several dead dogs named Pat. Ran Canada for more than twenty years.

**Korean War:** war in the 1950's that Canada was involved in, due to our participation in the U.N. and its stance against militant communism. Sometimes called a “police action” rather than a war.

**Ku Klux Klan:** American racist organization that never seems to get stamped out. Was getting popular in Canada in the 1920s until they blew up a church and the American leaders ran off with all the money donated by Canadian members.

**krystalnacht:** the night of broken glass, when German citizens broke the windows of Jewish businessmen during WWII.

## L

**Vladimir Lenin:** after the Russian Revolution, he took over control of the new Soviet Union, forming a communist dictatorship.

**John Lennon:** one of the key voices of intellectual, political, anti-war hippiedom and founding member of The Beatles. Shot dead in New York City in 1980 by a crazed fan and reader of the book *The Catcher In The Rye*.

**Marc Lepine:** lunatic who shot and killed 14 women at Montreal University’s École Polytechnique campus in 1989 because he hated feminists. This is known as the Montreal Massacre.

**C.S. Lewis:** a British professor who served in the first world war, and expressed both the horrors he’d seen and his thoughts on morality and religion in his *Chronicles of Narnia* books.

**liberal:** the philosophy that we need to try new things and make large changes to fix our current problems. Values change, fairness and diversity.

**Tom Longboat:** Canadian marathon runner who was a messenger in the first world war.

## M

**Leslie MacFarlane:** writer from Carleton Place who wrote the first Hardy Boys books under the pen name “Franklin W. Dixon.”

**Agnes Macphail:** Canada’s first female member of parliament.

**Charles Manson:** the twisted cult-leader who inspired a group of his followers to kill rich celebrities in California in the 1960s. Not a peace-loving hippie. Died in prison.

**Nellie McClung:** liked big hats, a maternal feminist who helped women get the vote.

**Lorne Michaels:** Canadian television producer who produced *SCTV*, *Kids In The Hall* and *Saturday Night Live*, making Canadian comics such as Rick Moranis, Eugene Levy, John Candy, and Dan Ackroyd popular.

**maternal feminists:** women who believed they should fix Canada by “mothering” it.

**Joni Mitchell:** probably the most famous and successful female Canadian songwriter contributing to the hippie movement. Actually wrote the song “Woodstock” without having been there.

**Mont Blanc:** one of the two ships that collided, causing the Halifax Explosion.

**Emily Murphy:** the first female magistrate (judge) in the British Empire.

## N

**Dr. James Naismith:** the Canadian-born inventor of basketball.

**Susan Nelles:** nurse accused of poisoning 43 babies in Toronto hospitals in the 1980s, but who was found not guilty due to insufficient evidence.

**Normandy:** name of the region in France where Allied forces landed and started taking France back from the Germans on D-Day during the Second World War.

**North Korea:** the Asian communist country that invaded the country to the south, causing the United Nations to successfully intervene.

**North Vietnam:** the Asian communist country that invaded the country to the south, causing the United States to unsuccessfully try to intervene.

## O

**Oka:** town in Quebec where indigenous people had a standoff with the army due to their protesting the expansion of a golf course on their ancestral burial grounds.

**Clifford Olson:** serial murderer of children in the 1980s.

**Ortona:** the part of Italy where the Germans made a last attempt to fight off Allied Forces, including Canadian troops.

**overexpansion:** spending too much money on making your company bigger

**overproduction:** making more of your product than you can easily sell

## P

**pacifist:** someone who is completely against war and violence.

**parachute:** awesome invention for the second World War which made it easier for armed troops to get safely from an airplane to the ground.

**Rosa Parks:** African-American woman who had a big part in starting the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s when she refused to move to the back of a public bus she'd paid to ride.

**Passchendale:** a place in France that Canadian troops had to fight for during the First World War, despite it being flooded and muddy and not worth fighting for, in the opinion of Arthur Currie.

**Pearl:** name of the city in the American state of Hawaii, whose harbor was bombed by the Japanese, bringing the Americans into the Second World War

**Francis Pegahmagabow:** deadliest Canadian sniper of the First World War

**Leonard Peltier:** member of the American Indian Movement who was in prison for murder from 1977-2025, despite Amnesty International declaring his trial and sentencing irregular and unfair. Briefly escaped prison in 1979 but was caught.

**Mary Pickford:** Canadian silent movie star, known as "America's Sweetheart."

**prejudice:** unfair views of people because of things like race, sex, religion etc.

**Elvis Presley:** the man who put a white face on black R & B music, combining the sounds of black and white musicians. The first rock and roll star.

**primary sources:** sources of research information that come directly from the horse's mouth (things like letters and interviews with people directly involved in something you're researching)

**prohibition:** refers to the criminalization of alcoholic beverages.

**propaganda:** any creative work made with the express purpose of making people feel strongly about an issue and take a specific side. Emotionally manipulative stuff.

## R

**racism:** unfairness based upon what race a person is

**Manfred von Richthofen:** the Red Baron's real name

**reparations:** things done to make up for past crimes against a person or race

**revolution:** overthrowing a government, usually by violence

**rolling barrage:** strategy used by Gen. Arthur Currie during the First World War. Involved having the soldiers advance right behind artillery shells that would destroy the enemy guns (making it safe for them to advance.)

**Ross Rifle:** an ineffective trench weapon that was chosen by Sam Hughes for Canadian soldiers to carry in the first World War because it was a good, Canadian-made sniper rifle. Reportedly jammed a lot.

## S

**Schlieffen plan:** The German strategy that didn't work out very well (for the Germans) at the beginning of WWI.

**sexism:** unfairness based upon what sex a person is

**shares:** an entitlement to buy into the profits of a company

**shrapnel:** dangerous flying pieces of metal from an exploding device. Resulted in many injuries.

**Theresa Spence:** Indigenous Canadian chief who inspired the Idle No More native rights movement by going on hunger strikes in 2012.

**Spitfire:** fighter planes used by the British to fight the Battle of Britain.

**stalemate:** a situation where neither side is winning.

**Joseph Stalin:** the Soviet Union's tyrannical "Man of Steel," he led the Soviet Union to defeat Hitler on the Eastern front of the Second World War.

**stereotype:** a general impression of a group of people, i.e. "black people can all rap and play basketball, Asian people all love math, Irish people are drunks."

**stock market:** people buying and selling shares in the profits of their companies to interested investors.

**stock market crash:** the collapse of the system for buying and selling shares in companies

**stockpiling:** having to store extra products you've made and can't sell; also weapons you won't need

**Stonewall riots:** violent conflict in 1969 between gay people and police who were disrupting their dating culture at the Stonewall Inn in the NYC gaybourhood.

**submarine:** technology developed during the First World War that gave Germany access to harbours, rivers and supply ships all over the world.

**suffrage:** women being allowed to vote

**suffragists:** people who wanted women to be allowed to vote

## T

**tank:** a vehicle used to get soldiers close to the enemy without being shot, both by riding in it, or marching behind and using it as cover.

**tariffs:** fees foreign companies must pay in order to sell things in your country

**terrorism:** a strategy for getting what you want through the use of surprise attacks on strategic nonmilitary locations with an intent to terrify people.

**Titanic:** large supposedly unsinkable ocean liner that hit and iceberg and sank on her first voyage.

**J.R.R. Tolkien:** British professor who fought in the First World War, and expressed both the horrors he'd seen and his love of language, trees and the simple comforts of home in his *Lord of the Rings* books.

**transient:** old-fashioned word for a homeless person

**Treaty of Versailles:** treaty that was signed to end the First World War

**Pierre Elliot Trudeau:** young, charismatic Prime Minister during the '70's. Changed laws regarding homosexuality, abortion, divorce and birth control. Appeared in Marvel comics. Did a ballet twirl on camera while standing behind the Queen. Once told his opponents to \*\*\* off during Parliamentary debate in the House of Commons. His son also became prime minister decades later.

**Stephen Truscott:** one of the last people sentenced to be executed in Ontario, he was put in prison at age 14, then released forty-eight years later, after it was decided there was insufficient proof he raped and murdered his classmate.

## U

**U-boat:** another name for a submarine. From the German term "unterseeboot"

**Upper Canada:** the name for this region of Canada before Ontario existed.

## V

**V1:** German WWII doodlebug or buzzbomb. Rocket powered and terrifyingly loud when approaching, to petrify the British towns they rained down upon.

**V2:** towering, silent German WWII rocket bomb which both exceeded the speed of sound, and also went up into the upper atmosphere, making it impossible to detect or defend against. Built by concentration camp prisoners, more of whom were worked to death making them than the rockets ever killed by being launched.

**Valcartier:** the huge training camp where Canadian soldiers were trained before being sent to Europe to fight in the First World War.

**Vimy Ridge:** a ridge in France that the Canadians got back from the Germans during WWI despite almost impossible odds, by using a "rolling barrage" tactic.

## W

**war of attrition:** any long, slow war in which a lot of soldiers need to die (on both sides) in order for any territory to be taken.

**Winnipeg General Strike:** huge strike action that happened in the '20's. It made the government more suspicious of communism and unions, but also made Canadians more aware of unions and our right to strike for safe working conditions.

**Carine Wilson:** Canada's first female senator.

**Woodstock:** huge rock festival in upstate New York where hippies from all over the world came to impair themselves, hang out and listen to music.

## X

**X-Men:** 1960s Marvel comic about tolerance. Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau guested in an issue.

**x-ray:** medical imaging machine already in use by the beginning of the twentieth century.

**xenophobia:** distrust, hatred or fear of foreign people.

## Y

**yankee:** insulting term used by American southerners to describe American people from north of the Mason-Dixon line.

**Neil Young:** probably the most famous and successful male Canadian songwriter contributing to the hippie movement. Was at Woodstock. Didn't play.

**Ypres:** town in Belgium where Canadian soldiers first saw action during the First World War.

## Z

**Zero:** name for Japanese fighter planes that attacked Pearl Harbour.

**Zero Hour:** (military speak) the scheduled time for a military action to start.

**Zorro:** Spanish swashbuckling hero from early twentieth century books and films who was a huge influence upon the Batman character.