

Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues, 2nd Ed.

Chapter 5 – Answer Key

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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"? *A ruler with unrestricted power.*
2. What is a "totalitarian state"? *A dictatorship in which the government uses intimidation, violence, and propaganda to control all aspects of the social and political life of its citizens.*
3. Where did totalitarian governments develop after WWI? *Germany, Italy, Spain, Soviet Union, Japan.*
4. What are "five-year plans"? *Stalin's plans for economic development in the Soviet Union over five years.*
5. Describe Stalin's direction of life in the Soviet Union after 1928. *Took control of the economy by seizing all privately owned land; built steel industry, roads and railways; built up military; ignored needs of people; purged anyone who opposed Communist Party or his power; 1000s sent to labour camps and many more executed.*
6. Define the term "fascist". *A form of authoritarian government that is totalitarian and nationalistic.*
7. Who was Benito Mussolini? *The founder of Italy's Fascist Party and leader of Italy through WWII.*
8. How did his Blackshirts treat his opponents? *Intimidation, purging with castor oil.*
9. How did he gain power? *Promises to revitalize Italy and restore national pride won 35 seats in 1921 election; led the March to Rome with 25,000 Blackshirts and demanded he be given control of the government.*
10. What was the "Weimar Republic"? *The democratic government in Germany after WWI.*
11. Why did Germans distrust the "Weimar Republic"? *It had signed the unpopular Treaty of Versailles which had devastated Germany.*
12. What were "Nazis"? *Members of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. They were extreme nationalists who took power in 1933 and controlled every aspect of German life through a police state.*
13. How was Adolf Hitler able to gain control of the German government in the 1930s? *Persuaded Germans he could save Germany from the Depression; won more seats in the Reichstag than any other party in the 1932 election; selected as Chancellor in 1933.*
14. What actions did Hitler take after he gained control of the German government? *Banned all other political parties; used the Gestapo to enforce his rule; repudiated the Treaty of Versailles; stopped reparations; rebuilt the German armed forces; subsidized farmers; funded public works projects.*
15. What did the Nazis define as a "Aryans"? *A supposed pure race of northern Europeans.*
16. How did they view other peoples and those with whom they differed? *Non-Aryans (i.e. Jewish people, Roma, Slav) were considered inferior; mental and physically handicapped were despised because they didn't meet the definition of Aryan perfection; communists and homosexuals were persecuted. Non-Aryans and "undesirables" were banned from attending or teaching schools, holding government office or writing books; were often sent to concentration camps.*
17. What were "concentration camps"? *Prisons for non-Aryans and those considered undesirable (i.e. communists). Would eventually become "death camps" for mass murder.*

18. What were the "Nuremberg Laws"? *Laws that - required Jews to wear the Star of David at all times; banned marriages between Jews and Aryans; banned Jews from the legal and medical professions.*
19. What was "Kristallnacht"? *A coordinated attack against Jewish people and their property carried out by the Nazis in Germany on November 9, 1938.*
20. What is "persecution"? *To oppress or ill-treat because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or beliefs.*
21. How did persecution of Jewish people in Germany increase after Kristallnacht? *Varied - (had to pay for the damages caused by their attackers on that night); became illegal for them to own businesses; travel restricted.*
22. What was the "holocaust"? *The Nazi imprisonment and murder of 6 million Jewish people and 5 million other peoples during WWII.*
23. Who were the "Mac Paps"? *Canadian volunteers who volunteered to fight as members of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion on the government/socialist side in the Spanish Civil War.*
24. Who were the "Nationalists" in the Spanish Civil War? *The fascist rebels who tried to overthrow the elected socialist government. Led by General Francisco Franco.*
25. What was the Canadian response to the Spanish Civil War? *Varied - government banned individuals from aiding the government; volunteers supported the socialist government.*
26. What countries actively supported Franco and his rebels? *Germany and Italy.*
27. Who was Francisco Franco? *The Spanish Army General who led the rebels in the Spanish Civil War; became leader of Spain in 1935; ruled until his death in 1975.*
28. List some elements that Japan shared with the fascist countries of Europe. *May include - strong sense of national pride and racial superiority; a government loyal to a single leader (Emperor Hirohito); weak parliament with government ministers responsible only to the emperor/leader; much of the political power rested with the military and owners of large corporations.*
29. What did the groups that took political control of Japan in the 1930s do with their new power? *Varied - may include: tried to deal with the Depression by conquering other countries and seizing their resources; used the secret police (Kempeitai) to eliminate anyone considered a threat to the government.*

Causes of the Second World War: pages 124-126

30. How were the totalitarian leaders of Japan and some European countries imperialistic? *They wanted to take control of other countries and exploit them for their own benefit.*
31. How did France and Britain react to Hitler's occupation of the Rhineland and annexation of Austria? *Did nothing - were willing to make concessions (to the terms of the T. of Versailles) to avoid conflict.*
32. What was the "Munich Agreement"? *An agreement by which Britain and France allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland - a part of Czechoslovakia and home to ethnic Germans - in return for German promises to respect the independence of the rest of Czechoslovakia.*
33. What is meant by "appeasement"? *Giving in to an aggressor's demands in the hope that no more demands will be made.*
34. What was the outcome of British Prime Minister Chamberlain's policy of appeasement in Czechoslovakia? *Hitler invaded all of Czechoslovakia anyway.*
35. What is a "non-aggression pact"? *An agreement between two countries not to attack each other.*
36. Why did Hitler and Stalin sign one in August 1939? *To prevent hostilities between themselves and allow each of them to invade Poland.*
37. Why do you think Hitler ignored the British and French demand that he withdraw from Poland? *Varied: may include - they had a history of appeasement and yielding on their demands.*
38. Why was the League of Nations unable to fulfill its mandate to maintain peace? *Varied - may include: no military forces of its own; no real support from the major powers.*
39. How did the League respond to the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931? *Condemned the invasion and tried to negotiate a Japanese withdrawal.*
40. What was the response of Japan? *Quit the league and continued its aggression.*

41. How did the League of Nations respond to the 1935 Italian invasion of Abyssinia? *Imposed trade sanctions - but did not include oil - they were ineffective.*

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

42. What is meant by "isolationism"? *The policy of remaining apart from the affairs of other countries.*
43. Why did PM King follow a policy of isolationism? *Varied - may include: WWI had a huge financial cost; war would lead to politically divisive conscription; Canada was just recovering from the Depression and war would lead to more debt.*
44. How did PM King perceive Adolph Hitler when he met him in 1937? *As a person who loves his fellow man.*
45. What are "refugees"? *People displaced from their homes and territory by war and other acts of aggression.*
46. What is "anti-Semitism"? *Discrimination or hostility toward Jewish people.*
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? *Varied - should include: immigration by other than Brits and Americans was discouraged during the 1930s due to high unemployment; many Canadians were anti-Semitic.*
48. Describe the plight of the passengers aboard the S.S. St. Louis. *907 Jewish refugees fled Germany to escape persecution. They were refused permission to land in Cuba, South America and the US before trying to land in Canada. The government denied them permission to land and they had to return to Europe. Many would later die in concentration camps.*

Canada Declares War: pages 130-132

49. How was Canada's entry into WWII different from its entry into WWI? *In 1914 Canada was a British colony and automatically involved with Britain's war with Germany; in 1939 Canada was autonomous and able to make its own decision - which it did.*
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? *That the government would not impose conscription - PM King did not want to divide Canada over the issue as happened in WWI.*
51. Which political leader argued against entering a war with Germany? Why? *JS Woodsworth - he was a pacifist who believed war did not settle anything.*
52. Explain why you agree/disagree with his position. *Varied opinion.*
53. Describe the state of Canada's armed forces on September 10, 1939. *Army had only 4300 men, a few light tanks, no heavy artillery; air force and navy were small with outdated equipment.*
54. Describe recruiting efforts in September 1939. *58,000 volunteered; African-Canadians were rejected; Aboriginal people volunteered; some volunteered out of loyalty to Britain, others for employment or national pride.*
55. What role did PM King prefer for Canada in the war? Why? *To focus mainly on supplies and training rather than providing combat troops; he wanted to avoid conscription.*
56. What was the "BCATP"? *A program to train pilots and aircrew during WWII; it produced half of all Commonwealth aircrew and is the largest air training program in history.*
57. Describe its scope. *Trained more than 130,000 flight personnel; used new bases and airfields, many in Western Canada; cost \$2.2 billion, 70% paid by Canada.*
58. What is meant by the term "total war"? *The mobilization of a nation's resources for war.*
59. What was CD Howe's role in Canada's war effort? *An industrialist put in charge of the Department of Munitions and Supply; managed Canada's economy to support the war effort.*
60. What were "crown corporations"? *Businesses and industries owned by the Canadian government.*
61. Why did Howe create them? *To produce war materials that private companies were unable to.*
62. What was the "War-time Information Board"? *It was established in 1942 to coordinate war propaganda in Canada.*

Axis Advances: pages 133-137

63. Who were the "Allies" in WWII? *Countries fighting against Germany in WWII.*
64. What was the "Axis" in WWII? *An alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan.*
65. Describe the German's "blitzkrieg" tactic. *May include: a coordinated surprise attack by aircraft and tanks that disrupted enemy supply lines and broke through opposing lines resulting in deep drives into enemy territory.*
66. Where was it first used? *Poland and then Denmark and Norway, and Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.*
67. What happened at Dunkirk? *Allied forces were surrounded at this port on the coast of France; 100s of British small craft evacuated 340,000 troops between May 26 and June 4, 1940 despite German air attacks.*
68. What was the "Luftwaffe"? *The German air force.*
69. What was "Operation Sea Lion"? *The German plan for an invasion of Britain. It required the Germans to gain air superiority over the English Channel and southern Britain.*
70. What was "the Blitz"? *Heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other British cities by the Luftwaffe.*
71. What was the "Battle of Britain"? *The battle between the RAF and the Luftwaffe for air superiority over Britain.*
72. What was the Desert War? *The fight between the Allies and Germany for control of North Africa (1940-1943).*
73. Why was control of the Mediterranean of strategic importance? *It gave access to the Middle East's oil as well as India and the Pacific.*
74. What was "Operation Barbarossa"? *The German attack launched against Russia on June 22, 1940. It broke the German-USSR non-aggression pact the two countries signed in 1939.*
75. Why did Hitler launch this attack? *Wanted Russian raw materials and agricultural land - and labour for the army.*
76. Why did attack stall in December 1941? *Germans were ill-prepared for the Russian winter.*
77. Why did Germany attack southern Russia in 1942? *Wanted to seize the southern oil fields.*
78. What happened at Stalingrad? *The German 1942 offensive was halted by the Russians and winter; after suffering 300,000 casualties the German army surrendered.*
79. What is "Pearl Harbor"? *A US naval base in Hawaii that was bombed by the Japanese.*
80. What was the "Battle of Hong Kong"? *Japan's attack on a British Colony in which there were heavy Canadian casualties.*
81. What was "Black Christmas"? *The name given the date on which Canadian forces fighting at Hong Kong surrendered.*

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

82. What was the "Battle of the Atlantic"? *The struggle between the Allies and Axis powers to control shipping routes across the Atlantic Ocean.*
83. How did the Germans attack Allied shipping? *U-boats operating singly or in groups known as "wolf packs".*
84. How were the Allies able to defeat the German u-boats? *Cracked the German naval code which allowed the Allies to track u-boat movements; Canada's RCN became better trained and equipped - able to provide half of the escort ships; ships sailed in convoys so warships could provide more protection; use of corvettes and land-based long-range bombers; built more ships than were sunk.*
85. What were "corvettes"? *Small fast warships built in Canada to help protect convoys in the Atlantic Ocean.*
86. What were "WRENS"? *It was created in 1942 to provide women to fill shore-based roles (e.g. wireless operators; coders, drivers, dental assistants) and release men for sea duty.*
87. How did the RCAF expand during the war? *Grew to 215,000 personnel with 35 active squadrons operating in North Africa, Italy, NW Europe and SE Asia; a women's division was created in 1941 and women ferried aircraft to Europe by war's end.*
88. What was the "Bomber Command"? *The section of the RAF that directed the strategic bombing of Germany.*
89. What was the result of repeated Bomber Command attacks on the German city of Hamburg in July 1943? *A firestorm was created; 40,000 civilians killed and city destroyed.*

90. Why was the Bomber Command directed to attack German cities? *Varied - may include: retaliation for German attacks on British cities; to diminish German morale; to destabilize German industrial centres.*
91. Do you think the Allies were justified in launching such massive, indiscriminate attacks on German cities? Explain. *Varied opinion - with supports. May include moral reasons vs technical inability to bomb with precision.*
92. What were RCAF casualty rates as part of Bomber Command? *As high as 7 out of 10; more than 10,000 died.*
93. List several technological developments during WWII and their effects on the war and/or the future. *Snorkels let subs run their engines and recharge their batteries while submerged - safer. V2 - a German rocket that had a 350 mile range. Radar - an electronic system that allowed the British to track German aircraft during the Battle of Britain. Atomic bombs - used against Japan. Jet engine development was spurred by the war. Penicillin is an antibiotic discovered in 1929 and used in WWII starting in 1941. It had a positive effect on the recovery rates of wounded soldiers. Enigma was a German coding machine - efforts to break the code it generated spurred the development of computers.*

The Tide Turns: pages 142-145

94. What was the "Dieppe Raid"? *A 1942 attack by Canadian troops on a German held French port.*
95. Why was the attack made? *Varied - may include: Stalin was demanding action in the west to weaken the German attack on Russia; to test invasion techniques; ...*
96. What was its outcome? *Delays warned Germans of the attack and they were able to maul the invaders; 907 Canadians killed, 600 wounded and 1946 taken prisoner out of the 5000 who participated.*
97. What was the "Italian Campaign"? *The Allied plan to recapture Europe by invading through Sicily and Italy.*
98. What was the Battle of Ortona? *Canadian troops captured this Italian city on Dec 28, 1943 after fierce house-to-house fighting that killed 1372 soldiers.*

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

99. What was "D-Day"? *The day Allied troops landed in Normandy and invaded France; the largest invasion of WWII.*
100. Describe it. *Varied - troops landed on 5 beaches on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast; preceded by extensive bombing and paratroop landings to disrupt German defenders and communications; over 1 million men would be landed in the next few days.*
101. What are "paratroopers"? *Soldiers trained to parachute from airplanes into combat areas.*
102. What is "Juno Beach"? *The 9 km stretch of beach where Canadian troops landed on D-Day.*
103. What was significant about the Battle of the Scheldt? *Canadians successfully drove out German troops who were controlling the Scheldt River and access to the North Sea - this allowed the Allies to use the port of Antwerp to bring in additional supplies. Heavy Canadian casualties would lead to demands to deploy conscripts.*
104. What role did Canadian troops take on in the winter of 1944-1945? *Drove German troops out of the Netherlands and brought in food to the Dutch.*
105. What was the significance of the Yalta Conference? *Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met in Yalta to discuss the organization of post-war Europe including areas each would occupy and borders.*
106. What is "VE Day"? *Victory in Europe Day - May 8, 1945 - when Germany surrendered.*
107. What tactic was the US using against Japan after March 1945 to force the Japanese to surrender? What effect did it have? *Fire-bombing Japanese cities; 1000s killed but the Japanese government resolved to "fight to the last person".*
108. What was the "Manhattan Project"? *The code name for the American effort to develop an atomic bomb during WWII.*
109. What was Canada's role in this project? *Produced uranium at the Eldorado mine at Great Bear Lake, NWT.*

110. What were the effects of the use of the atomic bomb against Japan? *Two bombs killed over 100,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and as many were wounded; Japan surrendered.*
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? *Leahy: immoral to deliberately attack and kill civilians. Tibbets: pragmatic application of force to end war expeditiously and thereby save more lives. Opinion with support.*

Crimes Against Humanity: page 152

112. What was the Nazi government's "Final Solution"? *The Nazi's plan to systematically kill all European Jews.*
113. What is "genocide"? *The systematic extermination of a religious or racial group.*
114. Describe how people were treated at concentration camps such as Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz. *On arrival - stripped of clothes, hair shaved and separated from families; weak, old and young were killed immediately in gas chambers; the healthy used as slave labour - when weakened by overwork, malnutrition and disease they were also killed.*
115. What were the Nuremberg Trials? *An international military tribunal used to prosecute Nazi leaders for war crimes.*
116. What is a "tribunal"? *A court of justice.*
117. What are "war crimes"? *The killing, torture and hostage-taking of civilian populations, or the deliberate and extensive destruction of their property.*
118. What are "crimes against humanity"? *Widespread attacks against civilians, including murder, enslavement, deportation and torture.*
119. What were the "Tokyo Trials"? *The equivalent of the Nuremberg 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. *Varied opinion - with supports.*

The War at Home: pages 153-157

121. What effect did the war have on the Home Front in Canada? *Varied - women entered the work force in large numbers; income tax rates were raised and bonds sold to fund the war; wages and prices frozen to control inflation; food rationing introduced.*
122. How did the War change Canadian attitudes to women in the work force? *Before the war women were generally discouraged from working in favour of men; middle class women were encouraged to be homemakers; war demanded more workers and by end 1/3rd were working in all aspects of the economy. Propaganda encouraged this and pre-war attitudes began to change.*
123. How did the war foster social change in Canada? *Varied - women in the work force; war time government was involved in all aspects of Canadian life and many wanted this to continue and generate more social reforms.*
124. What is meant by "cradle to grave social security"? *Government provided social assistance from birth to death.*
125. What was the "NRMA"? *An act passed in 1940 that enabled the government to do whatever was necessary for the war effort; amended in 1942 to allow conscription.*
126. What is a "plebiscite"? *A vote on a particular issue.*
127. Why was one held in 1942? *To allow PM King to break his earlier promise to not institute conscription for overseas duty.*
128. What was the outcome? *All but Quebec voted in favour and Canada was once more divided; riots in Montreal.*
129. Why was PM King finally forced to send conscripts overseas in 1944? *Heavy casualties in Italy and northern Europe were using up Canadian reserves.*
130. What is meant by the term "enemy aliens"? *Citizens of one country living in another that is at war with their homeland.*
131. How were Japanese Canadians treated in Canada during WWII? *Forced to move away from the BC coast - often to internment camps with families separated; property confiscated; after the war some were returned to Japan and others forced to settle east of the Rockies.*

132. How were they compensated in 1988? *Apology from the government and given \$21,000, citizenship restored to those deported.*

What the War Meant to Canada: pages 158-159

133. What was the meaning behind Franklin Roosevelt's 1940 slogan "arsenal of democracy"? *The US would help the Allies fight Germany by providing military supplies while staying out of the actual fighting.*
134. In what way did Canada's economy change during WWII? *It went from a largely rural economy to an industrial nation where manufacturing was more important than agriculture.*
135. What were "war brides"? *Foreign women who married Canadian troops serving overseas and immigrated to Canada after the war.*
136. Why did Canada allow displaced persons from some European countries come to Canada after the war? *To provide much needed labour.*
137. Was the Second World war good for Canada? Explain. *Opinion with support.*