Review: Canada to 1914

• The next 10 slides are a review of some themes from Social Studies 9 that will carry forward this year.
• The study of History is NOT a memorizing timelines, but understanding how and why change occurred over time.
• Students won’t be tested on the items, but will benefit from understanding them.
• The themes we need to review are:
  – Rising standards & expectations
  – The role of immigration
  – Canada’s role in the British Empire (colony or nation?)
Review: Canada to 1914

Domestic Canada under Laurier

• Canada enjoyed an economic boom, but not much improved for the working people.

  Conditions
  – Houses offered minimal protection
  – Food starchy & monotonous (canned goods a luxury, few iceboxes)
  – Long workday, many labour laws were ignored
  – 1906-1911- cost of living rose 18.4 %
  – 1906-1911- rent rates rose 35.9%
Review: Canada to 1914

Rise of Unions

– Unions offered a sense of security, despite having little or no power
– 1901 there were 20,000 union members in Canada
– By 1911 there were 160,000 union members!
– Although they had little power, this created an atmosphere that encouraged change and political activists. *This would be important later…*
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Immigration under Laurier

• The world experienced an economic boom.
• There was a large market for wheat, but few farmers.
• Minister of the Interior, Clifford Sifton, wanted to populate the prairies with immigrants.
• Most Canadians didn’t mind immigration, as long as the newcomers weren’t too different & could “Canadainize”
• Immigrants were expected to conform, there was little to no tolerance for differences.
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• The best sources for low tension immigration were the US, Scotland, Germany, Scandinavia & Ukraine.
• French Canadians feared any immigration would drown out the Canadien.
• From 1901 to 1911, Canada’s population rose sharply from 5.1 million to 7.2 million.
• 83% were immigrants
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Immigration Problems

- In BC, Asians were a source of serious conflict and crisis; many feared that Asians were taking away jobs.
- In Vancouver, there was an anti-Asian group started, “The Asiatic Exclusion League”.
- But limiting immigration from Asia was tricky
  - **India**- a British Colony, Indians were British subjects!
  - **Japan**- Britain’s strongest ally in the Pacific
  - **China**- Big Business (railways) sponsored the Chinese workers. Railways contributed to political campaigns
Review: Canada to 1914

Vancouver Race Riot 1907

- Asian immigration had risen sharply in recent months (esp. Japanese)
- Sept. 7- Tensions erupted at a meeting of the Asiatic Exclusion League.
- 2,000 people attended, over 10,000 congregated outside.
- The mob rioted & attacked Chinatown and Little Tokyo, smashing windows, looting shops and harassing people.
Result of the Riot

- **Japan** - Laurier apologized to Emperor (Japanese Gov’t submitted letter of protest) & made deal to limit Japanese emigration. Also, immigrants had to arrive on tickets purchased in their own country. (many left via Hawaii).
- **China** - Head taxes already in place, immigration already very low despite public perception.
- **India** - Awkward to prohibit entry, so a rule for all nations adopted- immigrants must come to Canada by “Continuous Passage”. No ships operated directly from India to Canada.
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Komagata Maru 1914

- 1914- 400 British Sikhs chartered a ship, the Komagata Maru, to sail from Calcutta to Vancouver, and tested “Continuous Passage” laws.
- Upon arrival, racial tensions spiked in Vancouver.
- They weren’t allowed to disembark for a month.
- Finally, Ottawa turned them back, despite having followed rules.
- Canada remained a “White Man’s Country”
Review: Canada to 1914

Canada & The World: A Nation or Colony?

Boer War 1899-1902

- Britain at war with Dutch & German farmers (Boers) in S. Africa
- Britain “invited” colonies to send troops (*display of Empire’s strength*)
- At first, Laurier opposed Canadian participation
- Laurier also didn’t want to divide Canada (Fr. don’t want to fight)
- But Canadians were not citizens: they were British subjects.
- Laurier compromised and sent 6000 volunteers.
- This set a precedent for future wars.
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Alaskan Boundary Dispute 1903

- Miners accessed the Klondike Gold Rush through Alaska; Canada lost revenue.
- Canada needed an ocean link to the Yukon and claimed a different boundary.
- A six man tribunal (3 US, 2 Can & 1 Brit.) ruled against Canada.
- Canada was outraged; no loyalty from Br. after Boer War.
- Canada’s claim was weak- but this issue fueled debate about Canada’s role in the Empire.
Review: Canada to 1914

REVIEW CHECK-UP

1. Were unions increasing or decreasing in popularity?

2. Where in Canada were immigrants needed?

3. What ship waited at anchor off Vancouver only to be turned back to India?

4. To what war did Laurier reluctantly send volunteers?

5. Why did Canada want sea access to the Yukon?
Review: Canada to 1914

REVIEW CHECK-UP

1. Were unions increasing or decreasing in popularity? Increasing

2. Where in Canada were immigrants needed? The Prairies

3. What ship waited at anchor off Vancouver only to be turned back to India? The Komagata Maru

4. To what war did Laurier reluctantly send volunteers? The Boer War

5. Why did Canada want sea access to the Yukon? To access the Klondike Gold Rush
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

LESSON OUTLINE & OBJECTIVES (don’t copy)

• In today’s lesson we will look at the underlying causes of the First World War, as well as the event that ignited the conflict.

• you will learn:
  – Four main causes of WW1
  – The alliance structure of Europe in 1914
  – How an assassination led to war

• Today’s lesson relates to pages 20-24 in Counterpoints.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

Causes of the First World War

- The First World War wasn’t fought for clear reasons.
- The war was a result of many contributing factors.
- It is generally accepted that there were four major causes:
  1. Militarism
  2. Alliances
  3. Imperialism (colonialism)
  4. Nationalism
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

**Militarism** - this is a policy or attitude whereby the military is used as a means to solve problems and disputes. It is often referred to as “Saber Rattling”.

- Prior to the war, Britain and Germany had been involved in a frantic arms race. It was largely naval, as both countries produced larger battleships.
- Naval power helped ensure that countries could support and defend colonies.
- Many conflicts between colonial powers were resolved through posturing or a show of force, also known as “Gunboat Diplomacy.”
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

Alliances – A series of secret and public treaties were in place to protect countries. Although defensive, they ensured that once hostilities erupted, all of Europe would be dragged into a war.

– Triple Entente- (Allies) Britain, France and Russia.
– Triple Alliance- (Central Powers) Germany, Austria-Hungary & Italy
– Even when countries tried to stay out of conflicts, treaties and alliances dragged them in.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War
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**Imperialism** - this is the policy or attitude whereby a country builds an empire, or a collection of colonies to increase its own strength and wealth, with resources and strategic location of bases.

- Germany was trying to build an empire, competing Britain, which already had a large empire.
- Countries were competing to establish colonies in Africa & the Pacific. Pride caused conflicts & disputes.
- Britain proudly claimed, “The sun never sets on the British Empire.”
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

**Nationalism** – this is a strong sense of pride in one's cultural & ethnic background. Nationalism can, but does not have to refer to one's “country”. (ex. Quebec)

- Major powers were ultra-nationalistic. They were considered “jingoistic” (super patriotic, flag waving, self-obsessed.)

- Smaller groups dominated by larger powers were also nationalistic. Their nationalism was expressed in a desire to be free of the colonial power.

- Countries who shared a linguistic, ethnic, or cultural link, felt an allegiance to each other. Nationalism encourages alliances.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

HOW it happened:
Consider the four reasons for the war- these conditions exist- the atmosphere in Europe is charged with tension.

1. Bosnia is part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but has a large Serbian Population. (many felt it should be part of Serbia)
2. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria Hungary visited the city of Sarajevo in Bosnia.
3. Many Bosnians didn’t like it, including a nationalistic group- “The Black Hand”.
4. Gavrilo Princip, member of the Black Hand, shot the Archduke.
5. Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia and insisted on harsh conditions. A list of ultimatums was delivered.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

6. Germany offered Austria-Hungary 100% unconditional support. This was referred to as a “Blank Cheque.”

7. Serbia tried to avoid a war, but could not accept all of Austria-Hungary’s conditions.

8. Austria-Hungary Declared War on Serbia.

9. Russia, (supporting Serbia), declared war Austria-Hungary.

10. Germany, (supporting A-H), declared war on Serbia & Russia.

11. France, (supporting Russia), declared war on Germany & Austria Hungary.

12. Britain tried to stay out of it, but when Germany invaded Belgium, Britain Declared war on Germany & Austria-Hungary.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

Canada’s Response

• Aug 4, 1914: Britain declared war on Germany and Canada was automatically at war.
• PM Borden’s Gov’t drafted the **War Measures Act**, which gave the gov’t strong powers to act, suspending individual rights and usual procedures.
• Liberals pledged a political truce and many hoped this would unite the English and French.
• By Sept there were 32,000 volunteers, (it sounded like a grand adventure!)
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

- Everyone expected the war to be over by Christmas.
- Over 30,000 volunteers converged on Valcartier, Que., for training in the first few weeks of the war.
- Soon, enthusiasm faded. It would obviously last past Christmas.
- French Canadians were opposed to fighting a war for the British.
- Since they felt no particular allegiance to France, they were not interested in fighting.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

The Opening Move

- The Germans faced a 2 front war with France & Russia.
- Solution: **The Schlieffen Plan**
- Weaker German units would hold along the French Border.
- Stronger units would attack through Belgium to encircle Paris.
- With France defeated, Germany could turn and attack Russia.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

PROBLEMS with the Schlieffen Plan

The plan assumed Belgium would not fight.

**WRONG**- they did, slowing German progress.

The plan assumed Britain would not honour an old treaty guaranteeing Belgium’s neutrality.

**WRONG**- they did. France was going to get help.

The plan assumed that it would take old Russia a long time to mobilize.

**WRONG**- it took only 10 days, meaning German troops had to be moved immediately to the Eastern front.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

- The German soldiers dug defensive trenches so they could hold the land they had taken.
- The trenches soon extended from the English Channel to the Swiss border.
- This became known as the **Western Front**.
Lesson #1: The Causes & Start of The Great War

POSSIBLE QUIZ QUESTIONS NEXT CLASS

1. Name the four main causes of WW1.
2. Who was shot?
3. Who was the shooter?
4. Which Empire threatened Serbia?
5. Which country backed up Serbia?
6. Why was Canada at war?
7. What law or Act did Borden pass to give the gov’t more power?
8. Where did Canadian soldiers train?
9. What German plan failed?
10. Why did it fail?
11. What was the line of trenches in France and Belgium called?