

Outbreak of World War II

Canada: A People's History Questions

1. What was the name of the Canadian regiment that fought in the Spanish Civil War?
2. What two countries (or leaders) made an agreement that forced the Canadian troops out of Spain?
3. What was the purpose of Mackenzie King's visit to Berlin?
4. What did King say about Hitler?
5. What did King write privately about Hitler?
6. What did Joe Kennedy think of Hitler?
7. What did the Canadian immigration minister say about the Jewish people of Europe?
8. Why did King purchase all of the land surrounding his summer estate, Kingsmere? What did he write in his diary about the refugees?
9. What happened on September 1, 1939?
10. What did King's father tell him about this event? What is the problem with this?
11. What did Canada do one week later?
12. What did King promise when Canada declared war on Germany?
13. What was the period between September 1939 and May 1940 called? Why?
14. What was the relationship between King and Winston Churchill?
15. Who was Britain's leading and most powerful ally in mid-1940?
16. How many Canadians volunteered to fight during World War II?
17. What got Canada out of the Great Depression and back to work?

Canada Declares War

We now know that World War II officially started on September 3, 1939, when Britain and France declared war on Germany in response to their attack of Poland. Canada waited one week – until _____ – to declare war. The big question is why, and more importantly, how?

If you think back, when did Canada enter World War I? (write your answer below, and correct if need you need to)

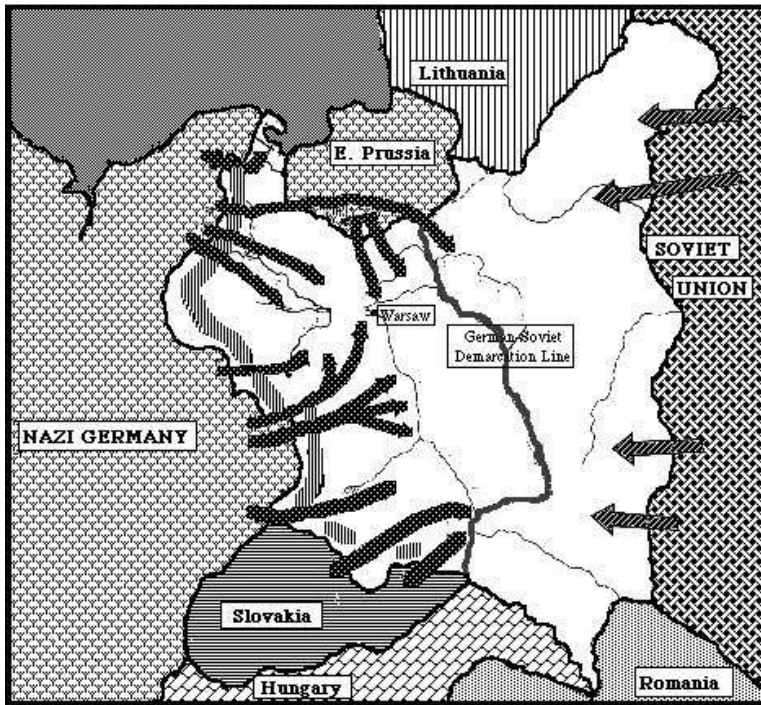
By World War II, however, Canada faced a very different situation. Because of the Canadian effort and contribution to the First World War, and as a result of several other worldwide events that took its toll on the British Commonwealth (which we do not really need to get into right now), the British government began to allow its Commonwealth nations to take control of their own foreign policy.

In 1931, the _____ was passed through the British Parliament (the House of Commons and the House of Lords, which was the model for our own Canadian Parliament) that outlined that the _____ nations now had control over their own _____ and were able to make decisions regarding their international actions on their own. Remember, Canada became an independent country in _____, but we did not fully control our own international affairs and foreign policy until _____. This is CRUCIAL to remember. It might even be on a test.

So at the beginning of World War II (which broke out in which year? _____) Canada had effective control over both its domestic (which is? _____) and international affairs. We were still very close friends and allies with Great Britain, but we now had the ability to conduct our own _____. When War broke out in 1939, it was naturally assumed that Canada would, in fact, join the War on the British side. In an effort to assert our independence, Canada waited several days before declaring war. There was a debate, although not really much of one, in Parliament regarding whether or not Canada should enter; in the end, however, Canada entered the War against Germany and Italy.

The Statute of Westminster of 1931 was the reason that Canada entered the war a short time after Britain and France.

Blitzkrieg



The Blitzkrieg was a German tactical move that means “_____”; although it was not entirely invented by the _____, they were the first to use the manoeuvre in war, and used it to devastating effect. By using the air force, tanks, and infantry troops, the Nazi army was able to move through Europe and capture several countries in just a matter of _____. The Blitzkrieg was so effective, in fact, that the Nazis were able to conquer France in a matter of six weeks; France, at the beginning of the war, was thought to be a country that no other nation could ever take over.

The Blitzkrieg was first executed in _____ and signalled the outbreak of World War II. The general order of the attack was to first send in the air force to bomb military targets; heavy infantry and tanks would follow; and finally light infantry and soldiers would come in and complete the mission. This was used very effectively in _____ and then through _____.

Good demonstration of the Blitzkrieg:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ74HakQZTo>



Lesson Questions

1. What was the blitzkrieg?
2. Why was the blitzkrieg so effective?
3. Why was it important for Canada to wait several days before declaring war on Germany? What gave Canada this ability?
4. What was the general feeling in Canada regarding the European Jews?