Chapter 6 : Canada at War
Canada made a significant contribution to World War 2:

- 1 in 10 served in armed forces
- Millions contributed on the home front
One interpretation of the causes of World War 2 puts blame on the “unfair” conditions of the **Treaty of Versailles** after World War 1.

This treaty was the peace settlement that ended the First World War. This treaty punished Germany by taking away land, forcing them to pay huge sums of money (reparations) to the Allies and to take sole blame for the war (War Guilt Clause).
Germany’s leader, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party used German anger over the Versailles Treaty to their advantage to become popular.

One of Hitler’s promises was to tear up the Versailles Treaty which made him enormously popular in Germany. Once he became leader, all other political parties were outlawed and he became **dictator** or sole ruler of Germany.
Hitler broke the Versailles Treaty by building up Germany’s armed forces. He also began to annex (reoccupy) land taken from Germany after WW1.
Politicians in the Allied countries tried to avoid war at all costs by allowing Hitler to do as he pleased. They knew it would be political suicide to start another world war just 20 years after WW1.

Allied powers hoped that by relaxing the terms of the Versailles treaty, Germany would be satisfied and thus allow peace to prevail. This policy was called **Appeasement**.
The Germans attacked Poland on September of 1939. Two days later, the Allies declare war on Germany.

The Statute of Westminster, in 1931, gave Canada power over its own foreign affairs. Canada had to decide whether or not to join the Allied war effort.
Canada’s Prime Minister Mackenzie King wanted to avoid the major conscription crisis that occurred during WW1 by stating that Canada would support Britain fully by providing war materials and a small volunteer army.

Canada declared war on Germany on Sept. 10, 1939
Pictures of the destruction in World War Two
6.2 Canada’s Contribution to the War

- **Phase 1**: Sept 1939-June 1940
- Canada’s military was reduced after WW1. However, Prime Minister King’s volunteer army sailed to Britain in December of 1939.
Canada only had 38 ocean going ships in 1939. These were part of the *merchant marine* which transported war goods and personnel.

These ships were attacked quite often by German U-boats.
Canada began the enormous task of training Allied pilots and air crews. At this time, Canada had no training airfields or training aircraft. However, it was enormously successful.
Canada experienced success and defeat in the North Atlantic. In the early stages of the war, German U-Boats were very successful in destroying Allied shipping.
The Battle of the Atlantic was fought between the German U-Boats and the Allied convoys. **Convoys** were ships sailing together which carried war supplies and men to Britain. These convoys were the primary targets of the U-Boats. Germany main goal was to stop supplies and men from reaching the Allies.
By mid 1943, new technologies such as radar helped the Allies track and sink U-Boats turning the tide in favor of the Allies in the Atlantic.
On land, Canada suffered 2 major defeats:

1. Hong Kong (Dec 1941)
2. Dieppe (1942)
Japan attacked Hong Kong on Dec 7, 1941 and defeated the British and Canadians defending it. 1975 Canadians (290 killed, 1685 POW’s)

Of the 1685 POW’s, 260 died in captivity.
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Canadian defeat took place at Dieppe, France in 1942.
The Dieppe Raid was a disaster for the Canadians. 900 were killed and 1900 became Prisoners of War (POW).
Dieppe Raid

http://www.history.ca/daysofremembrance/video/dieppe+uncovered/video.html?v=2270629742&p=18&s=dd#video

Watch 1st 9 minutes
Phase 3 : July 1943 – June 1944

- From 1943 on, The Allies were advancing on all fronts. (Front is the line of contact between enemy forces)
By 1943 Canada has its own bomber group. Canadians were actively involved in the continuous aerial bombings over Germany.

They were targeting the industrial sectors to destroy Germany’s ability to wage war.
The Canadian army had increased as well from a single division to a full army. After El Alamein, they were actively involved in the invasion of Sicily, an island off the Italian coast.
After Sicily, they invaded Italy and the Italian gov’t surrendered. Germany sent reinforcements and the fighting continued.
The Italian campaign was a slow one. The Canadians distinguished themselves at Ortona in 1943 and at Cassino in spring of 1944. Canadians continued fighting until Feb 1944 when they were removed to northwest Europe.
Canada’s Merchant Marine fleet grew from 38 to 403 ships. These ships supplied the Allies with vital war supplies. During the war they made 25,000 voyages losing 1600 sailors (including 8 women).
Phase 4:
D Day to Victory – D Day

Phase 4 : June 1944 – Sept 1945

- On June 6\textsuperscript{th}, 1944 the Allied invasion of Europe began. It was called “Operation Overlord”.

- The landings, commonly known as D-Day, took place at Normandy, France and involved the British, American and Canadian forces.
The beaches on the coast of Normandy were:
Juno Beach = Canada
Gold and Sword Beaches = British
Utah and Omaha Beaches = U.S.
Germany were forced to fight on two major fronts at the same time. Their resistance eventually collapsed.
The road and rail city of Caen was the Canadians 1st objective. This took most of the summer of 1944.

Once captured, The Canadians helped the US forces capture Falaise. After this success, the Germans retreated to Belgium and the German border.
Paris was liberated and most of France was free. However, as the allied armies advanced and became bigger more supplies were needed and ports had to be opened.

The Canadians had to free the Belgian port of Antwerp. Antwerp was one of the major ports in Europe.
The port was 80 km away from the city and was covered in low-lying areas behind dikes. The Germans flooded the dikes to slow down the Canadians.
The Canadians were nicknamed the “water rats” because most of the fighting here was done by the infantry since tanks and artillery were hard to use here. This became known as the Battle of the Scheldt.
Over 6000 Canadians were killed in this battle.
When the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, Canadian forces:
- Duty in northern Germany
- Air force helped control the skies
- Navy patrolled the North Atlantic
6.3: Examine significant moral and ethical issues related to the Second World War.

The Holocaust is known as the Nazi slaughter of over 6 million Jews during the Second World War.
The Nazi Party began their policy of anti-semitism (hatred of Jews) almost immediately after they came to power in 1933 and Hitler became dictator of Germany.
Resettlement

- Jews were “resettled” into ghettos which were parts of a city which were walled or enclosed to keep people in.
In January 1942, Hitler’s deputy announced a plan to murder all of Europe’s Jews and others that the German leaders wanted to eliminate, including gypsies, Slavs, homosexuals and the physically or mentally challenged.
Transporting the Jews to feed the death camps was a major undertaking.

Adolph Eichmann was the Nazi officer in charge.

He went from country to country and organized the deportation of local Jews in each community to send them off to the death camps.
Many froze to death, suffocated to death or died of diseases during their “relocation” to the camps. The dead were not removed because each body had to be accounted for at destination by the bureaucracy.
Inmates were herded into barracks or living quarters, given almost no food, worked often to death, subjected to torture and physical and emotional abuse. Resistance was met with death.
Concentration Camp Video

http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/videos#concentration-camp-liberation
Resistance

Moral resistance and physical resistance occurred in ghettos, camps and the forests.

**Moral Resistance:**

Those who wrote diaries, taught lessons, and printed underground reports were moral resisters.

- Diaries were kept in the ghettos and camps to document the horrors.
- Music was written in the ghettos and played and sung as an act of resistance.
- Even in the ghettos, education and religious practices were maintained until the end.
- Maintaining dignity was an act of resistance.
- Some children were born in the ghettos and camps but never survived for long.
Physical resistance can be subdivided into:

**National Resistance:**

Before German occupation, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland, and Italy refused to deport Jews. It is interesting to note here that these countries had governments that collaborated with the Nazis even though large portions of their populations were actively involved in resistance.

The Vichy government of France was one of the primary collaborators and aided in the deportation of Jews. Yet there was a fierce underground movement in France that saved countless Jews either by hiding them or by getting them to safe havens.

The people of Denmark also operated an enormous resistance movement and the Danes managed to ferry almost all of their Jewish population in overnight operations in 1943 to Sweden.
Underground resistance movements:
Widespread partisan resistance existed in the occupied territories. Ironically, Poland had a very well organized resistance movement.
War in the Pacific

Under the code name the "Manhattan Project," scientists in the U.S. developed a new weapon - the atomic bomb.

In July 1945, the first successful test of the new weapon took place. It was then that President Truman had to decide whether to use the weapon.

It was obvious that many civilians would be killed if it were used.
However, the purpose of the bomb would be to destroy the ability of the Japanese to continue to wage war. Therefore by using the bomb they would save the lives of U.S. and Allied soldiers and sailors by keeping them out of battle.

An atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The use of atomic weapons on Japan remains one of the most controversial decisions made during the Second World War.
Atom Bomb
Photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki