

Unit 3 – Lesson # 1 & 2 Class-notes

Student:

(Use these notes to answer questions from the worksheet; as well as, your textbook on pgs. 168-203.)

Canada's Search for Security: NATO, NORAD, and Peacekeeping

Background:

- The suspicion and mistrust that existed between the wartime allies during the war turned into animosity and hostility in the immediate post war era.
- The inability to settle disputes over issues such as international control of atomic energy, the reconstruction of Europe and the future of occupied Germany continued to push the western allies and Soviet Russia further apart.
- Canada, where the reality of Soviet Espionage was exposed; sought to maintain the partnership between the United States and Britain, which Canadian leaders felt responsible for creating during the war; into the post war period.
- Canadian leaders, also aware of Canada's unique position as a "middle power," sought to create institutions outside of the failed United Nations to ensure that the peace won would be a lasting one.

Middle Power Status

- Canadian leaders sought to define Canada's role in the post war period by creating "middle power" status.
- With one of the largest and most productive economies, which tripled during the war, Canada had significant economic influence in the post war world.
- With one of the largest armed forces, Canada would be an important partner in any future conflict.
- Canada; unlike the Soviet Union, Britain, France, China and the United States, did not have the power or influence of the "great powers but it did claim a level of moral leadership beyond the interests of the Great Powers and sought to influence the policies of smaller and middle powers.

Canadian Goals

- Canadian leaders identified several areas for its foreign policy:
- World peace & human rights issues.
- Creating systems of collective security.
- Forming new economic partnerships.
- Increasing foreign aid to developing countries.

- Taking a greater role within the commonwealth.
- Enhancing the North American relationship.

The “Cold War”

- Is a phrase used to describe the state of prolonged war tension without actual fighting?
- Developed out of the break-up of the wartime alliance and in Europe it had an “East vs. West” orientation.
- The Soviet Union, at the end of the war did not “liberate” the nations of Eastern Europe, Rather the communist governments supported by soviet soldiers were established.

A Divided World

- These occupied nations, or “satellite states,” were essentially cut off from the rest of the non-communist world.
- Travel and trade between the two “parts” of the world were restricted.
- Even news was tightly censored by both sides.

1948/49

- Were very important years in the post- war period.
- The Soviet Union tried to take control of Berlin then moved in to take control of Czechoslovakia.
- In 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first Atomic bomb equalizing the technological advantage that the United States relied on.

Canada’s Response

- Prime Minister Mackenzie King remarked:
 - So long as communism remains a menace to the free world, it is vital to the defense of freedom to maintain a preponderance of military strength on the side of freedom and to ensure that degree of unity among actions which will ensure that they cannot be defeated and destroyed one by one.
- Canada was essentially looking to create a peacetime alliance with its wartime partners.

NATO

- Stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- The idea for NATO began with a Canadian diplomat named Escott Reid in 1947 who began to advocate for an Atlantic defensive alliance.
- Canada’s new Prime Minister, Louis St. Laurent, was also a strong supporter of this idea.

- He saw the United Nation's greatest weakness in the fact that it had no military strength.
- In Parliament, St. Laurent commented that: -we are fully aware of the inadequacy of the United Nations at the present moment to provide the nations of the world with the security they require.

The Alliance Formed

- On April 4, 1949 the NATO Alliance was formed.
- It included: Canada, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United States.
- By 1955; Greece, Turkey and West Germany also joined.
- Despite getting the alliance it wanted, Canada also wanted to use NATO to foster greater economic and social cooperation but it never materialized.

Defensive Measures

- The security of all members was guaranteed by a pledge by all members to defend each other in the event that any was attacked.
- All members were also required to contribute military forces to a multi-national defense force.
- Canada sent 6500 soldiers and 12 fighter squadrons to European NATO bases.

The Soviet Response

- In 1955 the Soviet Union created its own alliance with its satellite states including:
Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania.
- This alliance was called the "**Warsaw Pact.**"

North American Defense

- As technology advanced in the production of long range aircraft and missiles, the threat of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe was not the only threat to Canadian security.
- In the early 1950's the ability to fly across the Arctic, over Canada, to the United States created the need for a purely North American defense strategy.
- Canada partnered with the United States to create a system of air defenses focused on protecting Canada's Arctic from Soviet bombers and missiles.

NORAD

- The North American Air Defense Command was created in 1957 to coordinate the air defense of North America.
- Prior to 1957, Canada and the United States began to build radar stations in the Arctic.
- With NORAD, Canadian and American air defense units were placed under a joint command located in Colorado.

- At NORAD headquarters, an American General was in command of all North American air defenses with a Canadian General acting as second in command.
- The purpose of NORAD was to defend North American airspace from a Soviet nuclear attack.

Canada & Global Security

- While Canada created its own defensive alliances, conflicts around the world created concern for Canadian leaders.
- The 1950's saw conflicts in Korea and Egypt and Canada would play a role in both.

The Korean War

- Broke out in 1950 and was the first true test of the UN's ability to maintain peace.
- Korea, which was conquered by Japan, saw the Soviet Union occupy the northern half of the country in the last week of the war.
- The Soviet Union then established a communist government and American troops occupied the southern half of the Country.
- Despite the UN's attempts to reunite the country, North Korea attacked South Korea in June 1950.

The UN Acts

- With the Soviet Union boycotting Security Council meetings, it was decided that the United States would lead a multi-national force to defend South Korea.
- Canada sent over 27,000 soldiers to fight in Korea with 516 dying and over 1000 wounded.
- The war ended in 1953 with a truce but a peace treaty has never been signed.

The Suez Crisis

- In 1956, Egypt's president Nasser decided to take control of the Suez Canal which was under the control of Britain & France.
- The canal was an important trade route linking Europe to the East.
- Israel, Britain and France responded by attacking Egypt and the Soviet Union threatened to send missiles to support Egypt.

A Third World War?

- The United States quickly responded that if the Soviet Union interfered, it would step into the conflict as well.
- The world seemed on the brink of another world war as the NATO and Warsaw Pact forces began preparations for a full scale war between the Cold War rivals.

Canada Takes the Lead

- At the United Nations, under the leadership of Lester B. Pearson, the United Nations General Assembly was convinced to order all foreign troops out of Egypt to be replaced by a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF).
- This would be an international police force made up of soldiers sent from volunteer countries not involved in the conflict.
- These soldiers would be sent to keep the peace until a settlement could be reached diplomatically.
- Pearson stated to the Assembly:
 - We need action not only to end the fighting, but to make the peace. . . my own government would be glad to recommend Canadian participation in such a United Nations force, a truly international peace and police force.

The Birth of Peacekeeping

- The UNEF was the first attempt by the UN to create a peacekeeping force.
- In all, 6000 soldiers were sent to Egypt, 1000 were Canadian.
- The force would not fight; rather it would observe, investigate, mediate, and report back to the UN General Assembly.

The Success of Peacekeeping

- Shortly after the arrival of the UNEF a settlement over the Suez Canal issue was reached.
- For his efforts to end the fighting in Egypt, Lester Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- War was averted, largely due to the active role of Canada as an uninterested “middle power”.