

“Canada A People’s History: Hard Times”

Canada Goes To War

- On September 1st 1939, Germany invades Poland. King receives reports from the great beyond that there is nothing to worry about. In a séance his father tells him, “Hitler has been shot by a Pole.” At the same moment King is communing with the spirits, _____ is declaring war against Germany.
- One week later Canada too declares war. Most people including Prime Minister Mackenzie King believe Canada’s role can be limited. And King promises he won’t impose _____ for overseas fighting.
- A limited war seems possible in the autumn of 1939, a period called the “_____ war” because fighting has come to a temporary halt.
- For now, enlistment remains _____ and French and English alike begin to sign up.
- The “phony war” comes to an abrupt and terrifying end on May 10th _____. King realizes his dreams of a limited war have ended too.
- For five days in May of 1940 the outlook is dire. Germany controls most of _____ and many believe that if Britain puts down her guns Hitler will spare her.
- King and Britain’s new leader do not like one another. King complains about Winston Churchill’s habit of drinking champagne in the war room. Churchill refers to Canada’s prime minister as “the little son of a bitch.” But they will be forced into a history making _____.
- Churchill is facing tremendous pressure to _____. Even U.S. President Roosevelt feels Britain might have to capitulate. Roosevelt calls his friend Mackenzie King and asks him to pass on the message to Churchill. King admires Roosevelt, but he despises Roosevelt’s message.

- Churchill carries the day. There will no longer be any talk of surrender. Nor will there be any question of Canada's role. With _____ under occupation and the Americans still on the sidelines, Canada is now Britain's leading ally.
- Only a few months before, King had tried to limit Canada's commitment, but now he orders a national registration for _____ defence.
- Over the next year _____ Canadians will volunteer to fight in Europe.
- The prime minister commands factories to begin twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week production of war supplies. Canada is finally back to work. The _____ has been ended not by any far-reaching economic policy, but by a European dictator.