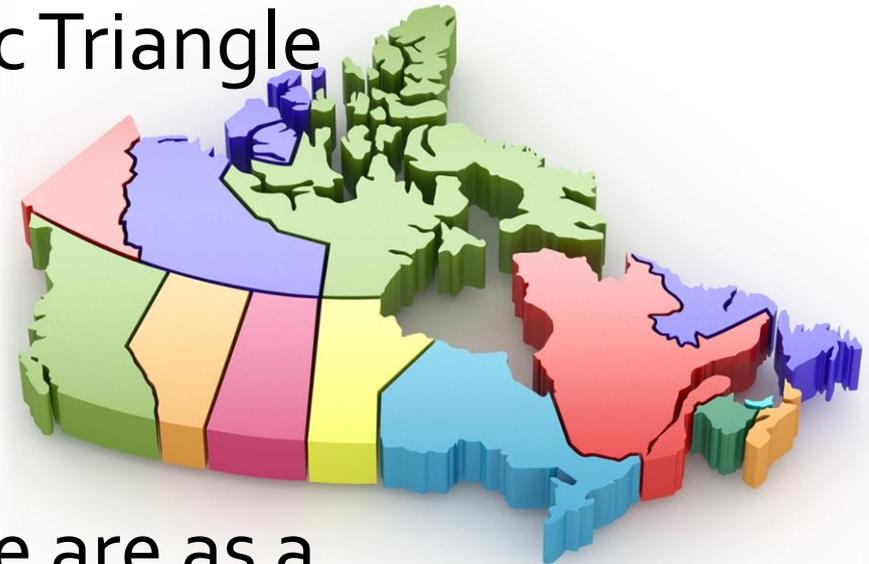


HIS311- Feb 2, 2016

Energy & Foreign Policy in the Post-WWII era

Why does it matter? *EXAM

- Geography
- Federal-Provincial relations
- Shift in the North Atlantic Triangle
- Foreign investment
- Canada-U.S. relations
- \$\$\$ Economy
- Public opinion!
- Ultimately tied to who we are as a nation



C.D.Howe: Minister of Everything

*EXAM

- **Clarence Decatur Howe**, engineer & politician
- A link between the Liberal party & Canadian business industry; Straight-forward, blunt personality
- Engineering degree @MIT
- Successful business -- built elevators (1916-35)
- 1935: Entered politics as a Liberal MP (Thunder Bay ON)
- Mackenzie King Cabinet: **Minister of Transport**, created Trans-Canada airlines (later Air Canada)
- 1940: Minister of **Munitions & Supply** (Canada's wartime production) *brilliant in this role
- 1955: Minister of **Dept of Reconstruction**
- 1950s: Re-designed parts of Canadian economy, ie steel
- **As Minister of Trade & Commerce**, sponsored a trans-Canada pipeline in 1956

What C.D. Howe wanted to do in the 1950s *EXAM

1. **Keep the Canadian economy going**
 - Canadian economy needed stimulation from time to time
 - Big construction projects ie development of iron ore mines in NF/QC & St.Lawrence Seaway
 - Canada's petroleum industry: Largely depended on the American cooperation, so Howe wanted a more independent operation

What C.D. Howe wanted to do in the 1950s *EXAM

2. A secure source of energy for Canada

- Energy is the centerpiece of Howe's economic strategy in the post-WWII period
- Discovery of petroleum in Alberta
- An incredible change happened in Alberta throughout this process >> new energy supply for Canada (+wealth)
- But it was expensive, especially because Canada's railways (main transportation) couldn't carry it.
- Pipelines were developed in the U.S. (Network of pipelines in the U.S. (Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana))
- Debate for Canada: N-S or E-W pipeline?
- C.D. Howe, thinking in nationalist terms: W-E pipeline!

Howe & Pipeline

- Howe: Very dominant figure in Canadian businesses -> natural gas consortium as the minister of trade/commerce
- Idea: bring Alberta's natural gas from petroleum fields to Central Canada (principal markets in Toronto); supposed to be a private investment
- Problem: Northern Ontario doesn't have enough people living there to justify the investment
- NEED: Federal government spending!
- To build the pipeline, American investors from NY needs to chip in, and the Americans wanted a guarantee of investment >> Extremely controversial issue. Govt used closure, pipeline built, opens in **1958**
- Liberal defeat (pipeline + the British empire/ commonwealth)
- **Howe's pursuit of Canadian sovt'y = oil to central Canada**

C.D.Howe (documentary)

- “Minister of Everything”

- Available at

https://www.nfb.ca/film/minister_of_everything/

Practice EXAM Questions

- How important was C.D. Howe in the design and conduct of Canada's energy policy in the post-WWII era?
- To what extent do personalities matter in the evolution of Canadian foreign policy in the 20th century? Discuss using 3-5 key examples.
- Imagine yourself as a biographer of C.D. Howe. What would you highlight as a balanced historian?