

Canadian immigration



How a country developed

Canada: A Nation of immigrants

As a nation Canada has always grown due to immigration.

Europeans were the first to settle in upper and Lower Canada and eventually founded Canada in 1867



The underground railroad

As a British colony, prior to confederation, Canada was a beacon of hope as many slaves fled American slave plantations in the south. Britain had outlawed slavery so if slaves could make it to Canada they would be free. The network to get Caribbean and African slaves into Canada was known as the underground railroad.



Immigration used to populate the west

In this sense Alberta could be part of the US. Immigration helped found the nation we know today.

In 1870, no urban centres existed on the Prairies. By 1911, thirteen cities with populations over 5,000 had been established



Canada's immigration history is not necessarily a happy tale

<http://www.pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/canadian-immigration-acts-and-legislation>

Like Trump today, Canada had so called “Undesirable” immigrants, particularly Chinese immigrants. Openly racist policy was created to stunt immigration from Asian countries (Mostly China).



The Great Depression: Unemployment and poverty lead to massive immigration restrictions.

“The public rightly ask, that you remove from this place, the Russian and other European people, who have only been in this country for a short time, and particularly the men of this class who are sending all their earnings back to Europe, should not be allowed to have the work on the Power and R.R. construction, while hundreds of Canadians are standing in the bread line.”

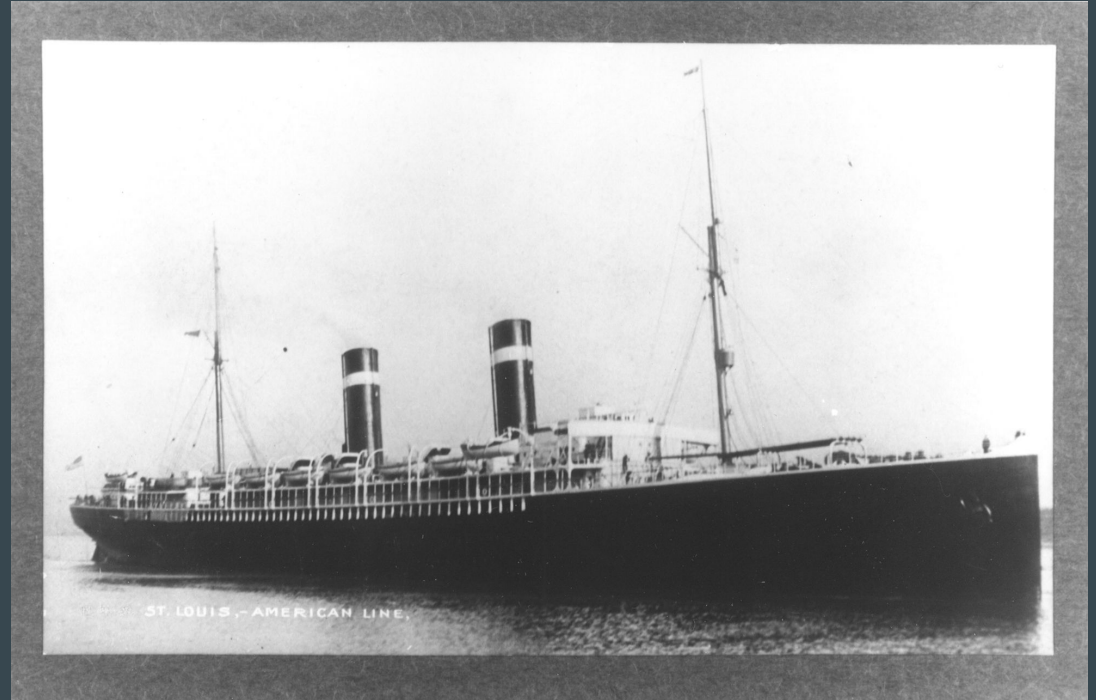
W.B. Williston to G. Robertson, Cochrane, 14 July 1931, in Department of Immigration, “Deportation of undesirables from Canada (lists)”,



WWII

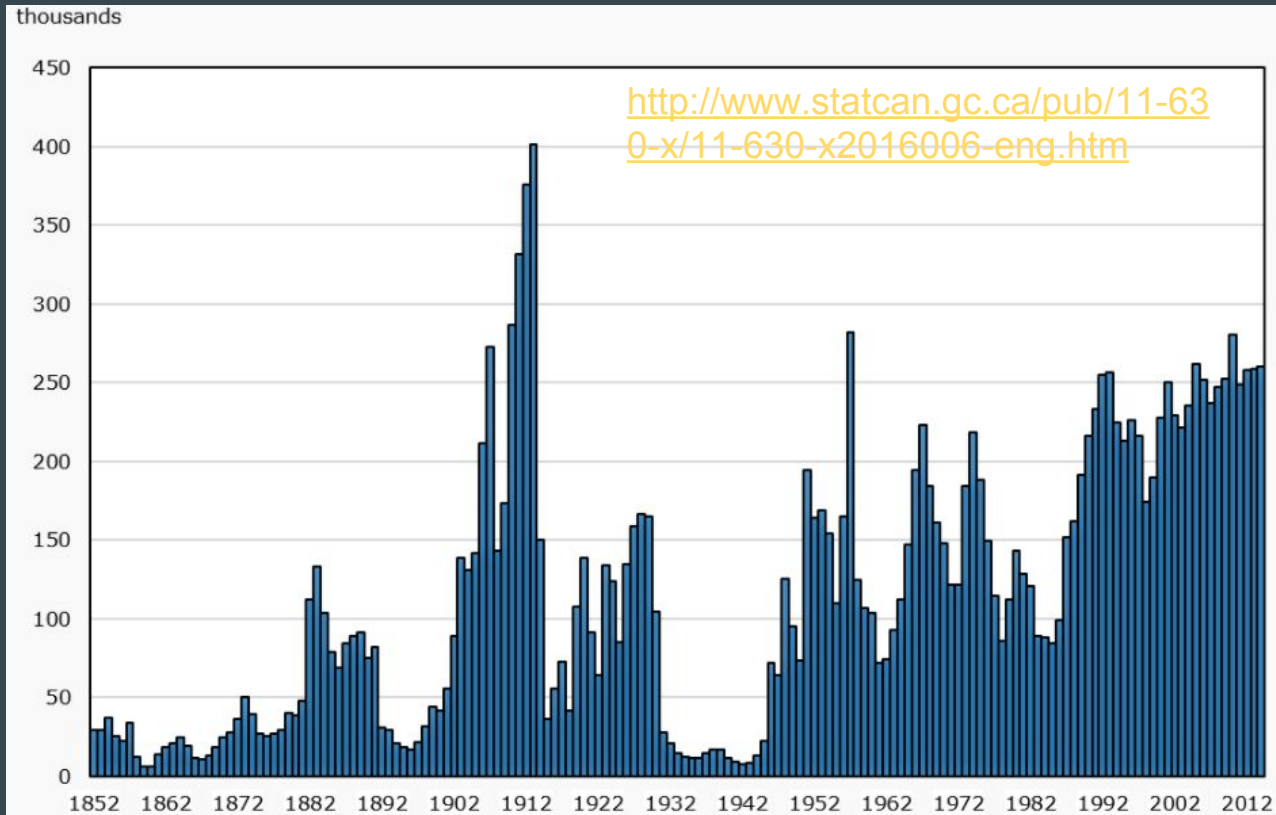
<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ms-st-louis/>

During WW II Canada also restricted immigration including to Jews seeking refuge from the Holocaust.



Growth despite racial policy

Despite racial policy towards Asians Canada grew largely to European immigration.



Starting to open up

It was not until the 1960's when Canada eliminated it's racially restrictive immigration policy. Immigration was based on skills and merit as the points system was introduced. It was not until June 2006 when then Prime Minister offered a formal public apology for the Chinese Head Tax. In 2011 and ever since China, India, and the Philippines have been the top three sources of immigration.



Multiculturalism

Canada made multiculturalism a national policy. All cultures are welcome without the pressure to *assimilate*.

Assimilate is to cause something to resemble. In terms of culture forced assimilation would mean cultures, ethnicities, and religions would be forced to become more like dominant Canadian culture. Multiculturalism fought against forced assimilation



Sources to use if you want to use a historical perspective

<http://www.pier21.ca/home> Type into google Pier 21

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-630-x/11-630-x2016006-eng.htm>

Type into google: Statcan 150 years of immigration