The Thirties: A Decade of Despair

Resource: Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues, Chapter 4

Introduction
1. What was life on the prairies in 1935 and 1936 like according to James Gray?

Falling Off the Economic Edge
2. What are stocks?

3. What is buying on margin?

4. Why did people buy stocks on the margin in the 1920s?

5. Why did the values of stocks start to fall in 1929?

6. What were some of the effects of the stock market crash?

7. Define the term depression.
**Leading Up to the Depression**

8. What was the impact of falling wheat prices in 1927 and 1928?

9. Identify three effects of over production in manufacturing industries.

10. Why did countries like the United States impose tariffs?

11. What was the effect of such *protectionism* on world trade?

12. How did World War I contribute to the depression?

13. How did Canada’s dependency on the export of wheat and newsprint make it particularly vulnerable to the changes in world markets as the depression struck?

14. How did Canada’s close economic ties to the US affect its economy?

**Desperate Years**

15. How many Canadians were unemployed in 1929? (See p. 75)

16. What was *pogey*?

17. How did you qualify for it?

18. How did the hungry and homeless exist in these years?

19. Are today’s *street people* the same as the homeless in the 1930s? Explain.
20. How many Canadians were unemployed in 1933?

21. What did many unemployed men do to find work?

22. Describe the drought that hit the prairies between 1928 and 1936.

23. How did the depression affect:
   - domestic workers (women):
   - aboriginal peoples:
   - Chinese people in Vancouver:
   - immigrants:

24. How were Jewish people treated by many Canadians at this time?

Responding to the Depression

25. Who did Prime Minister King believe should provide aid to people suffering from the Depression?

26. Why were many municipalities unable to provide relief?

27. What was the result of King’s comment that he wouldn’t provide financial support to Conservative provincial governments?

28. What approach did the new Conservative Prime Minister R.B. Bennett take to fight the Depression?

29. What were work camps?
30. What were conditions like in them?

31. Why was the *On-to-Ottawa Trek* organized?

32. What did it hope to accomplish?

33. How did the trekkers try to get to Ottawa?

34. What happened when their leaders met with Prime Minister Bennett?

35. What happened to the trekkers in Regina?

36. Describe the reasons for and the events of the 1937 Vancouver *sit-in*.

**Politics of Protest**

37. Why was the CCF party formed in 1932?

38. What did Bible Bill Aberhart’s Social Credit Party propose to do to end the Depression?

39. Mitch Hepburn of the Ontario Liberals came to power championing the *man in the street*. What did he really do with respect to Ontario’s economy?

40. Who did Quebec’s Union Nationale leader Maurice Duplessis blame for the Depression?
41. What steps did BC’s Premier Dufferin Pattullo do to counter the Depression?
   
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42. What was the federal government’s response to some of his initiatives?

A Change in Government

43. The Rowell-Sirois Commission examined the problems of federal-provincial relations in 1937. It found that disputes over which government had the right to tax was a major issue. What did it recommend?
   
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44. What were equalization payments?

45. How did the richer provinces feel about these recommendations?

46. Why were the Commission’s recommendations not acted upon?

Distractions from Despair

47. Why were movies, magazines and radio popular during the depression?

48. Comment on how the Dionne Quintuplets were treated.
49. What accomplishments did Grey Owl make?

50. Who was he really?

The Rise of Dictatorships
51. Identify three totalitarian dictators who came to power in the 1920s and 30s.
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Germany After the War
52. Why did the German people elect Adolph Hitler Chancellor in 1933?

53. List four things Hitler did to counter the effects of the Depression.
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54. How did Hitler and the Nazis deal with political opponents?

55. How did Hitler see the German people?

56. How did Hitler and the Nazis treat non-Aryan people?

57. How did Hitler and the Nazis treat people with handicaps?
58. How did Hitler and the Nazis treat people such as communists or homosexuals?

59. What was Kristallnacht?

60. What was the Holocaust?

On the Road to War

61. What was the League of Nations?

62. How did it fail China?

63. How did the League fail Ethiopia?

64. Why was Hitler able to take back the Rhineland in 1936 despite the fact that the Treaty of Versailles declared it to be demilitarized?

65. What stand did Hitler and Mussolini take in the Spanish Civil War?

66. What was the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion?

67. Give three examples of how countries like France and Britain appeased Hitler?
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68. How did Hitler ensure that Russia would not feel threatened by a German invasion of Poland?
69. What happened when Hitler invaded Poland on September 3, 1939?

Canada’s Response to Growing Tensions

70. What were isolationists in the 1930s?

71. Why did Canadians not want to get involved in affairs outside of Canada during the 1920s and 1930s?

72. How did Prime Minister King see Hitler when they met in 1937?

73. Why did King not want to get involved with Jewish refugees in 1938?

74. Do you believe this? Explain.

75. What was Canada’s Secretary of State’s opinion about Jewish refugees being allowed to enter Canada?

76. What was the position of Immigration Director Fred Blair on Jewish immigration?

77. What happened to the 900 Jewish refugees aboard the ocean liner *St. Louis* who were forced to return to Europe?

78. What do you think Canada’s government should have done for Jewish refugees in this period?

You might want to watch the movies: *The Pianist* or *Schindler’s List*. 