

RIGHTING CANADA'S WRONGS

Anti-Semitism and the MS *St. Louis*

Canada's Anti-Semitic Policies in the Twentieth Century



RONA ARATO

CHAPTER 1

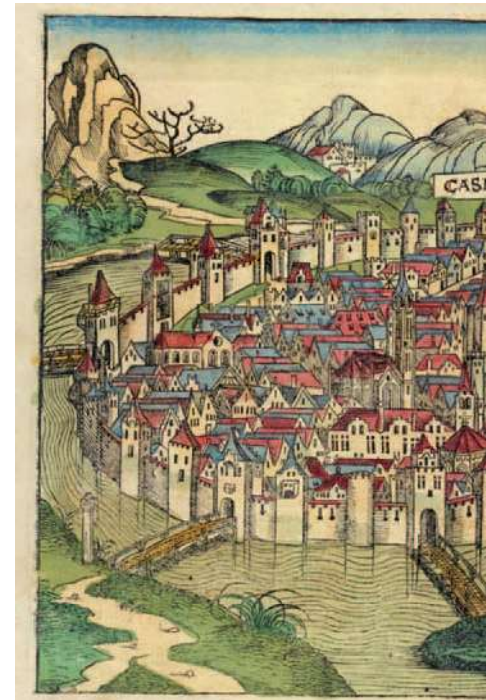
COME TO CANADA

Leaving Europe

Early Jewish immigrants to Canada in the 1700s and early 1800s were mainly European adventurers, explorers and entrepreneurs. In the mid to late 1800s, life in Europe became very difficult and dangerous due to growing anti-Semitism (hostility against Jews), pogroms (organized massacres of an ethnic group) and economic hardship. More Jews decided to leave. This second wave of Jewish immigrants was mostly peasants, farmers and labourers.

Where Jewish immigrants came from

Many Jewish immigrants came to Canada in the late 1800s and early 1900s from countries in eastern Europe.



Poland's Jews

Since 1264, Jews have lived in Krakow, Poland, pictured above, in what was known as Austria-Hungary until 1918. Life became very difficult in the late 1800s due to rising anti-Semitism and violence against Jews. Many decided to leave their country and seek a safer and better life in Canada.



Europe's largest synagogue in Hungary

The Dohány Street Synagogue, pictured here, was built in Budapest, Hungary in the 1850s. Many Hungarian Jews came to Canada in the late 1800s and early 1900s to escape mounting persecution. Jewish immigrants built new synagogues in Canada to replace those they left behind.



Resisting oppression in Lithuania

Jews in Czarist Russia fought against oppression, but conditions didn't improve. Above, people gather for a funeral for revolutionaries who fought for better living conditions, and basic human rights in Vilna, Lithuania, a part of the Russian Empire in 1905.

Life in Europe became very difficult and dangerous for Jews in the 1930s.



Ukrainian war orphans

The Ukrainian War of Independence left thousands of children without parents, homes or means of survival. Their only hope was to leave and find new homes in other countries. These Ukrainian Jewish war orphans are pictured in 1921 in Rovno, Ukraine, formerly part of the Russian Empire, before leaving for Canada.

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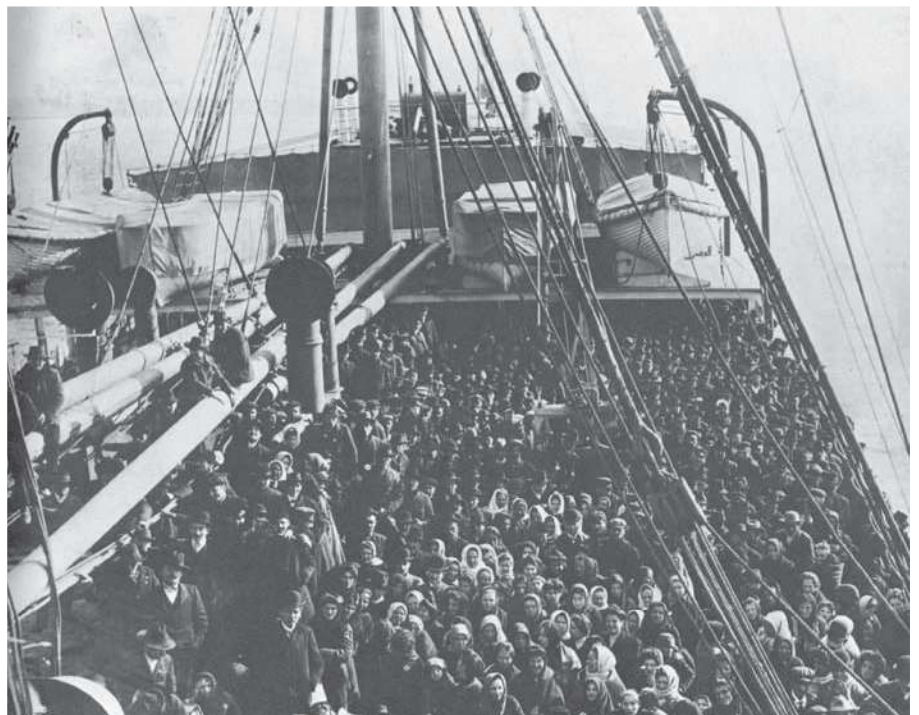
They came from Russia

Anti-Jewish violence in Russia led many Jewish families like this one to leave their homes and businesses in Russia and start over. This family is pictured in their own restaurant in Kishinev, Russia (now Moldova), in 1923, shortly before they emigrated.

Ship of dreams

These immigrants are on their way to Canada where a new life full of possibilities awaits.

A new life of possibilities awaits.



Settling in Canada

Jewish immigrants settled across Canada, from coast to coast. While some Jews became attracted to the gold rush on the West Coast, and some settled in farm communities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, most preferred to live in urban areas. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick also attracted Jewish immigrants. Wherever Jews settled, they built synagogues and started Jewish schools and organizations. Jews, like other immigrant communities, tended to live together. By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, there were approximately 100,000 Canadian Jews, of whom three-quarters lived in either Montreal or Toronto. Jews had established themselves in every major Canadian city and in many small towns.



Entrepreneurs

A group of about one hundred Jews came to Victoria, British Columbia, in 1858. They opened shops to supply prospectors arriving from China and the Far East on their way north to the Cariboo Gold Rush. The small Jewish community built a synagogue in Victoria in 1862. Simon Leiser, pictured left, was a Jewish immigrant from Germany who joined the community in 1880. He ran several successful businesses in Victoria, including this wholesale grocery chain, pictured below.



Baron Maurice de Hirsch

Baron de Hirsch, pictured above, was a wealthy European Jewish financier who funded charities around the world to help Jewish immigrants settle in new countries. He was instrumental in bringing Jewish immigrants to settle and farm the Canadian prairies.

Jewish immigrants settled across Canada, from coast to coast.

JEWISH FARM COLONIES and SETTLEMENTS on the PRAIRIES



1	MOOSOMIN, Sask.	Founded	1882	8	ALSASK/MONTEFIORE, Sask.	Founded	1910
2	WAPELLA, Sask.	Founded	1888	9	NARCISSE/BENDER, Man.	Founded	1903
3	HIRSCH, Sask.	Founded	1892	10	CAMPER, Man.	Founded	1911
4	LIPTON, Sask.	Founded	1901	11	BIRDS HILL	} Manitoba farm settlements founded during and after the First World War.	
5	SONNENFELD, Sask.	Founded	1906	12	PINE RIDGE		
6	EDENBRIDGE, Sask.	Founded	1906	13	WEST ILDONAN		
7	RUMSEY/TROCHU, Alta.	Founded	1906	14	ROSENFELD		
				15	ROSSER		
* FARM COLONY		• PRINCIPAL CITY					



Winnipeg Jewish neighbourhood
Winnipeg became home to a large Jewish population. This image shows the Jewish neighbourhood, also called the Jewish Quarter, in 1904.

Settling the Prairies

In the late 1800s, the Canadian government wanted to settle the west and urged immigrants to farm the land there. This map of the prairies (above) shows Jewish farm colonies and settlements between 1882 and the 1920s.



New Hirsch colony, Manitoba

The new Hirsch colony, pictured here in 1910, was funded by the Jewish Colonization Association of London. It was named after Baron de Hirsch who helped many Jewish immigrants settle on the prairies.



Saskatchewan, 1916

These Jewish children are thriving in the fresh air and healthy environment of Saskatchewan.



Settling in Montreal

Montreal's Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue is pictured here on Kensington Avenue in the early 1900s.



New kind of fun

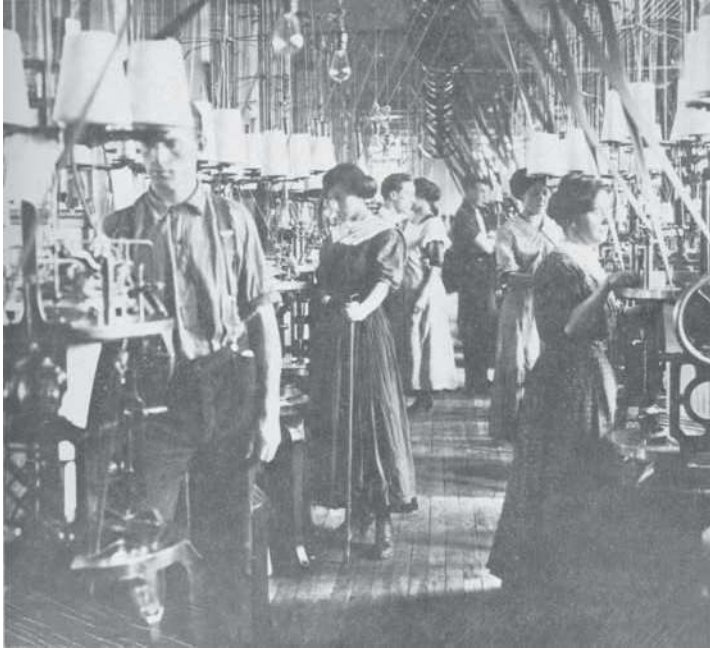
Their new country opened up new experiences. These Jewish boys are posing with their baseball team at Fletcher's Field in Montreal, 1905.



**Most Jewish
immigrants
preferred
to settle in
cities.**

Newsboys

These young Jewish boys earned money in 1910 by selling newspapers on the streets of Toronto.



Unfair wages

These Jewish workers are pictured in a Toronto textile factory in 1907. Women often earned less than one dollar for an eighty-hour week. Children worked for no pay as “learners.”



Labour unions

Jewish labour unions fought for better working conditions and pay for their workers. When workers joined the union, they could share in the benefits. This certificate shows membership in the Labour Lyceum, a centre of Jewish union activity on Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

Cramped quarters in Toronto's Ward District

Many Jews came to Canada to raise their children in a safe and free society. Most Jewish immigrants preferred to settle in cities, such as Toronto.

This home is in the Toronto neighbourhood centred on Bay and Albert Streets known as “the Ward,” where many Jews and other immigrants lived. Often two families would share a home to save money.





A Canadian education

Learning English was key to becoming Jewish Canadians. Children of Jewish immigrants are seen here learning alongside others at Brant Street Public School in Toronto.



The fight for a Jewish homeland

Toronto's Jewish community was politically active early on. Romanian Jewish immigrant women are seen here in 1920, rallying in support of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Watch the video at
<http://bit.ly/rcwstlouis01>



Mount Sinai Hospital

Jewish doctors were not allowed to practice in most Canadian hospitals so the community founded Mount Sinai Hospital on Yorkville Avenue, Toronto, in 1924. Pictured here in the 1920s are members of the Mount Sinai Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary with Dorothy Dworkin, pictured at the centre. She was a Jewish Canadian nurse, businesswoman and philanthropist.

First Jews settle in New Brunswick

Beginning in the 1850s, a small group of Jewish immigrants settled in Saint John, New Brunswick. The first to arrive were Solomon Hart, pictured here, and his wife Alice, from England. The first synagogue, Ahavath Achim (Brotherly Love), was dedicated in 1899 and served about thirty families.



Green's cigar store

Some early Jewish immigrants to Saint John became affluent cigar makers. This image shows Nathan Green, right, outside his store which sold expensive cigars from Havana, Cuba. A second wave of Jewish immigrants arrived between 1892 and the 1920s. Many men were peddlers who ended up opening stores and factories along Main, Mill and Dock Streets in Saint John, New Brunswick.



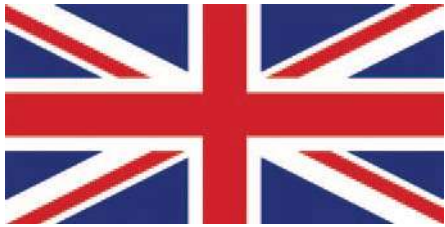
Glace Bay, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Jewish immigrants came to Glace Bay, Cape Breton, pictured here, for work. They were recruited by the Glace Bay Coal Company to work as labourers and miners.

Jewish doctors were not allowed to practice in most Canadian hospitals.

Early Canadian Society

Canadian society was heavily influenced by its former French and British colonial powers. Even after Canada became a country in 1867, it remained part of the British Empire. Outside of Quebec, English-speaking Canadians were mainly British Protestants; Quebec's citizens were primarily French-speaking Roman Catholics. Other cultures, including First Nations, were treated as inferior, or worse. Anti-Jewish sentiments existed in Canadian society from the country's earliest days. Although Jews made up only 1 per cent of the population in Quebec, they were denounced in newspapers and barred from sitting on school boards and holding government positions and other jobs. In English Canada, Jews were excluded from many professions. There were no Jewish judges and few Jewish teachers in public schools. Many industries did not hire Jews. Professional schools and universities had Jewish quotas, or limits, to the number of Jewish students they would accept. Jewish professionals such as lawyers, engineers and nurses often hid their identity to succeed. Some changed their names to find work in their fields since some names were easily identified as Jewish. For example, Shapiro might be changed to Sharpe. Canadian Jews faced racism in their daily lives yet they persevered and helped Canada grow and prosper.



British influences

Even after Confederation in 1867, Canada was greatly influenced by the British Empire. The Union Jack, pictured here, was Canada's flag, the same as Britain's. Canada did not get its own flag, the Maple Leaf, until 1965.

The persecuted

Minorities suffered discrimination in both English- and French-speaking Canada. In this 1906 Quebec cartoon, a Jew (left) and an Asian man (right) share their feelings of persecution. Each is illustrated in an unflattering way. The Jew appears to be a peddler while the Asian man is carrying a load of laundry, both racist stereotypes. Baptiste, in the centre, represents French Canada who is trying to drive the other two away.



CES PAUVRES PERSÉCUTÉS



"ANGLO-SAXON TORONTO"

Multicultural

Immigrants from many countries settled in Toronto and Montreal. This cartoon tries to reflect the multicultural nature of Toronto in the early 1900s, despite being called "the most thoroughly Anglo-Saxon city in North America." A Jewish man is pictured far left.



Canada joins Britain in the First World War

The First World War (1914–18) began when Germany invaded France through Belgium. When Great Britain declared war on Germany, Canada and other members of the British Empire followed. This recruiting poster encourages Canadian men to enlist and fight against Germany with the Allied forces (initially the British Empire, France and Russia).

Reputation for bravery

During the war, Canadian soldiers exhibited great fighting skills and exceptional bravery. They are seen here in the trenches in France where much of the war was fought. Canada gained international respect for its leadership and contributions to the Allied forces. Its new reputation strengthened its political independence from Britain and distinguished it as more than just a part of the British Empire.



Anti-Jewish sentiments existed in Canada from its earliest days.



Canada matures as a nation

During the Paris Peace Conference in June 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed (pictured here). Due to Canada's valiant fighting with the Allied forces, it earned a seat at the table. By participating in the Conference, Canada took charge of its own foreign policy. The Treaty set out the terms of surrender for Germany, who started the war and lost. Harsh penalties were imposed on Germany. German citizens suffered through the next two decades, building up resentment and anger against the British Empire and its allies.

CHAPTER 2

ANTI-SEMITISM

IN GERMANY

The Rise of Hitler



The First World War ended on November 11, 1918, when Germany surrendered. The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to surrender land and demanded stiff reparation payments. To ensure that Germany would never again start a war, it was prohibited from rearming. The terms of the treaty led to great hardship and humiliation for the German people. This resulted in a growing sense of resentment and unrest during the years between the two World Wars. The German economy suffered from the staggering amount of reparations and the devastation caused by the war (over 1.7 million German soldiers had died; 12,000 of them Jewish). High inflation, that is soaring prices, made money almost worthless.



Adolph Hitler understood that Germans needed someone to blame for their troubles. And that someone, he decided, would be the Jews. Hitler was the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, also known as the Nazi Party. It supported a form of government called National Socialism, a type of fascism. The Nazi Party believed in strong nationalism, military power, a single dictator and hatred of communism, along with a virulent dose of anti-Semitism. As conditions worsened, many young people became attracted to his ideas. They blamed the Jews for Germany's economic troubles and vowed to restore the country to its prewar greatness.

Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler was born in Austria in 1889 and moved to Germany in 1913, at the age of 24. He served in the German Army during the First World War. In 1919, Hitler joined the German Workers' Party which became the National Socialist German Worker's Party, or Nazi Party, in 1920. Hitler took over as the party's leader in 1921.

The swastika

The swastika pictured here was the symbol for the Nazi Party.



Watch the video at
<http://bit.ly/rcwstlouis50>