The Great Depression in Canada


I. Canada in the 1920s
   A. Political developments. (Clements 144-145)
      1. Canada had the status of a **dominion** within the British Empire as a result of the **British North America Act of 1867**
      2. The federal government was relatively weak while the **provinces** strongly defended their prerogatives
         a. This will be a significant factor in Canada’s response to the Great Depression
      3. Canada is also divided into Anglophone and Francophone (Quebec) regions
         a. Tensions could arise between the Quebeçois and the rest of the nation
      4. The two main political parties were the **Conservatives** and the **Liberals**.
         a. A third party, the **Progressive Party** had been formed by farmers’ interests and Liberals who opposed the tariff policies of the other two
   B. Post War Problems (145-147)
      1. Short Term Post War Depression 1919-1921 [similar to US]
         a. Fall in demand for wheat with the end of the war
            (1) Belligerents return to peacetime production
         b. Wartime inflation due to shortages of consumer goods
         c. Industrial unrest over wages and working conditions
         d. The **Maritime Provinces** (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) felt marginalized by high freight costs and form the Maritime Rights Movement
   C. Economic Prosperity (147-48)
      1. New industrial development (147)
         a. Wheat production
         b. Railroad building
         c. Mining
         d. Timber
      2. Urbanization (147)
         a. 54% of the population now lived in cities
         b. Boom in home building
         c. Increase in consumer spending
3. Motor vehicles and roads
   a. Canada became the second largest producer of automobiles in the world, exporting 33% of its production (147)

4. The Stock Market
   a. As in the US, there is a bull market, with many Canadians buying stock on margin
   b. Shares in Home Oil went from $35 to $157.50 (148)

D. Political and Economic Problems (148-149)
1. Provincial government’s responsibilities grew with the growth of mineral extraction industries, but their infrastructure was inadequate to the task. (148)
2. Quebec
   a. Anglophones controlled economic activity
   b. Francophones tended to hold the lowest paying jobs
   c. Catholic priests attacked unionism
   d. Tensions left over from the conscription crisis in World War I
   e. Separatist movements
      (1) Action français and Ligue des droits du français (148)

3. Uneven Growth
   a. Pacific coast and Vancouver prospered particularly, Eastern provinces less so
   b. Canada supplied 40% of the world’s export market (148-149)

4. Economic dependance on the US (149)

E. Summary
1. Successes
   a. Political
      (1) “Greater autonomy from UK”
   b. Economic
      (1) “Consumer boom period”

2. Problems
   a. Political
      (1) “Tension between federal and provincial governments”
      (2) “Resentment of Americanization of culture”
      (3) “Determination to promote French identity in Quebec”
   b. Economic
      (1) “Short post-war recession”
      (2) “Uneven economic growth”
      (3) “Over-reliance on US trade and investment” (149)

II. The Causes and Effects of the Depression in Canada
A. The Causes of the Depression
1. “Over-reliance on staples for export”
2. “Overproduction”
3. “Stock market collapse” (150)
B. Over-reliance on staples for export
1. “In Canada, the immediate cause of the Depression was not the Wall Street Crash but an enormous 1928 wheat crop... Thousands of farmers joined the Wheat Pool, prospered, and added to their acreage. The idea worked brilliantly - as long as there was no glut and no serious competition. By 1928, there were both: 567 million bushels at a Pool-guaranteed price of $1.28 a bushel, to be sold in a world that could now buy much more cheaply from the United States, Argentina, Australia, and even the Soviet Union.” (Morris 210)
2. 25% of Canada’s GNP came from exports (Clements 150)
3. The collapse of wheat prices and demand was very serious
4. The Hawley-Smoot Tariff made things worse
5. Canadian wheat production fell from 567 million bushels to 279 million by 1934 (51%)
6. Wheat prices fell from $1.66 / bushel to $ .33 in 1932 (80%)
7. Farm income fell by as much as 75%
8. The Dust Bowl made things even worse (150)

C. Overproduction
1. As in the US, industrial workers’ wages did not keep up with production, with the result that inventories rose, and factories began to lay workers off (151)

D. Stock Market Collapse
1. As in the US, catastrophic losses in the value of stocks (151)

E. The Effects of the Depression
1. Unemployment rose to 27% (higher than the US) (151)
2. Fall in the value of the Canadian dollar

F. Fall in Demand
1. Collapse in wheat prices led to severe losses for the railroads
2. In addition, farmers’ consumer spending also dropped (152)
3. By 1934, unemployment was 33% (152)

G. The Human Cost of the Depression
1. “By 1935, 10 per cent of both the rural and urban population were on some form of relief. In the western province of Saskatchewan this rose to 66 per cent.” (152)
2. Farmers
   a. The Dust Bowl effected Canada just as it did the US.
      (1) Drought and high winds blew topsoil away
      (2) Hot, dry conditions led to an epidemic of grasshoppers (152)
      (3) 250,000 moved to cities such as Regina, Calgary and Alberta (153)
      (4) “In the West, proclaimed "the greatest farmland in the world:' the 1930s yielded literal starvation. The collapse of
world grain markets would have been catastrophe enough, but people would have eaten. In 1929, drought devastated much of the harvest, and for nine more years crop conditions denied the prairies a satisfactory harvest. In 1931, the wind began lifting the dry topsoil in great black clouds. In 1932, the first great plague of grasshoppers devoured every green thing, plus clothing and tool handles. In 1933, drought, hail, rust, and frost joined the grasshoppers, as though all nature's forces had united to give prairie settlers notice to quit. Thousands obeyed, fleeing the region, or hauling their families and remaining livestock north to the parkland belt.” (Morris 216)

3. The Need for Relief (Clements 153)
   a. Traditionally, relief had lain in the hands of the province, municipality or private charity
   b. The scope of the disaster overwhelmed these institutions’ efforts (similar to the US)
   c. “Unemployment insurance had been a Liberal policy in 1919. Only unions now pleaded for it: editors and experts insisted that it would subsidize idleness. Instead, they claimed, wages must fall until everyone would find work. It took time. By 1933, the government's crude statistics reported 23 per cent out of work. A third of Canada's manufacturing jobs had vanished. Net farm income fell from $417 million in 1929 to $109 million in 1933 relief procedures, designed to force the idle to work, crushed self-respect. Relief officials insisted that cars, telephones, pets, ornaments, comfortable furniture, and all but a single bare light fixture be sacrificed. Recipients collected food vouchers, sought medical care from an overworked contract doctor, and visited a municipal depot to collect used clothing. Men shovelled snow, chopped wood, or pulled weeds for their relief benefits. Since women did not work, provision was seldom made for their clothing or personal needs. . . . Misery on relief was deliberate public policy. Even at the depths of the Depression, editors and business leaders insisted that jobs were available if men would only hunt for them. One result was that single unemployed men were sent packing by relief officials. Thousands rode boxcars to British Columbia. On the way, some froze to death or were murdered. Provincial governments established work camps for single men. Bennett's government followed suit in 1933, using the Department of National Defence to run camps behind a discreet facade of civilian administration. Men hacking at bush or restoring historic fortifications cost a dollar a day. After their expenses were
deducted, twenty cents remained as their pay. The employed knew that thousands were waiting for a chance to replace them. *Some employers fired women because men needed work; others replaced men with women because they accepted lower pay.*” (Morris 215)

d. Collapsing tax revenues further restricted the ability to respond
e. Mackenzie King, speech to Parliament April 3, 1930: “Every winter in this country, ever since there was a winter in Canada, there has been unemployment and there always will be . . . we have no right to say that we have any national unemployment problem in this country . . . I might be prepared to go to certain lengths possibly in meeting one or two western provinces that have progressive premiers at the head of governments. With respect to giving moneys out of the federal treasury to any Tory government in this country for these alleged unemployment purposes, with these governments situated as they are today with policies diametrically opposed to those of this government, I would not give them a five cent piece.” (Clements 153)

H. **Summary**
   1. “Causes of the Depression in Canada
      a. Collapse of prices for staple exports
      b. Overproduction
      c. Stock market collapse
      d. Fall in industrial production
   2. Effects of the Depression in Canada
      a. Fall in the value of the dollar
      b. Fall in demand
      c. Human costs
      d. Need for relief
   3. Made worse by
      a. Natural catastrophe in agriculture—the Dust Bowl
      b. Lack of relief measures” (155)

III. Federal Government Response to the Depression 1929-1934
   A. **Mackenzie King’s** Liberal government 1925-1930
      1. “Essentially a believer in laissez faire, he believed that the economy would right itself if left alone.” (155)
         a. Parallel to Andrew Mellon in the US
      2. “Not surprisingly, King’s party lost the 1930 election.” (156)
   B. **R. B. Bennett’s** Conservative government 1930-1935
      1. “The "five-cent piece"speech was soon burnished in memory as proof of King's callousness. ‘Mackenzie King promises you conferences;' trumpeted Bennett, ‘I promise you action.’” (Morris 212)
      2. Relief
         a. “*The Wheat Pool, utterly ruined when its advance payments to
farmers far exceeded the price for their wheat, survived only because Bennett provided secret subsidies. “ (213)

b. The Unemployed and Farm Relief Act 1931 (Clements 156-7)
(1) Modest amounts of money allocated to provinces and municipalities for relief

c. Public Works Construction Act 1934
(1) $40 million allocated for public works using local labor

d. Farmer’s Credit Arrangement Act 1934 (157)
(1) “This allowed farmers to remain on their farms rather than face eviction through foreclosure.” (157)

e. Relief Camps
(1) Work camps set in rural regions, somewhat like the CCC
(2) However, the camps were administered by the Canadian Ministry of National Defense, and were run along military lines
(3) Pay was only 20¢/day (157)

f. “Police dispersed marches of the unemployed, the press was censored and government spies infiltrated labour meetings.” (158)

3. Tariffs and Trade
a. Tariffs were raised
(1) At least in part a response to Hawley Smoot
(2) Saved some Canadian industries, but limited Canada’s ability to export (159)

b. Imperial Preference
(1) Bennett offers preferential trading terms for Great Britain and the Commonwealth if they were reciprocated.
(2) Britain is open to this as a means of holding the empire together (159)

c. The Ottawa Conference 1932
(1) Modest improvements / adjustments for products such as wheat, timber, dairy and meat
(2) Canadian exports to Britain rise 60%, while Britain’s exports to Canada only by 5% (159-60)

d. Trade with the USA
(1) Bennett negotiates with both Hoover and Roosevelt, but little is achieved. “The reality was that Canada needed the USA more than the USA needed Canada.” (160)
(2) “While Canadians found themselves in a trade war with a steadily more protectionist United States, Bennett made a determined bid to launch the long-contemplated St. Lawrence Deep Waterway project. A treaty with President Herbert Hoover's Republican administration passed all the way to the American Senate, where Atlantic state senators
killed it for the sake of their harbours. Thousands of potential construction jobs vanished, but Bennett poured still more money into provincial relief projects, adding close to $1 billion to the national debt.” (Morris 213)

C. Growth in Federal Government Responsibilities

1. Radio
   a. In an effort to combat the pervasiveness of American culture, the **Canadian National Broadcasting Commission** is established as a publicly owned entity, along the lines of the BBC (Clements 160)
   b. “It was also a Canadian stake in public broadcasting in a decade when radio became the only mass medium almost everyone could afford. As the Depression deepened, many found their radio sets were the only escape from besetting hopelessness.” (Morris 213-4)

2. **Bank of Canada**
   a. Up to this point, Canada had no central bank
   b. “The Bank of Canada was set up in 1934. Banks were no longer allowed to issue their own bank notes and had to transfer their gold reserves. . . . [Bennett] always felt that the creation of the Bank of Canada was his greatest achievement. There is little doubt that a stable banking system prevented the effects of the Depression from becoming even worse; it also helped the economic recovery in the latter years of the decade.” (Clements 161)

D. **Summary**

1. “Mackenzie King’s government 1925-1930
   a. Balanced budget
   b. Limited government role

2. R. B. Bennett’s measures to end the Depression 1930-34
   a. Relief
      (1) **Unemployed and Farm Relief Act 1931**
      (2) **Public Works Construction Act 1934**
      (3) **Farmer’s Credit Arrangement Act of 1934**
      (4) **Relief camps**
   b. Trade and tariffs
      (1) Increased tariffs
      (2) **Imperial Preference**
      (3) Moves to increase trade with US
   c. Growth in federal government responsibilities
      (1) **National Radio Broadcasting Service**
      (2) **Central Bank of Canada**” (162)

IV. Bennett’s proposed ‘New Deal’ and the 1935 election (162-3)

A. Reasons for Bennett’s conversion

1. “Then, as Canadians heard on their radios, Franklin Delano Roosevelt swept into the White House and began the long drama of the New Deal. A
generation of Canadians became instinctive Democrats. Roosevelt's radio image may have been artificial, but it transcended borders. For the first time, Canadians coveted their neighbours' political leadership” (Morris 221)

2. Possibly electioneering (Clements 163)

3. Apparently genuine conviction

4. “‘There can be no permanent recovery without reform,’ Bennett declared. ‘And, to my mind, reform means Government intervention. It means Government control and regulation. It means the end of laissez faire.’” (Morris 222)

B. New Deal measures (Clements 163-4)

1. **Employment and Social Insurance Act** – unemployment insurance

2. **National Products Marketing Board**

3. Minimum wages

4. “Maximum 8 hour day and 48 hour week” (164)

5. “Federally supported farm credits” (164)

6. “Centralized economic planning” (164)

7. **Prairies Farm Rehabilitation Act** to help restore fertility to soil

8. **Canadian Wheat Board** to regulate the price of wheat

9. **Dominion Trade and Industry Commission** to regulate business

10. The Committee of the Privy Council in Britain later declared many of these unconstitutional

11. Hardly had they been put into place before Bennett was out of office

C. The 1935 election (164-5)

1. The Conservatives had lost four out of five by-elections

2. Bennett was blamed for Depression suffering

   a. **Bennett buggies** – horse drawn Fords

   b. **Bennettburghs** – shanty towns

   (1) [again, note the parallel with the US] (164)

   c. Mackenzie King ran on the slogan of “King or Chaos”

3. Conservatives win a huge majority in the House of Commons

D. Summary (165)

1. “R. B. Bennett’s proposed New Deal

   a. **Employment and Social Security Act**

   (1) “Comprehensive Unemployment insurance

   b. **National Products Marketing Board**

   (1) “Regulate price of staple goods

   c. **Prairies Farm Rehabilitation Act**

   (1) “Help for farmers in south Saskatchewan

   d. **Canadian Wheat Marketing Board**

   (1) “Regulate the sale of wheat

   e. **Dominion Trade and Industry Commission**

   (1) “Regulate business and commerce” (165)
V. Alternative responses to the Great Depression (165-6)

A. **Social Credit** (166)
   1. Major C. H. Douglas
   2. Similar to Huey Long’s Share the Wealth
   3. $25 per month should be distributed as a social credit so that people could purchase goods and increase demand
   4. Movement strong in Alberta
   5. William “Bible Bill” Aberhart leads the Social Credit Party
   6. Efforts to implement plan blocked by the courts, which ruled that the “provincial governments did not have the authority to print its own money” (166)

B. **The Antigonish Movement in Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces** (166-7)
   1. Two Catholic priests, Jimmy Tompkins and Moses Coady, found the movement
   2. “It advocated the setting up of co-operatives, banks, agencies, and stores to sell their goods” (166)
   3. Urged adult education
   4. Founded credit unions

C. **Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation** (167)
   1. Founded in Calgary, with the goal of “elimination of capitalism and the establishment of socialist planning” (167)
   2. **The Regina Manifesto**
      a. “All industries should be nationalized with compensation for the owners
      b. “Welfare measures such as hospital treatment and old-age pensions
      c. “Federally organized social planning.” (167)

D. **Communist Party of Canada** (167-8)
   1. Founded in 1924
   2. Weak support since world revolution seemed “irrelevant in Canada” (167)
   3. The party faced repression by the police

E. **Union Nationale in Quebec** (168)
   1. Maurice Duplessis founds the Union Nationale
      a. Influenced by the Action Liberale Nationale (ALN) which saw Quebec as suffering from “colonial oppression.” (168)
      b. “The Union Nationale advocated
         (1) legislation to promote small scale businesses by destroying the power of big business
         (2) regulation of banks and financial institutions.” (168)
   2. Duplessis became Prime Minister of the province in 1936 and promptly abandoned his reformist agenda.
      a. Purged government of ALN
      b. Becomes quite authoritarian
c. Allies with clergy to attack ‘radical’ ideas
d. “Padlock Law which permitted the seizure of any premises suspected of being used to spread Communist ideas, but was in fact used against any organization Duplessis felt a threat.” (168)

F. Organized protest (168-9)
1. Regina Riots and On-to-Ottawa trek
   a. Discontent— influenced by Communist ideology— in the Relief Camps led to a call for an On-to-Ottawa trek
   b. Trains carrying the trekkers stopped at Regina
   c. Bennett met with leaders to denounce them as revolutionaries
   d. Trekkers rioted and were suppressed
2. Violence in industrial disputes
   a. Example a strike at a General Motors plant in Ontario
      (1) Provincial Prime Minister Mitchell Hepburn was extremely hostile to unions and brought in police to break the strike, but Mackenzie King refused to call in the Mounties
      (2) General Motors resolved the dispute rather than damage production

G. Summary (170)
1. “Alternate responses to the Depression
   a. “Social Credit
      (1) “Distribution of money to stimulate demand
   b. “Antigonish Movement
      (1) “Co-operatives; community cohesion
   c. “CCF
      (1) “Nationalization; social planning
   d. “Union Nationale du Québec
      (1) “French-Canadian control of Quebec
   e. “Organized protest
      (1) Regina riots; On-to-Ottawa trek; General Motors strike”

VI. Mackenzie King’s government 1935-48
A. The economy (170-1)
1. Trade agreements with the US (171)
   a. Succeeded in reducing tariffs between US and Canada
2. Government spending (171)
   a. Abandoned balanced budget policy and accepted deficit spending
3. Recovery (171)
   a. Some industries recovered more quickly than others
      (1) Radio
      (2) Automobile manufacturing
      (3) Cinema
      (4) Oil and gas
(5) Gold strikes in Ontario and British Columbia
(6) **Pitchblende**, which contains radium and uranium

B. Growth in federal government (172)

1. Problems raised by the Depression (172-3)
   a. Federal taxes raised by 50% on income and from 1% to 8% on sales (172)
   b. Nevertheless, it was clear that the federal government was not strong enough to deal with the problem and needed reform
c. “**The Depression forced thoughtful Canadians to realize how a feeble central government and penniless provinces crippled any collective response to economic crisis. Most of Bennett's five New Deal laws failed at the Judicial Committee**” (Morris 226)
d. King established a **National Employment Commission** which recommended a federal unemployment insurance (Clements 173)

2. The **Rowell-Sirois Report** (173)
a. “It recommended that the federal government take over those functions that the provincial governments could not afford, such as welfare provision. It further stated that the federal government should receive most of the income from taxation.” (173)

C. **Summary** (173)

1. **“Mackenzie King 1930**
   a. **“Laissez faire**

2. **“R. B. Bennett 1930-35**
   a. **“Relief–Unemployment Farm Relief Act**
   b. **“Trade–Imperial Preference**
   c. **“Repression**
   d. **“Proposed Canadian New Deal 1935**

3. **“Mackenzie King 1935 onwards**
   a. **“Increased trade with USA**
   b. **“Increased federal spending**
   c. **“Rowell-Sirois Commission” (173)**

VII. The Role of Religion in the Depression

A. “In times of crisis people often turn to traditional sources of comfort. Victims of the Depression looked to established as well as new religious movements for succor. The crisis also politicized religious movements during the Depression. While some saw in the ecological and economic catastrophe divine retribution for the material sins of humans and preached repentance, men like "Bible Bill" Aberhart used their religious pulpits to preach not patience, but rather reform. The Depression gave new life to the Social Gospel movement that had flourished at the end of the previous century. The Social Gospel of the 1930s was the belief that Christian principles such as charity and compassion should be the centre of government action, rather than a fortunate byproduct of a noninterventionist government. This conviction was essential to many of those who helped found
the CCF such as J. S. Woodsworth and T. C. Douglas. Tommy Douglas, a Baptist minister, however, did not advocate reckless spending. Instead, they believed that the economy could be actively managed for the equal benefit of all while observing the equally Christian principles of prudence and restraint. The Fellowship of a Christian Sodal Order brought together Christianity and socialism for members of the United Church. The Catholic Church, especially in Quebec, sought to give its congregation support in the form of charity while at the same time railing against the evils of communism. It saw the Depression as a call to moral rebirth and championed a back-to-the-land movement as a remedy for the wanton consumerism bred by unbridled capitalism.” (Smith 222-223)

VIII. Depression Era Culture in Canada

A. “Then, as since, the same forces that formed Canada's economy—colonial heritage, geography and proximity to the United States—have dominated Canada's cultural landscape. In this sense, the Depression represents a good deal of cultural continuity with earlier periods. There was also a continuity with the First World War period in which Canadian nationalism germinated. The growing importance of the radio as a cultural disseminator meant that Canadians were exposed to those elements of US culture that could be broadcast, most notably music. Jazz and country made their way into Canada during the 1920s and this continued throughout the Depression years. Musicians crossed the border in both directions, including popular Canadian Big Bands such as Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians. US musical responses to the Depression such as the songs of Woody Guthrie also found an audience in Canada expressing as they did many of the same struggles facing Canadians during this period.

B. “In the years prior to the First World War, a group of Canadian visual artists shared a vision of what could become a particularly Canadian approach to aesthetic representation: The artists Frederick Varley, Franklin Carmichael, and J. E. H. MacDonald came together with Arthur Lismer, Lawren Harris, A. Y. Jackson, and Franz Johnston in the early 1920s to demonstrate their distinctly Canadian sensibility, drawing on an expression of the nationalism that grew out of the participation in the First World War. Known as the Group of Seven, these artists, with a somewhat changing membership, exhibited together into the early 1930s. Although the Group of Seven itself did not exist beyond 1931, its influence and nationalist sentiments had an important and lasting impact on those artists grappling with the bitter reality of the 1930s.

C. “The economics of the Depression had a stifling impact on Canadian art during this period. Money for all luxuries dried up and art was certainly no exception. Nevertheless, the Depression was an important context for painters such as Illingsworth Kerr and Carl Schaefer. While, on the one hand, the nationalism of the Group of Seven had an important impact on Canadian painters of the 1930s, the regional character of the Depression also helped foster distinctly local approaches to painting style and subject matter. Much of Kerr's work is rooted in
the Saskatchewan prairies and Emily Carr's paintings have become almost iconic of the Pacific coast.

D. “In terms of literature, there were significant Canadian works developed during the Depression. Writers such as Morley Callaghan and Emily Carr (who worked across both art forms) produced period pieces. One of the lasting impacts of the Depression on Canadian literature, however, is its enduring influence on those writers who grew up in this period and later reflected on it: writers such as W. O. Mitchell and Max Braithwaite. Mitchell's *Who Has Seen the Wind*? (1947) offers a deep insight into a boy's coming of age during the years of the Depression in the Canadian prairies and the lives of ordinary Canadians as they responded to the reality of the drought and hardships of rural life told in a distinctively western Canadian voice.” (Smith 223-224)

IX. Sporting Culture: The Emergence of Hockey as a National Past-time in the Depression

A. “The national passion that hockey would become in Canada during the course of the 20th century was becoming evident early in the century. Like so many other aspects of Canadian society, sports in general and hockey in particular were fundamentally altered by the upheaval of the First World War. Professional hockey, however, as it emerged in the postwar era boomed in much the same way as the broader economy did, both in Canada and in the United States. Hockey franchises appreciated in value dramatically during the 1920s, in some cases by a factor of three. Easy credit, high employment and stable income levels left Canadians with money to spend on entertainment and in many centers this meant the local hockey team. As part of the growing consumer culture, hockey also benefited from the growth of mass media and advertising, which in turn was becoming increasingly national in nature. As such, hockey, which until the 1920s had still largely been dominated by local and regional teams and leagues, became followed on a national scale. By the end of the 1920s, the NHL was the dominant professional hockey league and consisted of ten teams.

B. “The NHL was and is a business and as such was not immune to the economic disaster of the Depression. The NHL expanded, as did many businesses in the 1920s, on easy credit and as this dried up the league would contract into a smaller, but very successful six teams. Cities like New York and Montreal found that they could only financially support one team, each losing their second franchise during the 1930s. Other teams found ways to remain and even expand. When Con Smythe tried to build Maple Leaf Gardens in 1930 he garnered some of the building costs by offering shares to the construction trades as partial payment. Tickets sales were but one way a professional hockey franchise made money and when national radio broadcasts began, it opened a number of other revenue streams such as endorsements and advertising that allowed the teams to remain profitable in the Depression.

C. “When Canada slid into economic depression in 1929, and family farms and in some cases whole communities were swept away, Canadians across the country took refuge in what was fast becoming the national pastime-hockey. While
comparatively few could afford or even had geographic access to one of the major professional hockey teams, the beginning of national radio broadcasts in 1933 brought the game into the homes of people across Canada and within a year these broadcasts had an audience of over a million. As Richard Gruneau and David Whitson have pointed out, this mass marketing of the game and its incredible popularity in Canada kept hockey a distinctive part of Canadian culture despite the fact that many of the teams were from the United States-albeit with mostly Canadian players. Imbedded within the NHL were two dominant sides of the national culture. The Montreal Canadiens became emblematic of French Canada and later the Toronto Maple Leafs would, to a lesser degree, represent English Canada in ritualized competition on Saturday nights for the whole country to hear. The escapism of *Hockey Night in Canada*, as the national broadcasts were known, allowed Canadians to forget the economic gloom of the 1930s, if only for a couple of hours a week, in the same way that Hollywood musicals did. It did so in a manner that was culturally unifying—the Toronto Maple Leafs, New York Rangers and Detroit Red Wings had fans in Saskatoon, Edmonton, Prince Albert and countless small prairie towns as well as in Toronto, New York and Detroit. In doing this, hockey established itself in the 1930s as an enduring national cultural factor. “ (Smith 224-225)

X. The Impact of the War on Canada (174)

A. Federal Government Control (174-5)
   1. War economy funded mainly by taxation and War Bonds
   2. **Department of Munitions and Supply**
      a. “Central government, rather than private industry, should assume responsibility for production” (174)
      b. Clarence Decatur Howe sets up **Crown Corporations** to oversee production
         (1) Aides recruited from private business who worked for ‘a dollar a year’
   3. **Wartime Prices and Trade Board**
      a. Tasked to see that supply was maintained and rationing enforced
   4. **Social Security**
      a. Family allowances began 1944

B. Economic Growth (175)
   1. Economy expanded rapidly, becoming 4th highest among the Allies

C. The Labour Force (175)
   1. Unemployed ended by 1941
   2. **Women**
      a. “At first only single women between the ages of 20 and 24 were targeted [for recruitment into war work]; by 1943 all women whatever their marital status. As a result the numbers of women in paid employment rose from 638,000 in 1939 to over one million by 1944, when 255,000 were engaged in war production, although
they did not achieve equal pay” (175)

D. **Summary** (175)

1. “Federal government control
   a. “Department of Munitions and Supply
   b. “Prices and Trade Board
   c. “Social Security

2. “Economic growth
   a. “Wartime production
   b. “Growth in labour force
   c. “Growth in employment of women” (175)
Works Cited

