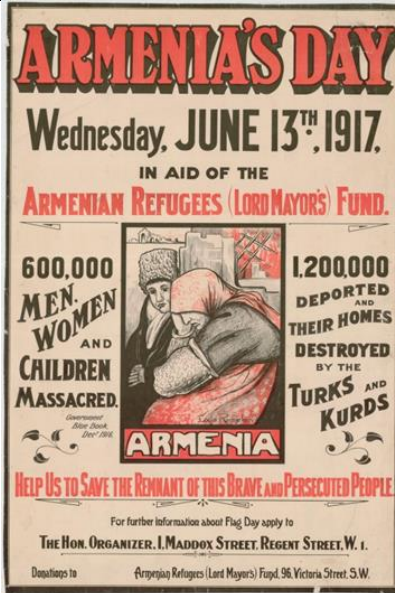


ARMENIANS

1919 - 1930



Armenia's Day poster, June 13, 1917. Public support and pressure from the Canadian Press, voluntary aid organizations and immigrant groups forced a reluctant federal government to resettle some survivors of the Armenian genocide.

Library and Archives Canada, National Archives of Canada fonds, e010697418

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
<p>More than 500,000 Armenians were fleeing the Armenian Genocide, a campaign of mass killings and deportation of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire, and its successor state, Turkey.</p> <p>Public awareness and pressure forced Canadian immigration officials to admit orphaned boys and girls on an experimental basis.</p>	<p>During this time, anyone coming from Asia had to pass strict admission requirements and had to have \$200 when they arrived in Canada. Despite public pressure, Canada would not relax their entry requirements. An exception was a special scheme, "Canada's Noble Experiment," which brought 109 boys and 39 girls to the country between 1923 and 1927.</p> <p>Between 1919 and 1930, Canada admitted 1,250 Armenian refugees. The United States admitted 23,000 and France admitted 80,000 Armenian refugees. Canada's population in 1919 was 8,311,000 (Statistics Canada).</p>
<p><i>"We had to leave our doors open — with us we took no baggage, only our lives. And we had to flee on foot. During our month-long journey with a Bedouin and Kurdish caravan, which would have taken only two days by the forbidden train, my parents lost every valuable they had managed to save. My father's last silver coin went to rescue me after I was caught foolishly making a sketch of piled-up human bones and skulls, the last bitter landmark of my country."</i></p> <p>Yousuf Karsh</p> <p>Yousef Karsh, "A Brief Biography," Karsh, https://karsh.org/a-brief-biography/.</p>	

GERMAN JEWS

1939-1945



The Echt family in Danzig, (today known as Gdańsk, Poland) c. 1935-1939. They fled to Canada to escape Nazi persecution in 1939. L-R: Marianne Ferguson, her father Otto Echt, and sister Brigitte. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 [DI2013.1018.3]

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
<p>Between 1933 and 1939, over 300,000 Jewish people fled Germany and its anti-Semitic laws for neighbouring states.</p> <p>An urgent international conference was convened at Évian-les-Bains, France in 1938 to develop a unified response to the plight of Jews fleeing Nazism.</p>	<p>At the Évian Conference, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King declined any commitment to refugee intake.</p> <p>Canada raised financial requirements for Jewish immigrants from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Even those with enough funds to enter the country were still often denied entry.</p> <p>From 1933 to 1945, the United Kingdom admitted 70,000 and Argentina, 50,000; Canada admitted 5,000 Jews.</p> <p>Canada's population in 1939 was 11,267,000 (Statistics Canada).</p>

"On the day that Hitler came to power, I remember going down the stairs with my father. He was going to work; I was going to school and a neighbour of ours who had always greeted us very kindly, "Good morning... How are you?" spit at my father and called him a dirty Jew." Rose Ruschin (née Wulkan)

HUNGARIANS

1956



Demonstrations in Budapest, Hungary, during the Hungarian Revolution, October 25th, 1956. Nagy Gyula, Wikimedia Commons.

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
<p>In October 1956, a group of students were imprisoned following a protest in Budapest against the Soviet occupation of Hungary. After demanding their release, crowds were fired upon by Hungary's state security police. The protest quickly became a national revolt against the communist government. In November, Soviet forces entered Hungary and enforced more strict rules.</p> <p>In the aftermath of the Hungarian revolution, over 200,000 Hungarians fled and became refugees.</p>	<p>Canada was very anti-communist, and so supported the protesters by relaxing medical and security screenings. The Canadian government also provided free transport to Canada.</p> <p>By 1958, approximately, 37,500 Hungarians refugees had arrived in Canada. Despite fears of communist infiltration, their arrival was met with considerable public support.</p> <p>Canada's population in 1956 was 16,081,000 (Statistics Canada).</p>

"The revolution that started with so much hope was beaten, Budapest was in ruins and bleeding...I was 15 years old."
Eva Kende

Arrived from Hungary, February 4, 1957. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 Story Collection [S2012.1026.1].

AMERICANS

1965 – 1974



Mark Satin (left) counselling American Vietnam War resisters at the Anti-Draft Programme office in Toronto, August 1967.
Laura Jones, Bennett Jones Phillips, Wikimedia Commons.

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
Tens of thousands of Americans arrived in Canada, fleeing conscription into the Vietnam War. During this period, the United States was the largest source country of immigration to Canada.	<p>Between 1965 and 1974, approximately 50,000 to 125,000 war resisters, often called "draft dodgers," arrived in Canada seeking refuge from American authorities.</p> <p>Canada's population in 1971 was 21,961,999 (Statistics Canada).</p>

"I had spent months agonizing over whether to go to Canada and no time at all finding out what Canada was like. The next month was like that: a series of mild culture shocks, the bizarre sense of living in exile in a city an hour's drive from a border you're no longer allowed to cross." Jack Todd

Jack Todd, "A Vietnam War deserter crosses the line into Canada," Montreal Gazette, 7 January 1995. <http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/from-our-archives-a-vietnam-war-deserter-crosses-the-line-into-canada>.

SOUTH EAST ASIANS

1975 – 1981



The arrival of a small boat with 162 Vietnamese refugees on board. It sank only two meters from shore, December 1978. © UNHCR/Kaspar Gaugler

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
After the Communist victory in the Vietnam War, American forces withdrew from Vietnam and the surrounding region. The fall of Saigon in 1975 sparked a massive exodus of Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians in search of safe haven. They were prey to rough seas and violence from pirates. Those who survived the ordeal found themselves in camps in Thailand and Malaysia.	<p>From 1975 to 1981, Canada resettled over 77,000 South East Asian refugees. More than half of these refugees were privately sponsored. The remainder were sponsored by the Canadian government or by family members. Their resettlement became the single most generous record of any major country in proportion to its population.</p> <p>Canada's population in 1975 was 22,697,000 (Statistics Canada).</p>

"I got on a small boat about twelve metres long and about two and a half metre large, the width. And we spent five days and four nights on the ocean and in the middle of the night, maybe one or two o'clock in the morning we got to Malaysia...Twenty-one, including kids and adults." Dau-Thi Huynh

Arrived from Malaysia, via Brussels, on December 30 1977. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 Oral History Collection [15.12.04DTH].

SRI LANKANS

1983 - 2004



Sri Lankan refugees who were forced to seek shelter during the years of brutal war. © UNHCR/Masanori Kobayashi

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
In July 1983, a civil war broke out in Sri Lanka between Hindu Tamil Tigers and the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese government. Thousands of Sri Lankans sought refuge in the West.	<p>Canada made it easier for some to secure permanent residency, but imposed visa requirements on all Sri Lankans wishing to visit the country. This made it harder for most Sri Lankans to enter Canada. From 1989 to 2004, over 37,000 Sri Lankans arrived in Canada.</p> <p>The civil war ended in May 2009.</p> <p>Canada's population in 1983 was 25,366,969 (Statistics Canada).</p>

"I was a refugee - my parents brought me to Canada. We were escaping Sri Lanka after our home was looted and set ablaze during the 1983 Black July riots" Radheyen Simonpillai

Radheyen Simonpillai, "I am Tamil," *NOW Magazine*, 4 May 2016. <https://nowtoronto.com/news/i-am-tamil-in-toronto/>

RWANDANS

1991 - 1997



Photographs of Genocide Victims at the Genocide Memorial Centre, Kigali, Rwanda. Adam Jones, Ph.D. Wikimedia Commons

CONTEXT

In 1959, the first instance of organized persecution and killing of the Tutsi took place. Hundreds of thousands ended up in exile, while those who stayed remained targets. Civil war broke out in 1990.

In April 1994, Rwandan authorities launched a pre-planned genocide against the Tutsi. Over a 100-day period, well-organized networks of militias, as well as ordinary citizens, murdered their neighbours. Some estimates put the number of victims as high as one million.

CANADA'S RESPONSE

As a result of the genocide, an estimated 2.3 million Rwandans fled their country, most of whom went to neighbouring countries.

Between 1991 and 2016, just over 4,200 Rwandans came to Canada as refugees.

Canada's population in 1991 was 28,031,394 (Statistics Canada).

"My mom came to the school and said, "Pack your suitcase. Make it ready; in case you see that you're next to be killed. Just grab your suitcase and run...I remember the day I felt it was my last day to react. I said this is it, I'm leaving. So I left the dormitory immediately without picking up the suitcase my mom told me to carry with me" Beatha Kayitesi

Global News, "From Fear to Freedom," 5 April 2014, 16 x 9, <https://globalnews.ca/news/1250328/shedding-light-on-a-lesser-known-chapter-of-the-rwanda-genocide/>

SYRIANS

2015 - PRESENT



The first Syrian refugee family to disembark at Toronto Pearson International Airport, December 11, 2015.

Ken Allan CBSA-ASFC

CONTEXT	CANADA'S RESPONSE
<p>During a pro-democracy protest, government security forces opened fire on demonstrators, killing several people. Nationwide protests ensued, demanding President Assad's resignation. Violence escalated into civil war, and by August 2015, an estimated 250,000 people had been killed and 11 million had fled their homes.</p>	<p>By January 2017, 40,081 Syrians refugees had been permanently resettled in Canada. As a specific resettlement scheme, the Syrian movement represents the largest group of refugee arrivals to enter Canada since the movement of Southeast Asian "boat people" to Canada.</p> <p>Canada's population in 2015 was 35,832,500 (Statistics Canada).</p>

"My family had one side happy, the other side not happy. Do you understand what I mean? When you leave everything you've done in your life and you go to another land, you are starting from zero. It is hard." Ilia Alaji

Michael Friscolanti and Aaron Hutchins, "The First Flight," *Maclean's*, 29 November 2016. <http://www.macleans.ca/an-oral-history-of-the-first-flight-of-syrian-refugees-to-canada/>