

November 7, 2014

*To What Extent Was the Time Period 1900-1918 a Time When Canada Built a National Identity?*

Prior to WWI, Canada had little recognition as a nation both internally and internationally. It wasn't until the "War to End All Wars" that we emerged as a key player on the global field through the advancements and accomplishments during the battles of Ypres, Vimy Ridge, and the ultimate independent signing of the Treaty of Versailles. ✓

When Canada went to war in 1914, it was not by our own will. As a simple colony of Britain, Canadians were forced to aid the war effort when our "Mother Country... declared war against Germany" (Counterpoints pg 32), but were seen only as a disposable extension of Britain's own forces. However, the training of Canada's soldiers in Valcartier, Quebec led Canadian troops to feel more like a single solidary force than ever before because it forced men from across the land to train and live together as one. Upon crossing the Atlantic, they had become a unified team of sorts, a team of Canadians. ✓

During the second battle of Ypres in Belgium in 1915, Canadians proved their bravery and gained a "lion" reputation when they refused to cower away from German chlorine gas and in fact held the trench line while French and Moroccans troops fled. They began to be distinguished separately from the British as feared and respected soldiers of great bravery. ✓

Later, in 1916, Canadians had gained the privilege of being allowed to fight as a single unit and proved their ingenuity at the battle of Vimy Ridge. Vimy Ridge was a strategic hill in France controlled by the Germans that no allied troops had ever been able to capture. Canadians were tasked with the attacking the impregnable hill and now invented an ingenious new strategy known as the Vimy Glide that both surprised the Germans and allowed the allies to capture Vimy in just 3 days. Following the victory, Canadians were so well distinguished that Britain allowed us to lead our own attacks, fighting as Canadians rather than British colony troops.

By the time the war came to a close, Canada was recognized in Europe as an important and influential nation and was allowed, thanks to Prime Minister Borden's persistence, to sign the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war as an independent nation not included under Britain. ✓

This was such a significant advancement for the people of Canada that they began to see themselves as a unified nation separate from Britain as well, and to take great pride in the achievements of their fellow Canadians leading to the victory of WWI. They "began to realize that [they] were all [the same] under the skin" despite their cultural diversity throughout the once divided nation. (Counterpoints p 46) ✓

— A DELIGHT TO READ SUCH A WELL WRITTEN, ARTICULATE AND THOUGHTFUL ESSAY. GREAT EXAMPLES & ANALYSIS THROUGHOUT. Well done! BRAVO "MÜHEMME!"

# World War 1

The time period during World War 1 had some major events that helped build Canada's national identity. Three situations included in forming Canada's identity were <sup>troops training at</sup> Valcartier, <sup>the Battle of</sup> Vimy Ridge and The Treaty of Versailles.

Need a topic sentence  
first Training @ Valcartier  
another called linked to the formation of an identity

→ "We didn't speak much French and they didn't speak much English, but they were the finest sports you ever saw..." (Ben Wagner pg. 33 Counterpoints). The quote describes how the men at Valcartier appreciated each other no matter what. Before the war Canada was a patchwork of regions but the training brought men from all over the country together in fighting for Canada. ✓

STATEMENT ✓  
Exempl ✓  
Explanat ✓

STATEMENT?

The quote, "It was a stunning victory. The Canadians had gained more ground, taken more prisoners, and captured more artillery than any previous British offensive in the entire war." (pg 38 Counterpoints), describes the Battle of Vimy Ridge. At Vimy Ridge Canadians success gave them a sense of national pride. In 3 days "the pimple" had been captured and Canadians were given a reputation of being an elite fighting force. They did what the British couldn't when they took victory over the Germans. Great example.

"Canada had fought longer and supplied more troops than other countries" ?

reply to Woodrow Wilson's oppose to Canada getting their own seat at the conference. Prime Minister Robert Borden knew they deserved it because of how they had contributed to the war. Borden

needs to be clarified

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was then among those of the leaders that got to sign the Treaty of Versailles. This displayed Canada's international recognition. for?...

Although Canada suffered some huge losses in WWI it helped build Canada's national identity. Starting with Valcartier and ending with the Paris Peace Conference it was very significant and important.

Needs a  
stronger  
Conclusion

WELL ~~THE~~ WRITTEN ESSAY w/ GOOD EXAMPLES/QUOTES + YOU ARE SURE TO ALWAYS REFER TO HOW YOUR EVIDENCE PROVES YOUR THESIS.

TO WORK ON: ① CLEAR TOPIC SENTENCES NEEDED

② WORK ON A POWERFUL CONCLUSION