

Chapter Summary

Chapter 4: Decade of Despair: Canada in the Great Depression

This chapter gives an overview of the causes, effects, and responses to the Great Depression. It looks at how societal attitudes influenced government policies, and how these policies in turn both exacerbated and relieved the desperate conditions of Canadians. You will also examine how economic conditions are related to the development of the labour movement in Canada. You will explore the growth of socialist parties in Canada, which is in turn connected to the growing popularity of socialist parties in Europe during the same period.

Investigate

Social, Economic, and Political Context

- What were the causes of the Great Depression?
- What were the effects of the Great Depression on Canadians?
- How did governments in Canada respond to the Great Depression?
- How did Canadians use politics to try to solve the problem of the Depression?
- How did the Great Depression affect women?

Communities, Conflict, and Cooperation

- What were the effects of the Great Depression on the global community?
- Why did the Great Depression cause conflict within Canadian society and elsewhere?

Identity, Citizenship, and Heritage

- How were Aboriginal people treated during the 1930s?
- How did minority groups fare during the Depression?

Building Your Inquiry Skills

Decoding Photographs

The Building Your Inquiry Skills in Chapter 4 helps you to critically examine photographs as historical evidence. This is an important skill that can be applied to a variety of topics and media texts. You are given the steps to decoding photographs, including determining who is shown, what is happening, why the photograph was taken, and how it is being used in the context in which it appears. You are also encouraged to think about photographs as a source of information and to determine their reliability, and to look for any bias in them by thinking about how the photographer has framed the image. You are then given the opportunity to apply the skill and are encouraged to use it throughout the text.