

FEBRUARY SPEAKER
DR. ADAM CHAPNICK
10 EVENTS THAT SHAPED CANADA'S CHARACTER

Adam, Deputy Director, Education at Canadian Forces College, gave an illuminating talk on ten events illustrating the evolution of Canada's distinct character.

- 1. Arrivals-** British and French arrivals' Indigenous relationship evolved from "co-operation" to "coercion" (land grabs," cultural genocide"), "confrontation," and now "consultation."
- 2. 1774 Quebec Act** - "First example in Canadian history of our openness to difference. Evolved to bilingualism (1969) and multiculturalism (1971), "making Canada a mosaic, unlike the U.S. 'melting pot.'"
- 3. American Invasions** in American Revolution and 1812 War gave rise to anti-Americanism. "We're gooder [sic] than you; we have our own values."
- 4. Confederation-** Its mix of federal and-provincial made the provinces "feel very strong and therefore happy", but "in reality the federal government didn't mean it. Very Canadian manner of handling something. Agree rather than fight."
- 5. World Wars I and II-** "The gateway," the evolution, of Canada into a significant power. Also, the evolution of the different opinions between English and French Canada. English for conscription, French against.
- 6. Suez Crisis, 1956.** Further evolution of Canada's significance in world affairs because Canada was the only country on speaking terms with all parties. But Canada's role in peacekeeping has devolved.
- 7. Patriation of Constitution, 1982, and inclusion of Charter of Rights and Freedoms.** "Canada explicitly recognized multicultural and Indigenous rights to be part of its political and cultural doctrines, the right of individualism." Nothing similar in U.K. or U.S.
- 8. Free Trade Elections, 1891, 1910, 1981-83.** Further example of anti-Americanism as part of Canadian politics. Opponents depicted as "a sell-out to the Americans." But this evolved into attitude of mutual benefit in the 2004 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.
- 9. Sept. 11, 2001.** Marked beginning of widespread dissemination of disinformation, triggering "a decline of trust", serious because "trust is needed for a healthy society."
- 10. Violent October Crises, 1970, 2014.** A wake-up call that Canada isn't immune from terrorism and shouldn't take its security for granted.

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Adam concluded: "Canada is a young country with a mature democracy."

Susan Goldenberg