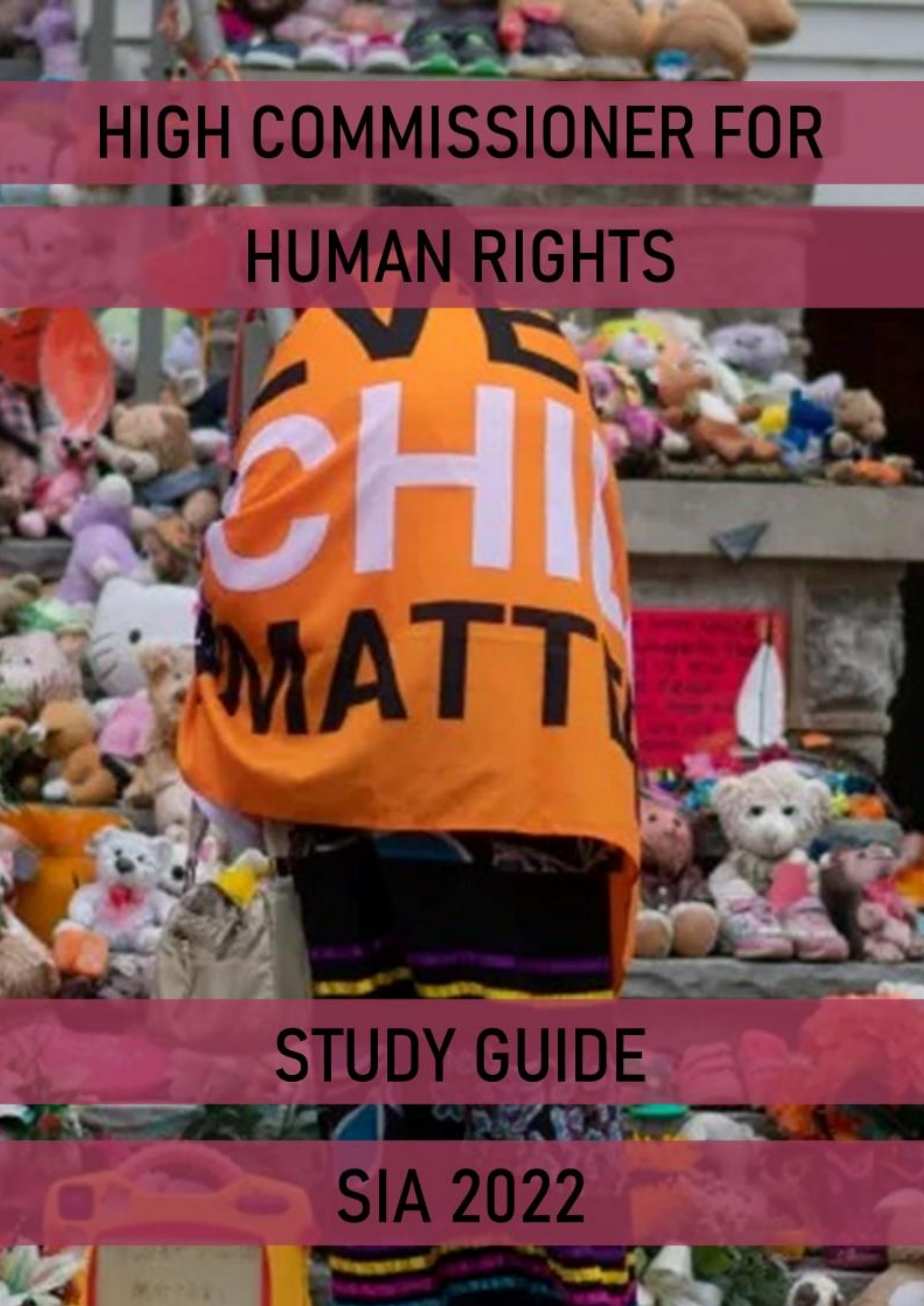


The background image shows a memorial site densely packed with numerous teddy bears of various colors and sizes. In the center, an orange t-shirt is draped over a post, featuring the words 'CHILD MATT' in large, bold, white and black letters. To the right, a small red card with white text is visible among the bears. The entire scene is overlaid with semi-transparent pink and purple horizontal bands containing white text.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

STUDY GUIDE

SIA 2022

Presentation

Beatriz Coimbra

Hi guys, I'm Beatriz Coimbra! I am 17 years old, and I have studied in Santo Agostinho since 2010. This year I will be one of your directresses, I am very excited about this project, and I hope you like it as much as I do. We put our hearts into this committee so any problems or difficulties we will try to resolve as best as we can. I hope you have an awesome SIA! Good luck delegates!

Sofia Nobre

Dear delegates! My name is Sofia Nobre and I'm 17 years old. I'm extremely honored to say that I'm one of your directresses this year. Whenever you need any kind of assistance, feel free to reach out to the chair. We'll do our best to make you feel comfortable and welcome. Have a marvelous simulation and remember to be kind!

Julia Maneiro

Hey guys!! I'm Júlia Maneiro and I'm your committee's vice- director! I'm 17 years old and I am in Sophomore year. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you on our English committee this year! Thank you for your trust and interest in our work. I hope you have an excellent time during SIA! Please feel free to come to me in case of any doubts or questions. I'm very excited to share this experience with you! I wish you some great studies and a wonderful simulation!!

Manoela Condini

Hello, delegates! My name is Manoela Condini and I'm 15 years old. I will be one of the advisors of this committee. Even though I've been a part of SIA before, this is my first year taking part in one of the committees. I will try my best to help in case you have any doubts, so don't hesitate to ask questions. I hope you enjoy the simulation!!

Mariana Escalda

Dear delegates, I'm Mariana Escalda and I'm fifteen years old! I'm extremely happy and grateful to be one of our committee's advisors! I really hope that you all feel welcomed throughout our whole time together and I'm available if you need to ask any questions. I'm looking forward to our simulation and wish you all the best of experiences. See you very soon.

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1. History of Canada

1.1. Arrival of Aboriginal people and Inuit

Aboriginal people, also addressed as Indigenous nations, are the first habitants of the land now known as Canada. These nations have their own stories about the origins of the world and their place in it, but they all go way back to Time Immemorial, a time extending beyond the reach of memory, record or tradition, making their truthfulness insufficient.

Archeological debates are still very considerable about when the indigenous people arrived in North America, but broad assumptions strongly suggest that waves of migration from northeastern Asia, by both land bridge and boat, between 30,000 and 13,500 years ago were the way taken. One of the bridges used was the 'Bering Land Bridge', located between Alaska and Siberia, crossed when the sea level was several hundred feet lower than it is today. Part of these conclusions come from irrefutable archeological evidence of human occupation in the northern half of North America, including in the Tanana River Valley (Alaska), Haida Gwaii (British Columbia), Vermilion Lakes (Alberta), and Debert (Nova Scotia).

The Clovis Culture were the first group of people to habit the New World, being the ancestors to all Indigenous peoples in the Americas. They were also regarded as the first widespread Paleo- Indian inhabitants of the New World. Stone spears are the main archeological find of the Clovis people, as they have a unique spear point called 'Clovis Point'. They are found all over North America for 800 years, before fading from the fossil record. Evidence has also been found of campsites and stone quarries, mined for generations. These were people with ingenious adaption, but also the signs of the first civilized society.

After the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the Clovis people, the First Nations and Inuit people started to take place as the Aboriginals nations that we know today, been followed by the Métis, a mixture of the two Indian people and European fur traders that lived in Canada in the mid-17th century. The distinction of cultural periods being marked by the different styles of projectile point tools, spears and pottery found in various archeological sites.

1.2. French colonization

Between the years of 1534 - 1763, Canada used to be a French Colony. The territory was claimed by Jacques Cartier during his second voyage of discovery. He took possession of the land in the name of the king of France, Francis I, by planting a cross in the now known as the Gaspé Peninsula, located in the south- west of Quebec. Canada was a French territory until 1763, when it became a British colony after their conquest in the Seven Years' War, being named as the Province of Quebec. The Treaty of Paris was the agreement made between France and Great Britain where the French ceded Canada to the British in exchange for other colonies. This agreement also formally ended the war among them.

The French presence in Canada was characterized by extensive trade and recurrent conflicts with the Indigenous peoples since they were established over a wide area of appropriation interest for France. Some other French objectives involving the Indians were related to evangelization and settlement. As a way of resistance, in 1649, the Aboriginal nation known as Haudenosaunee executed two Jesuits missionaries, Jean de Brébeuf and Charles Lalemant. As a result of this execution, an Indian nation called The Huron was scattered, obliging some remnants to seek shelter in a neighborhood in Quebec, where, to this day, their descendants live.

In the years of 1677 and 1690 the Haudenosaunee tribe made two peace treaties with the British. The first one being the Silver Covenant Chain Treaty, representing an open and honest communication between the two people, as well as the idea of mutual interest and peace. This treaty also obliged the parties involved to help each other in war situations if necessary and asked. The second treaty was called the Iroquois Peace Treaty, in which the Haudenosaunee people concluded a peace treaty with the English and the tribes of the Great Lakers.

But it was on August 4, 1701, that the most important peace agreement was signed by Louis-Hector de Callière, governor of New France, and 1300 representatives of 39 Indigenous nations, The Great Peace of Montreal. This settlement ended almost a century of hostilities marked by atrocities on both sides involved. In exchange for the granted permission to freely trade and obtain goods from the French at a reduced cost, the Haudenosaunee promised to allow French settlement at Detroit and to remain neutral in a possible war between England and France. The agreement also gave the French the freedom to expand militarily over the next half century and assured New France superiority in dealing with issues related to the First Nations' regions.

To this day, The Great Peace of Montreal continues to be a remarkable part of Canada's history. To celebrate the 300th anniversary of the event, the Pointe-à-Callière museum hosted an exhibition in which the Great Peace of Montreal original manuscript was displayed. The City of Montreal also renamed a portion of Place d'Youville, place de la Grande-Paix-de-Montréal, where the obelisk that, beside honoring the founders of Ville-Marie, indicates the location where the treaty was signed is located.

1.3. Beaver wars (1629-1701)

During the 17th century, one of the main economically profitable activities was fur trade. Many North American tribes would hunt game animals, extract their pelts and trade them with the Europeans, in exchange for fire guns and objects as such. French, British and Dutch competed against each other in terms of getting the pelts and making alliances with the tribes offering them.

The Iroquois were a large group comprised of five powerful Native American nations. By 1629, the beaver population in their territories was very limited due to excessive hunting. That situation led the Iroquois to invade and attempt to conquer the neighboring Native American nations, specifically the Algonquian-speaking tribes. That resulted in a 72 year long conflict known as The Beaver Wars.

With the support of the Dutch, the Iroquois were a big threat to their opposing tribes, having received many firearms from their ally. They used the weapons to attack and successfully conquer many large Native American tribes, such as the Huron, Erie, Neutral and Susquehannock. Their lands were occupied by the Iroquois, and their populations were absorbed by the winning tribe. The Beaver Wars resulted in the elimination of many Native American nations, as well as the death of many natives.

In retaliation, the French, an ally of the Algonquian-speaking tribes, invaded Iroquois villages and destroyed their crops and homes, which resulted in the starvation of a large part of the population. Alongside that, in 1664, British forces took over the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, ending the crucial Dutch support for the Iroquois.

The Beaver Wars ended with the Treaty of Grande Paix, or Great Peace, in 1701, between the Iroquois Confederacy, the British, and the French, in which the Iroquois agreed to stop their campaign against tribes in the Ohio Country and allow those pushed out to return to their lands. Although the treaty was a written attempt to put an end to this bloody campaign, conflicts continued between the British, French, Dutch, and the American Indian tribes over land control for many decades after.

1.4. English arrival and colonization

England's first attempts to establish colonies in the New World happened in the end of the 16th century. They were motivated by the country's interests in exporting national products and increasing their wealth and power, to compete against other European countries such as France and Spain. English settlers were also attempting to escape poverty, political hostilities, and diseases in their homeland, hoping that colonial life would offer them new opportunities.

After a couple of unsuccessful tries, England finally managed to establish colonies in North America at the start of the 17th century. There was a noticeable increase of English colonial activity at the time since most of their colonies were proprietary. That means that proprietors were appointed to govern mercantile settlements granted to joint stock companies.

In 1606, lands located in present-day northeast U.S.A were divided and sold to two competing groups of investors. The northern portion was eventually abandoned by its owners, whereas the southern portion became the first successful English overseas settlement, being named Jamestown in 1607. Despite that, its first years were marked with high numbers of death from disease and starvation and conflicts with local American Indian tribes. Later, the colony

would start developing and selling tobacco, which thrived its commerce. Eventually, it would serve as the beginning for the colonial state of Virginia.

The Thirteen Colonies were located on the Atlantic coast of North America. They were created from 1607 (Virginia) to 1733 (Georgia). Each colony developed its own set of laws, local culture and government. Their settlement was crucial for the creation of the United States, once it was their coming together that formed the country later on.

1.5. Seven Years war (1756-1763)

The Seven Years' War was a global conflict that is widely considered to be "the first world war" in history, as Winston Churchill called it.

It was, overall, a struggle for supremacy between England and France and it plays great importance in Canada's and in its Aboriginal peoples' histories since it laid the bicultural foundations of modern Canada and showed First Nations as powerful allies.

Main causes:

The war mainly took place both in European territory and in North America. In Europe, the conflict arose due to the Roman Emperor's death and issues involving his succession, besides unresolved issues left by The War of The Austrian Succession. However, in North America, France and England started brewing their own conflict in 1754 because of rivalry involving their colonies and imperial interests. Great Britain was the one to declare war on France and by 1756 the conflict spread to Europe, beginning the worldwide Seven Years' War.

The French and Indian War (1754–1763):

The French and Indian War was a theater of the Seven Years' War in which France and Great Britain were at odds over competing territorial claims in North America.

First Nations' role in the conflict:

Because there were few French or British troops on the frontier, native allies were critically important and actively recruited by both sides. France usually recruited tribes that lived near missions and had converted to Catholicism such as many Potawatomis and Ottawas. British administrators even created the Indian Department in 1755 to coordinate alliances with the powerful Haudenosaunee, which also tried to resolve concerns regarding colonial fraud and abuses against First Nations and their lands along the colonial frontier. This was, however, unsuccessful, since Aboriginals, doubting British intentions and motives, led a series of attacks against British military positions.

There were also many enslaved Indigenous peoples as servants to settlers in New France and the Province of Québec still during the conflict, locations that were, at that moment, controlled by the French.

The end of the conflict and its significance to Canada and Aboriginals:

The British won the French and Indian War and took control of the lands that had been claimed by France in Canada. They were also deeply benefitted by the Treaty of Paris of 1763, a peace term that was signed by Britain, France and Spain when the war came to an end.

The Seven Years' War was a crucial turning point in Canadian history, as France largely withdrew from the country and formally ceded New France to the British and many other lands that were currently occupied by Natives. They didn't accept the idea that France could relinquish their claims to the British, as it wasn't their land to cede. The War therefore laid the bicultural foundations of modern Canada.

Regarding the Aboriginals, British administrators realized that the success of Britain's North American colonies depended upon stable and peaceful relations with First Nations. To help achieve this, King George III issued a Royal Proclamation in 1763, which specified how the colonies were to be administered. A vast Indigenous reserve west of the Appalachian Mountains was created. In addition, it stated explicitly that Indigenous people reserved all lands not ceded by or purchased from them.

1.6. U.S. independence

Prior to the USA Independence, North America's Atlantic coast was controlled by the English, whose group of colonial domains were known as the Thirteen Colonies. Differently from Portugal and Spain's model of imperialism, the Thirteen British Colonies had quite commercial autonomy, especially those located on the north coast. However, due to the costly Seven Years' War, the English parliament passed the Stamp Act of 1765 along with the Sugar Act of 1764 and the Tea Act of 1773, imposing new taxes on the colonies without consulting the colonial legislatures. Completely unexpected was the avalanche of protest from the colonists, who effectively nullified the Stamp Act. In addition, the new taxation without representation boosted the Boston Tea Party, in which 342 chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company were thrown from ships into Boston Harbor by American patriots disguised as Mohawk Indians. This event was marked as the start of the revolution.



The original Thirteen Colonies.

American Revolutionary War (1775-1783):

After the Boston Tea Party, Parliament responded with the Intolerable Acts (1774), a series of punitive measures that were intended to cow the restive population into obedience.

In 1776 the Continental Congress, composed of delegates from the Thirteen Colonies, issued the Declaration of Independence and began the war for independence. Throughout the conflict, the Americans were strongly supported by France and Spain since these were also Britain's rivals.

George Washington was an excellent organizer and administrator to the revolution, working successfully with congress and mentoring troops. Therefore, the American Revolutionary War was a success and at the Treaty of Paris of 1783 their Independence was recognized by England.

Americans also started their Western Expansion after declaring USA's Independence, which resulted in conflict with Native Americans who lived in western unexplored lands.

Constitution of the United States:

Written in 1787, ratified in 1788, and in operation since 1789, the United States Constitution is the world's longest surviving written charter of government. Those who made significant intellectual contributions to the Constitution are called the "Founding Fathers" of the country, such as James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, John Addams, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. The Constitution established a national government distinguished by federalism, separation of powers, and exclusive vote to white males.



United States' Founding Fathers signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Canada and the American Revolution:

Revolutionaries constantly tried to entice and coerce neighbor colonies into joining the war, mainly those who also belonged to England, but they found that not all of them interpreted parliamentary acts negatively or were prepared to sustain a rebellion. For this reason, there were civil wars between the colonies simultaneously to the American Revolution. Canadians were strongly persuaded to reject British administration and support annexation of Canada to the united colonies. Americans had interest in annexing the province of Quebec, which they invaded in 1775. Canada had problems raising local military forces since many Anglo-Canadians inclined to side with the US, but the threat that American rebels could take and hold Canada essentially ended when Quebec City's fortifications and better-provided regular soldiers and militia troops defeated the American assaults.

1.7. Canadian Indian Residential schools' system

Since the earliest 17th century, there have been attempts from European colonists to assimilate aboriginal people into European culture.

Even though assimilation efforts through compulsory education began with the arrival of French missionaries in New France, it wasn't until the 1820s that state-sanctioned operations were introduced.

The main and biggest project were the Canadian Indian residential schools.

Starting in 1831 and lasting until 1996, the Canadian government ran alongside the dominant Christian Churches over 130 residential boarding schools across the country. Is estimated that around 150.000 children were removed from their communities and forced to attend residential schools.

Aboriginal students and parents protested the school's regime. Some children refused to cooperate and sabotaged kitchen or classroom operations. At least 25 fires were set by students as a form of protest.

By the 1940s most missionary bodies and the Canadian government knew the program was ineffective. Due to the protests, in 1969 the system was taken over by the Department of Indian Affairs, ending the church involvement (which met resistance from the catholic church).

By 1986, most schools had been closed, but only 10 years later, the last residential school would close its doors.

1.8. First and Second world wars

The first world war started on 28 July 1914 and finished on 11 November 1918. There were two restricting unions, the Triple Entente, comprising France, Russia and England and the Triple collusion, comprising Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. Canada, as a part of the English Empire at that point, battled by the domain's side.

Six hundred thousand Canadians fought in World War one and more than 4000 of those soldiers were First Nations, formally recorded by the Department of Indian Affairs. In addition to that, thousands of non-status Indians, Inuit and Métis soldiers enlisted without official recognition of their aboriginal origins.

When WW1 ended and veterans came home, aboriginal veterans were forgotten and left behind, so they started organizing campaigns for recognition and restitution for grievances . The effort paid off, with a consensus report accepted by both First Nations veterans and the government in 2001, followed by an offer of a public apology and offer of compensation in 2003. Unfortunately, Metis and Inuit veterans haven't received the same hearing.

The second world war began in 1939 and ended in 1945. There were two opposing military forces as well, the Allies and the Axis powers. Canada fought once more by Britain's side (allies).

More than one million Canadians served in WW2. Forty-four thousand Canadian soldiers were killed .

As well as in WW1, thousands of indigenous soldiers served the war. At least 3090 First Nations soldiers were enlisted in the military, besides the thousands more Métis, non-status and Inuit soldiers that weren't officially recognized.

Unlike WW1, Canadians acknowledged aboriginal participation during WW2. In the aftermath of the war, many Canadians started disagreeing with their country's treatment towards aboriginal people. As that happened, aboriginal leaders, veteran groups and other

Canadians pressured the government for reform and citizenship rights, leading to a Parliamentary review in 1946 and major amendments to the Indian Act in 1951.

1.9. Policy of official multiculturalism (1971)

Passed in 1988, the Canadian Multiculturalism Act was the first act of its kind in the world. It enshrined into law the federal government's commitment to promoting and maintaining a diverse, multicultural society. Multiculturalism in Canada was officially adopted by the government during the 1970s and 1980s. The Canadian federal government has been described as the instigator of multiculturalism as an ideology because of its public emphasis on the social importance of immigration.

Although limited resources were committed toward the implementation of the policy at the time, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau claimed multiculturalism was the best way of “assuring the cultural freedom” of all Canadians, declaring, “The Government will support and encourage the various cultures and ethnic groups that give structure and vitality to our society.” The recommendations of the commission were adapted to become the government’s official policy of multiculturalism. The adoption of multiculturalism was partially motivated by political concerns. The Liberal’s traditional base of support in Quebec was being challenged by the rise of separatism and the party was looking to broaden its appeal. Trudeau hoped a policy of multiculturalism would assist the Liberal’s in winning votes from ethnic communities in Ontario and help appease the opposition to official bilingualism in Western Canada. In his speech to the House of Commons, Trudeau stated that no singular culture could define Canada and that the government accepted “the contention of other cultural communities that they, too, are essential elements in Canada.” A policy of multiculturalism was implemented to promote respect for cultural diversity and grant ethnic groups the right to preserve and develop their own cultures within Canadian society.

Multiculturalism was intended to preserve the cultural freedom of all individuals and provide recognition of the cultural contributions of diverse ethnic groups to Canadian society. It is reflected with the law through the Canadian Multiculturalism Act of 1988 and section 27 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Initially, the government committed to support multiculturalism by assisting the development of cultural and ethnic groups, helping members of those groups overcome barriers to participation in society, promoting cultural exchange and encouraging immigrants to learn French or English. A Ministry of Multiculturalism and the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism were established in 1973 to monitor the efficacy of its goals. In 1982, multiculturalism was affirmed in section 27 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, instructing that the Charter “shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians.”

The Act affirmed Canada’s status as a multicultural nation, presenting the notion of multiculturalism as a force for positive change. It encouraged all government departments to

take responsibility for the implementation and support of multicultural policies, specifically by encouraging diverse involvement in Canada's major institutions. The Act also implemented a series of regular reports on the efficacy and reach of Canada's multicultural policy, which helped to strengthen it. It laid the groundwork for the eventual creation of the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship, which worked more specifically to address barriers to equal opportunity and integration.

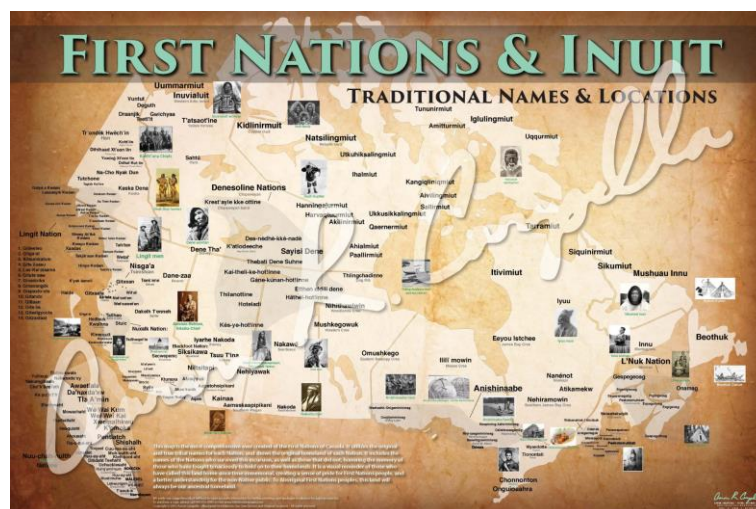
1.10. Nowadays

Canada currently has more than 38 million people, approximately 5% of whom are aboriginal people.

The country is currently going through an important phase with regard to its relationship with the aboriginal people, it is beginning to recognize its colonial history and one of the questions that arise from this movement is: how to reach this reconciliation?

From the perspective of a demographic group, they are more likely than others to live in overcrowded houses, suffer from food insecurity, unemployment, have mental health problems among young people and have lower levels of confidence in the system. In 2015, they were responsible for 25% of homicide victims, despite representing only about 5% of the population.

2. Aboriginal people



First Nations and Inuit - traditional names and locations map by Aaron Carapella.

2.1. First nations

The term “First Nations” refers to indigenous people in Canada who are not Métis or Inuit. First Nations people are both the original inhabitants of the current Canadian territory, and the first to have contact and establish relationships with European colonialists.

The First Nations are formed by 6 main groups, each with a culture and location of their own. The six groups are: The six groups were: Woodland First Nations, Iroquoian First Nations, Plains First Nations, Plateau First Nations, Pacific Coast First Nations and the First Nations of the Mackenzie and Yukon River Basins. They're named after geographical characteristics within their territories.

White settlement during the colonization of North America, however, had devastating consequences on the traditional Indigenous culture. Colonial practices and policies, such as residential schools and the Indian Act, were implemented with the intention of controlling the First Nations populations and their lifestyle.

Ever since then, Indigenous people have had to deal with racism and loss of land and population, as well as limited access to food resources and public services. Even though these issues affect many lives to this day, they're often overlooked, which makes it harder for people to gain knowledge over the prejudices that these groups have gone and still go through.

2.2. Inuit

Inuit is a broad term that refers to the arctic culturally similar indigenous groups*. They descend from the Thule people, who developed in coastal Alaska by the year 1000. The first well-documented contact with the Europeans was in 1576, when Martin Frobisher, an English seaman, was searching for the Northwest Passage and encountered Inuit in the Frobisher Bay, not far from Iqaluit.

During colonization, as most Europeans were used to a more tempered climate, they considered Inuit north end lands hostile. For that reason, Inuit, unlike first nations, initially were not in direct contact with colonizers.

Once Canada's more hospitable lands were pretty much settled, there was more interest toward Inuit lands. By the late 1920's there weren't Inuit who hadn't been in contact with traders. In the 1950's, Canada's government undertook the High Arctic relocation regarding Inuits lands.

Inuit people, as well as other indigenous groups, suffered with cultural imposture. Many Inuit were systematically converted to Christianity through violent rituals such as the siqqitiq. Siqqitiq converted shamanic beliefs into Christian beliefs by consuming foods held taboo in that same religion, such as reindeer heart and lungs.

Nowadays, Canadian Inuit live mostly in Northern Canada in the territory of Nunavut and Nunavik. Inuits are traditionally fishers and hunters. They still hunt whales, seal, polar bears, birds and fish, but only a few areas are left where traditional methods of hunting and fishing are preserved in their original form. The typical Inuit diet is high in protein and very high in fat.

- Important note: for many years, Inuit people were called Eskimos, but nowadays that term is considered offensive and racist. You may find older documents using “eskimo” instead of inuit, seeing there weren't strong discussions about it at the time. On that note, the chair strongly incentivizes delegates on using Inuit when referring to those groups.

2.3. Métis

Métis are people of mixed European and Indigenous ancestry, and one of the three recognized Aboriginal people in Canada. The use of the term Métis is complex and contentious and has different historical and contemporary meanings. According to Statistics Canada's 2016 Census of Population results, 587,545 Canadians self-identified as Métis.

The term is used to describe communities of mixed European and Indigenous descent across Canada, and a specific community of people (defined as the Métis Nation) which originated largely in Western Canada and emerged as a political force in the 19th century, radiating outwards from the Red River Settlement. While the Canadian government politically marginalized the Métis after 1885, they have since been recognized as an Aboriginal people with rights enshrined in the Constitution of Canada and more clearly defined in a series of Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

The Métis National Council (MNC), the political organization that represents the Métis Nation, defined “Metis” in 2002 as: “a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.” The MNC defines the Métis homeland as the three Prairie provinces and parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the northern United States.

3. Main cultural assimilation processes

3.1. What is cultural assimilation?

Cultural assimilation can be defined as the incorporation of a culture into the general host society. In other words, it is the process by which different cultural groups become more and more alike, until there are no distinguishable differences between the former groups.

Minority groups are usually the ones who have to adopt the culture of the majority and thus become like them in terms of values, ideology, behavior, and practices.

Cultural assimilation differs from acculturation, since in its process, the minority culture gradually loses all of the markers that set it apart as a different culture in the first place (such as languages and customs) and becomes indistinguishable inside the majority one, whereas in acculturation, cultural markers are maintained and members of the minority group are still recognized as belonging to a different culture. In addition, acculturation often happens in more peaceful encounters between two different cultures.

Policies of forced Aboriginal Assimilation in Canada:

From the time the Dominion of Canada was federated in 1867 until the Constitution Act (1982) came into force, Indigenous rights were not considered and Treaty rights were disregarded. The essence of the policy of Aboriginal assimilation is that Indigenous Peoples in Canada have no rights unless they assimilate and become Canadian. The Policy and its legislation were designed and enacted to,

“... do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the inhabitants of the Dominion.”² (passage of the British North America Act in 1867)

The Canadian Assimilation Policy was given to Canada by Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, and based on the United States' policy of aggressive civilization of Native Americans. The key to the American system was the implantation of industrial schools where religious instruction and skills training would help the Native Americans catch up with the demands of Western society, a strategy that was also adopted by the Canadian government. Therefore, it is widely considered that Canada's residential schools for Aboriginal children were their first and main policy of cultural assimilation. The Policies of forced Aboriginal Assimilation in Canada were formerly adopted with the British North America Act.

There were many reasons why Canadians wanted to assimilate indigenous peoples into their society. Some were well intentioned, albeit condescending, such as the belief that it was only by assuming Western culture that indigenous peoples could survive in a modern world. However, many Canadians at the time supported the implantation of these policies because they believed that this process would invalidate the claims of indigenous peoples to their lands, meaning it could be divided up and seized for Canadians, fulfilling their economic interests.

Some of the historical tools of Aboriginal Assimilation in Canada were, besides the cultural genocide from residential schools,

- Legislation: Creating legislation against Indigenous rights and culture, the *Indian Act*.

- Attrition: Selective funding and infrastructure development to support non-Indigenous definitions of development and civilization.
- Acquisition: Crown ownership versus inherent and international Indigenous rights to land and resource ownership.
- Abuse of Power: The Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's role in maintaining barriers, blocking Meaningful Consultation and preventing reconciliation.

Canada formally apologized for and renounced this policy of Aboriginal assimilation only on June 11, 2008. Also, all Canadian Aboriginal peoples have been Canadian citizens since 1960, except Métis, who have always been considered Canadian citizens.

3.2. Religious persecution

Religious persecution can be defined as the systematic hostility or ill-treatment encountered by an individual or group because of their religious beliefs. It may be manifested in a variety of forms, such as in the law or in a more violent way with minorities facing physical attacks and threats from the government or wider community.

In the 17th century religious persecution was a common tool used by European settlers in their American colonies, especially towards Aboriginal peoples. The European Persecution, as it is called, sprang from the conviction, held by Protestants and Catholics alike, that uniformity of religion must exist in any given society. They also believed that it was the duty of colonial authorities to impose it, forcibly if necessary.

Religious persecution in modern Canada:

Mostly because of European Persecution policies or beliefs that still endure in Canada's society, Indigenous religious persecution has always been an issue in the country. For centuries, the Canadian state engaged in systematic religious persecution of Indigenous peoples through legal prohibitions, coercive residential schooling, and the dispossession and destruction of sacred sites.

Although the Canadian government has abandoned the criminalization of Indigenous religious practices and is beginning to come to grips with the devastating legacy of residential schools, it continues to permit the destruction and desecration of Indigenous sacred sites.

The ongoing case of *Ktunaxa Nation v. British Columbia* represents Aboriginals' first ever opportunity for the Supreme Court of Canada to consider whether the destruction of an Indigenous sacred site constitutes a violation of freedom of religion under subsection 2(a) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Ktunaxa Nation brought a petition for judicial review in 2017 alleging that a ski resort project requested by the company Glacier Resorts would drive important spirit central to their religious beliefs from their traditional territory. The company's project had already been accepted by Canada's government further

to brief consultation on Ktunaxa's thoughts, even though the First Nation had not fully accepted it and claimed that the conditions proposed would still impair their religious beliefs and practices besides violate their constitutional right to freedom of religion. Their requests continued to not be accepted in court by the Canadian government and the ski resort project was approved without their consent.



Ktunaxa representative members on the case of Ktunaxa Nation v. British Columbia.

In addition, vestiges of European's policies of persecution towards First Nations are still often found in the country, mainly those related to residential schools. Astonishing numbers of children's graves were recently found on the site of the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, where aboriginal children used to be assimilated to the catholic religion.



Site of the Marieval Indian Residential School after 751 unmarked graves were found.

3.3. Sedentarization

According to anthropology, sedentarization is the process that a community develops by abandoning nomadic life and adopting the sedentary lifestyle. In the 19th century, the

Canadian Government decided to make the Aboriginal groups of Canada sedentary, as they thought that this would make it easier for them to assimilate into Canadian society. Through the Gradual Civilization Act in 1857, the government would encourage Indians to enfranchise, in other words, to remove all legal distinctions between Indians and Her Majesty's other Canadian Subjects. If an Aboriginal chose to enfranchise, it would strip them and their family of the Aboriginal Title, with the idea that they would become "less savage" and "more civilized", making their assimilation easier. However, they were often still defined as non-citizens by Europeans, and those few who did enfranchise were often met with disappointment.

As a way to achieve their goal, the Canadian Government began to support the creation of model farming villages, which were meant to encourage non-sedentary Aboriginal groups to settle in an area and begin to cultivate agriculture. When most of these model farming villages failed, the government turned instead to the creation of Indian reserves with the Indian Act of 1876. With the creation of these reserves, came many restricting laws, such as further bans on all intoxicants, restrictions on eligibility to vote in band elections, decreased hunting and fishing areas, and inability for status Indians to visit other groups on their reservations. Another strategy used by the government was the creation of the residential system, where schools would lead children most effectively out of their "savage" communities into "higher civilization" and "full citizenship".

The impacts of these doings remain significant to this day. In 2017, Canada was ranked as the 24th wealthiest country in the world, according to Global Finance Magazine. Yet, the overall health of Indigenous Peoples in Canada is well below that of the non-Indigenous population. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Summary Report calls upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties made in past years.

3.4. High arctic relocation

In 1953 and 1955, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), acting as representatives of the Department of Resources and Development, moved approximately 92 Inuit from Inukjuak, formerly called Port Harrison, in Northern Quebec, and Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), in what is now Nunavut, to settle two locations on the High Arctic islands. It has been argued that the Government of Canada ordered the relocations to establish Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic, and proposed to Inuit the move, promising improved living conditions. The Inuit were assured of plentiful wildlife, but soon discovered that they had been misled, and endured hardships.

As another way of convincing Inuit families to move to the Arctic, officers from the RCMP misled some individuals to believe that their family members had agreed to the

relocation, and that they would be given the option to return after two years. Even if they were unwilling to leave their community, power dynamics between Inuit and non-Inuit at the time were such that many Inuit felt they had no choice but to agree to the relocation.

Relocated families found it difficult to adjust to the new surroundings. One of the most challenging issues was the continuous darkness of the High Arctic winter. In Inuktitut, the word for Resolute Bay, one of the locations where the families were relocated, *Qausuittuq*, means “place of darkness”, a description that was all too real for them. The conditions in Qausuittuq and Craig Harbour were also unlike those that they had been accustomed to at home in midsummer. These were frozen lands, ones that would not melt like those in Inukjuak. Despite the help they received from Mittimatalik families that were meant to assist the Inuit from Inukjuak in adapting to High Arctic living conditions, the relocated groups struggled to find food. With little to eat, some Inuit took to scavenging food scraps from the dump by the military base in Qausuittuq. When they were caught, the RCMP searched their tents and confiscated the scavenged food.

Depression set in as the families began to realize that they would not be allowed to return to Inukjuak after two years. In response to RCMP reports that the Inuit had asked to return, government officials stated that families would have to finance their own return to their original settlements. Without the knowledge from the Inuit, any money they had earned through trapping in the High Arctic had been credited back to the federal government’s Eskimo Loan Fund, so the money would not be available to them. Some were only able to leave the High Arctic when they were sent south for treatment against tuberculosis, further separating family members from one another.

During the 1970s and 1980s, many relocated Inuit returned to their respective home communities, many paying their own way. In 1988, the federal government acknowledged that it was responsible for returning the Inuit and began paying for their return to Inukjuak, either permanently or for a visit. Families were once again painfully divided, as some opted to stay in the High Arctic and others chose to leave.

In 1994, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples issued a report on the relocation program, incorporating testimony from Inuit as well as government officials and historical documents. The report acknowledged that the Inuit had not given free and informed consent to the relocations, and that the government owed them an official apology.

In 1996, the federal government established a “Reconciliation Agreement,” with a \$10 million fund for relocated Inuit, who could only access the money if they acknowledged that the government had acted honorably. Even though in 2009 the payments stopped due to a collapse in the stock market, in 2017, the Makivik Corporation, the legal representative of Inuit in Quebec since 1978, published a notice proposing a final distribution of the remaining trust funds.

John Duncan, then federal minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, delivered an official apology in 2010, and commended the relocated Inuit for establishing a

Canadian presence in the High Arctic. That same year, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the organization that ensures the promises of the Nunavut Agreement are upheld, revealed monuments to the relocated families in Grise Fiord and Qausuittuq.

The communities in Grise Fiord and Qausuittuq remain active today, yet the impact of the relocations continues to weigh on Inuit people. Though many welcomed the federal government's official apology in 2010, community leaders say the government must do more to ease living conditions for Inuit people in the High Arctic.

The High Arctic relocations are among several such attempts by the government to move Indigenous peoples in Canada for various purposes, all of which have contributed to intergenerational trauma. Family separations, whether due to the relocations or to tuberculosis treatments, also created a gap in cultural knowledge, as many children were unable to learn from their parents and elders. Today, many Inuit are working hard to bridge that knowledge gap. The Inuit High Arctic relocations are often referred to as a “dark chapter” in Canadian history, and an example of how the federal government forced changes that fundamentally affected (and continue to affect) Inuit lives.

3.5. Residential Schools system (RSS)

The Residential Schools system was a way of colonizing and assimilating indigenous groups by the Canadian government and the church. At that time, it was believed by Europeans that European culture was the pinnacle of human morality and development, which led to the dehumanization of indigenous people, treating them like savages and uncivilized. The need to civilize those people was what brought this system together.



Residential school on Canada, group photograph.

The main objective was to alienate indigenous children by forcibly removing them from their communities and familiar surroundings and “kill the Indian in the child”. Under the Indian

Act, the attendance of every indigenous child in a residential school was mandatory, besides illegal to attend any other educational institution.

The main objective of the system was to eliminate all aspects of indigenous culture and for that student had to abandon each and every individuality they had. Hairs were cut short, uniforms were used all the time, they were often given numbers and were forbidden to speak their native languages. All violations of rules were severely punished. As punishment, physical abuse was common, and psychological abuse was constant. In some cases, children were heavily beaten, chained or confined.

The education in those schools weren't as good as the public school system, as they were underfunded. The subjects were different as well. Indigenous girls were taught to sew, cook and clean, while boys were taught carpentry and farming. The kids also worked part-time for the school as housekeepers and farmers.

As stated before, abuse was widespread. Because of that, overcrowding, poor food and health care besides poor sanitation led to a high death toll. According to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), at least 3,100 kids died in the residential schools. However, due to poor record-keeping by the churches and government, there are disagreements regarding the estimate of deaths. According to the TRC chair, Murray Sinclair, the number may be more than 6,000.

Finally, in 1996 the last government supported school was closed. Since then, former students have demanded recognition and restitution, leading to the Residential school settlement in 2007. Even after closure, there are still ongoing system impacts on Canadian society. Many people in today's indigenous communities are RSS survivors. There are now intergenerational effects of transmitted personal trauma, loss of language, culture, traditional teachings and other more.

The RSS contributed to the educational disparity, as well as social, financial and health disparities between aboriginal people and the rest of Canada. For that, foundations were created, such as the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, seeking justice and working to regain what was lost.

4. Recent happenings and committee drivers

4.1. Truth and reconciliation commission of Canada (2008-2015)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was created in 2007 with the intention of educating all Canadians about what happened inside residential schools. It's inauguration happened through a legal settlement between Residential Schools Survivors, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives and the parties responsible for creation and operation of the schools (the federal government and the church bodies).

The TRC has spent 6 years traveling across Canada to hear more than 6500 witnesses and victims. It has also hosted 7 national events in different parts of the country addressing the history of residential schools and sharing the experiences of former students and families. Their goal is to spread awareness about the practices of those institutions and their effects on Indigenous people and culture.

Beyond that, the TCR has also created a historical record of the residential school system. All of the documents collected by the institution are housed at the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation inside University of Manitoba.

In June 2015, the final report containing all of the TRC's findings throughout the years was presented, during their closing event in Ottawa. The report includes 94 "calls to action", or recommendations to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous people. According to the British Columbia Treaty Commission, as of June 30, 2021, out of all 94 calls to action, 14 have been completed, 60 are still in progress and 20 have yet to be started.

4.2. New unmarked graves

Indigenous communities, which have been reeling since the first discovery of 215 Indigenous children's remains at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia in May 2021, also are calling on the Catholic Church to release all its records related to residential schools.

With the discovery of more mass graves of Indigenous children comes a renewed sense of grief, sadness and trauma for Indigenous victims and survivors. Thousands of children are said to have died at Residential Schools across the country.

While various churches were involved in running Residential Schools, the Roman Catholic Church had a prominent role in the sexual, emotional, and physical abuse of Indigenous children. As such, with the growing discoveries of mass graves found at former Residential schools, there have been louder calls for the Catholic Church to take accountability for their role in one of the darkest chapters in Canadian history. At the height of its operation, there were at least 139 Residential Schools across Canada.

Under the earth of the First Nation reserve in Saskatchewan are the plotted yet unmarked graves of an estimated 751 people, many of them children. And on June 30, the Lower Kootenay Band informed the public that they had found an additional 182 unmarked graves through ground-penetrating radar mapping. The graves contained the remains of children between the ages of 7 to 15 that were all forced to attend Residential School, St Eugene's Mission School near Cranbrook, British Columbia, operated by the Catholic Church.

Indigenous leaders are emphasizing the lack of education about colonial genocide and the fact that, that if Indigenous children were old enough to be victims of genocide, then non-

Indigenous children are old enough to learn it. “Hopefully now the world believes our stories, believes what was done to us,” says Mr. Samuel in a phone interview. “The hardest part was trying to force Christianity on you, making you try to change and do what they believe. We kept being told we’re no good, that our languages and cultures are wrong.”

Little child says before the searches found the graves, for some Canadians, there was “always that level of denial that, ‘No, it couldn’t have happened in Canada.’”

“These stories are known, they’ve been told... and there are more discoveries to come,” says Shannon Leddy, a member of the Métis Nation British Columbia who is an assistant professor of teaching at the University of British Columbia.

The recent findings have renewed pressure on the Vatican, from petitions among Catholic lay people demanding a papal apology to health care workers asking Canadian bishops to invite Pope Francis to visit the nation and “make a public apology on behalf of the Church in Canada for our sins of commission and omission in the matter of Residential Schools.”

Cadmus Delorme, the chief of the Cowessess First Nation, said at a press conference that they believe headstones were removed by a Catholic representative in the 1960s, which turns the field essentially into a “crime scene,” he said. “The pope needs to apologize. A lot of our friends and family still practice Christianity. We don’t bother them about it. You have to respect everyone’s beliefs and religions. ... But it’s important for the survivors that the church apologizes for what it did.”

Angela White, executive director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society in British Columbia, says the discovery of unmarked graves has put the reality into sharp focus for Canadians. “When you actually had survivors testifying at the TRC, you’re looking at the faces of those who are now 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 years of age, people may not comprehend that the stories they’re sharing were the memories of a child.” The children were stripped of their languages and culture, separated from siblings, sent hundreds of kilometers away from home, and subjected to psychological, physical and sexual abuse.

Indigenous advocates say the government has failed to implement most of the TRC’s Calls to Action, and they also say current policies continue to disproportionately harm Indigenous children in Canada.



Boys pray on bunk beds in a dormitory at the Bishop Horden Memorial School, a residential school in the Indigenous Cree community of Moose Factory, Ontario, in 1950.

5. Delegations

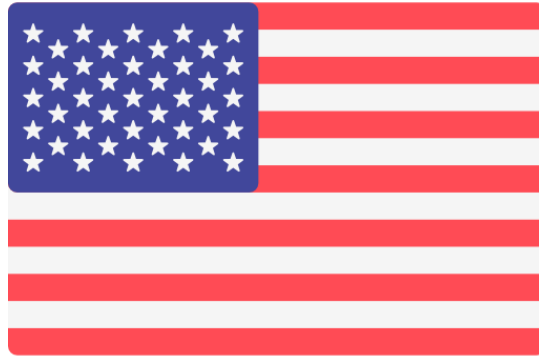
5.1. China



China, officially the People's Republic of China, is a country in East Asia. It is the world's most populous country, with a population of more than 1.4 billion. It is currently governed as a unitary one- party socialist republic by the CCP. In the constitution, it describes itself as a multiparty system of cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and as a "popular democratic dictatorship" led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants." The national capital is Beijing, and the country officially follows state atheism, but its most popular religion is Taoism. China has no historical association with Indigenous peoples.

Its current president is Xi Jinping, a Chinese politician who has served as Secretary General of the Communist Party of China (PCC), Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) since 2012 and President of the People's Republic of China (PRC) since 2013.

5.2. United States

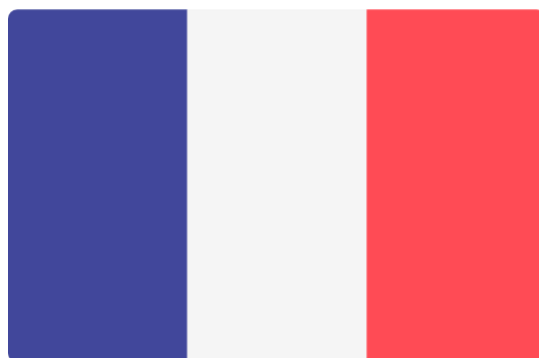


The United States of America (USA) is a sovereign country that is split up into 50 different states. There are forty- eight states that border each other and Washington, D.C, the capital district. The USA is a federal constitutional republic, in which the President of the United States (the head of state and head of government), Congress, and judiciary share powers reserved to the national government, and the federal government shares sovereignty with the state governments.

The United States was first settled by Native Americans. Today in the USA, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. It is one of the world's most ethnically mixed and multicultural nations, the product of large-scale immigration from many countries. The country does not have an official religion, but it's popular majority follows Christianity.

The United States current president is Joe Biden, an American politician of the Democratic Party and a Roman Catholic.

5.3. France



France, officially the French Republic, is a transcontinental country spanning Western Europe and overseas regions and territories in the Americas and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian

Oceans. Its eighteen integral regions (five of which are overseas) span a combined area of 643,801 km² and over 67 million people (as of May 2021). France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris, the country's largest city and main cultural and commercial center; other major urban areas include Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Lille and Nice.

Inhabited since the Paleolithic era, the territory of Metropolitan France was settled by Celtic tribes known as Gauls during the Iron Age. With the beginning of the colonization of North America by the French, Indigenous tribes were gradually losing their lands and cultural identity. The government guarantees freedom of religion as a constitutional right, and its state religion is Catholicism.

Its current president is the French politician Emmanuel Macron, who has been serving since 2017.

5.4. United Kingdom



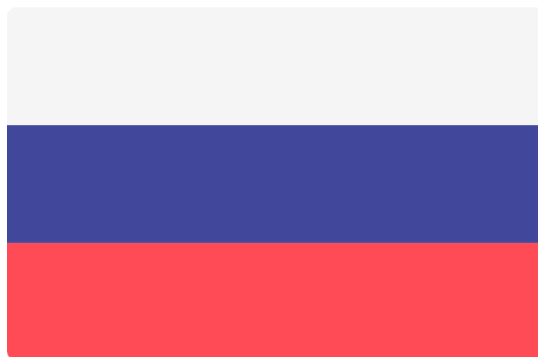
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain, is a sovereign country in north-western Europe, off the north-western coast of the European mainland. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. The United Kingdom is a unitary parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy. The monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, has reigned since 1952. The capital and largest city is London, a global city and financial center with a metropolitan area population of 14 million. The United Kingdom consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The UK guarantees freedom of religion to its citizens, and most people there follow Christianity, most of whom are Protestant Christians.

With the beginning of the colonization of North America by the English, Indigenous tribes were gradually losing their lands and cultural identity.

Its current Prime Minister is Boris Johnson, a British politician and writer serving as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since 2019. He was Baptized as a Catholic and confirmed himself as an Anglican during his teenage years.

5.5. Russia



Russia, or the Russian Federation, is a country spanning Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. It is the largest country in the world, covering over 17,125,191 square kilometers, and encompassing one-eighth of Earth's inhabitable landmass. It has a population of 146.2 million; and is the most populous country in Europe, and the ninth- most populous country in the world. Moscow, the capital, is the largest city entirely within Europe, while Saint Petersburg is the country's second- largest city and cultural center. The politics of Russia take place in the framework of the federal semi- presidential republic of Russia.

The Constitution of East Russia states that the country is a secular state, however, the Law of the Russian Parliament (Duma) on religion in 1997 states that the four traditional religions of Russia are the Russian Orthodox Church, Islam, Buddhism (mainly lamaistic) and Judaism, so that everyone has the automatic right to preach and practice their religion in public and in private, while other religions must perform registration procedures.

Of the more than 180 peoples inhabiting the territory of contemporary Russia, 40 are officially recognized as indigenous. While the Russian constitution and national legislation set out the rights of “indigenous minority peoples of the North”, there is no such concept as “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” cherished in legislation and as a result of it, indigenous peoples are not recognized by Russian legislation as such.

Russia’s current president is Vladimir Putin, a Russian politician and former intelligence officer. He has been serving as president since 2012, and he previously held this office from 1999 until 2008. He was also the prime minister from 1999 to 2000, and again from 2008 to 2012. Putin is the second-longest current serving European president.

5.6. South Africa



South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is the southernmost country in Africa. With over 60 million people, it is the world's 23rd- most populous nation and covers an area of 1,221,037 square kilometers. South Africa has three capital cities: executive Pretoria, judicial Bloemfontein, and legislative Cape Town. The largest city is Johannesburg. About 80% of South Africans are of Black African ancestry, divided among a variety of ethnic groups speaking different African languages. The remaining population consists of Africa's largest communities of European, Asian, Chinese, and Multiracial ancestry. The Republic of South Africa is a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of South Africa serves both as head of state and as head of government.

South Africa is a multiethnic society encompassing a wide variety of cultures, languages, and religions. Religion there is dominated by various branches of Christianity. South Africa is a secular state with a diverse religious population. Its constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

History of Africans and Indigenous people are often related in the studies of slavery, slavery related issues and racial relations. Indigenous people in Africa are also a reality. They are those people in the continent whose way of life, attachment or claims to particular lands, and social and political standing in relation to other more dominant groups have resulted in their substantial marginalization within modern African states.

Its current president is Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, a South African businessman and politician who, since 2018, has served as the fifth democratically elected president of South Africa, as well as president of the African National Congress (ANC) since 2017.

5.7. Germany



Germany (officially Federal Republic of Germany) is a country located in north-central Europe. It encloses a variety of landscapes, ranging from the tall mountains of the south to the north and east plains and forested hills of the west. Its climate is mostly temperate.

Germany is a democratic, federal parliamentary republic. It has a constitution known as Basic Law, that determines a framework of rules, such as how elections work and where power lies. Despite being implemented in 1949, the Basic Law is constantly reshaped with the purpose of adjusting to new situations and needs.

Germany's chancellor is Angela Merkel. She was the first woman to hold that office and the second longest-serving chancellor in German history, serving from 2005 to 2021. She was a candidate for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), a center-right German political party that supports a free-market economy and social welfare programs but is conservative on social issues. It has developed close connections with the US throughout the years.

Angela Merkel is a Christian, but that doesn't seem to get in the way of her professional life. Still, she occasionally makes remarks about her faith: "I am a member of the evangelical church. I believe in God and religion is also my constant companion, and has been for the whole of my life,".

The indigenous population of Germany is composed of four recognized national minorities, those being Danes, Frisians, Sorbs and Roma/Sinti. The country has an estimated 170000 to 30000 Roma/Sinti, the majority of whom do not have citizenship, are homeless and stateless. About 20000 to 30000 are refugees from other countries, such as Romania and Slovakia.

During the last decades of the 19th century, Germany started its colonial empire in South-West Africa, claiming already occupied lands and ignoring the natives. There was resistance by the African tribes at the time, and conflicts in the area resulted in war and genocide against many indigenous populations.

5.8. Argentina



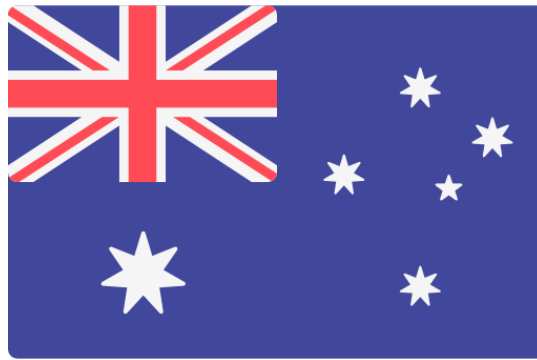
Argentina (República Argentina) is a country located in South America. Its geography is very diverse and can be grouped into four regions: the Andes, the North, the Pampas and Patagonia. The country's climate varies from subtropical in the north to subantarctic in the south. Most of its territory lies in the temperate climate zone.

Argentina is a federal presidential representative democratic republic. The President is the Head of State and Head of the Government, while also being in charge of the executive power. Its current President is Alberto Fernández.

Alberto Fernández was elected during the 2019 elections as the presidential candidate of the Front of All coalition. He had previously been Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers of Argentina from 2003 to 2008. The President is Catholic and has stated his admiration for the Pope in public before. Despite that, he seems to govern without mixing his religions with his work, prioritizing social needs.

According to the Complementary Survey of the Indigenous Peoples of 2004, Argentina has a number of 35 indigenous groups. Even though they have legal rights regarding territories and natural resources in the Constitution, those laws are constantly ignored by the government, and the ones who don't respect them usually aren't punished or taken seriously. In addition to that, there is also the fact that native people in the country have been targets of violence and prejudice for centuries. Aboriginal movements in favor of claiming their communities and alerting the Argentinian population about discrimination have been gaining popularity in the past years.

5.9. Australia



Australia (officially, the Commonwealth of Australia) is the 6th largest country in the world, and it is in Oceania. Despite its abundance regarding natural resources, more than one-third of its territory is desert. The northeast is covered with dense forests, while only the southwest and southeast are actually populated. There are four main climate types, those being arid and semi-arid (desert), temperate (southwest and southeast), and tropical (northeast).

Australia is a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy that has The Queen as Sovereign. It is divided into 6 states and 2 territories: New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Each of the divisions is self-governing, and has its own executive government, legislative branch, and judicial system.

The Prime Minister of Australia is Scott Morrison. He has held several parliamentary positions before his current office. Mr. Morrison is a member of the Pentecostal Church. Pentecostalism is a form of Christianity that believes in the direct personal experience of God and The Holy Spirit by the believer.

The Indigenous peoples of Australia are known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Those nomenclatures agroup hundreds of different tribes, each with their very own culture, language, traditions, and history. Before European colonization in the country started, the Aboriginal communities of Australia had populations of around 750000 people. From 1788 to 1900, those numbers fell to just 93000.

Even though racial discrimination has been illegal in Australia since 1976, Torres Strait Islander peoples have continued to be treated as second-class citizens. Their basic rights and wellbeing are often looked over by the government, a consequence of centuries worth of prejudice and violence. Indigenous people are frequently neglected in areas such as health, education, and employment, which causes many of them to be trapped up in situations of poverty and crime.

5.10. Bolivia



Bolivia (officially, Republic of Bolivia) is a Spanish-speaking South American country. It has three well-defined geographic zones: high plateau (altiplano), temperate and semitropical valleys of the eastern mountain slopes (yungas), and tropical lowlands (llanos) of the Amazon River Basin.

Bolivia is a constitutional republic. The president is the head of state and holds the executive power together with the vice-president and the government. All of the adult population votes every 5 years for offices such as president, vice-president, the Senate and Deputies.

Bolivia has two capitals: Sucre (the constitutional capital) and La Paz (the administrative capital and seat of government). The country is divided into 9 departments, those composed of provinces. They are all governed by, respectively, prefects and sub-prefects appointed by the president. There are also mayors that administer municipalities and are elected through universal suffrage.

Luis Arce is the current president of Bolivia. He was elected after a coup made by the ex-president Jeanine Áñez, who was arrested during the year of 2020, responsible for violations of human rights, political persecution and breach of the constitutional order. Arce was the candidate of Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), a leftist party. Previously, he had worked as an architect of the economic transformation responsible for rationalizing the country's petroleum industry, increasing taxes on wealth and distributing agricultural land. These changes helped a large part of the Bolivian indigenous population withdraw from poverty.

The transformations of which he was a part of while on his previous job happened under Evo Morales' time as head of state, whose presidential term lasted from 2006 to 2019 and is well recognized as one of the most stable out of all. Morales was the first Indigenous president of Bolivia, coming from a poorer household. Before him, the country was only led by white men. During his time in charge, Morales would implement economic policies that promoted steady growth and invest in social spending. That would lead Bolivia's GDP to grow an average of 4.8% a year from 2004 to 2017, while the percentage of population living in extreme poverty decreased from 37% to 17%. Overall, his mandate was very important for the economy in

Bolivia, and it was also crucial for the bigger recognition of Indigenous rights within the country, since that was one of his major focuses as a president.

5.11. Brazil



Brazil (officially, Federative Republic of Brazil) is a country located in South America. It is the 5th largest country of the world in terms of territory and holds about 60% of the Amazon Rainforest. Even though it's most known for its dense forests, Brazil still presents a very diverse range of landscapes, including pampas, rugged hills, pine forests, sprawling wetlands, immense plateaus, and a long coastal plain. It is also home to the Amazon River, the second longest river of the world.

Brazil is a federal constitutional republic, formed by 26 states, a Federal District and municipalities. It is administered by a president, who is the head of state, and is elected by the population every 4 years. Brazil's Political System can be divided in three branches of government: Legislative (creating/changing laws), Executive (administration) and Judiciary (judging possible law infractions).

Jair Bolsonaro is the current president of Brazil. Previously to his current office, he was a Federal Deputy for Rio de Janeiro, from 1991 to 2018. Bolsonaro is very well known for his Christian and nationalist remarks, usually referring to traditional Brazilian values, social discussions, and rather controversial matters.

Brazil has a total of 305 native tribes, composed of 900000 people. There are also 690 recognized territories destined for this population, nearly all of them located in the Amazon Rainforest. Each of these groups have centuries worth of cultural heritage and customs, those that have survived uncountable cases of land theft, violence, and the overall consequences of European colonization. Indigenous tribes such as the Guarani, the Pataxó Hã Hã Hãe and the Tupinambá were among the first to meet the colonizers during the XVI century.

With the increasing deforestation in the Amazon Forest, many Brazilian native tribes have lost their sites for illegal logging, soy agriculture and cattle ranching. These practices have resulted in record-breaking level fires that are catastrophic for both the climate and Indigenous Peoples' that rely on these forests. Such ratings have also escalated throughout Jair Bolsonaro's

Presidential term, who doesn't seem to place much importance on neither the biodiversity that the Amazon Forest presents, nor the lives of Indigenous tribes present in its territory.

5.12. Canada



Canada (officially, Dominion of Canada) is an English and French-speaking country located in North America. Despite being the second largest country in the world, it only holds about 0,5% of the world's population. Some of the Canadian landscapes include black-blue lakes, numerous rivers, western mountains, rolling central plains, and forested eastern valleys. The country's far north is illustrated by an abundance of ice, snow, and glaciers, since it lies in the Arctic. Many native Canadians live in this region by hunting and fishing.

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. It recognizes the Queen (or King) as the Head of State and the Prime Minister as the Head of Government. The Parliament is composed of the Queen of Canada, the Senate (appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister) and the House of Commons (elected by Canadian citizens every 5 years).

Justin Trudeau is the Prime Minister of Canada. He has been the leader of the Liberal Party since before his current office. One of Mr. Trudeau's campaign promises was to create a more gender-balanced cabinet, which he did, bringing 15 women to the 30-member cabinet. He also pledged to legalize the use of recreational marijuana, with the goals of protecting children from illegal drug selling's, and to prevent organized crime from profiting from the sales of illegal marijuana. The Prime Minister has also showed his concerns about the life conditions of Indigenous people in Canada, donating \$53 million over three years to improving mental health and combating suicide in native communities.

There are three main recognized groups of Indigenous peoples in Canada: First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Each of them has their own cultural heritages, religious beliefs and languages. Overall, they make up more than 1.67 million Canadians, and are both the fastest growing population and the youngest (under 25 years old) in the country.

5.13. Chile

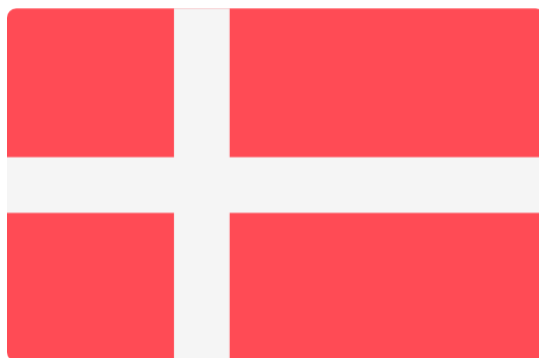


Chile was already colonized by Spain and has been independent since 1818. Today, only 11.1% of its population is Mapuche or belongs to other indigenous groups.

The Mapuche indigenous group is the largest in Chile and have long been fighting for recognition as Chile's constitution is the only one in Latin America not to acknowledge its indigenous people. Leaders of this group claim that government guidelines and regulations often get in the way of Mapuche traditions and rituals, besides not respecting their land possessions. Indigenous peoples in Chile are currently fighting to have their rights recognized in the country's new constitution and they have been obtaining substantial success. However, approximately one-third of the indigenous peoples in Chile still live in a situation of poverty.

Chile's market-oriented economy, with its relatively well-diversified and well-regulated financial system, is generally regarded as the fastest-growing and a model for other Latin American countries. Today, Chile is a secular state and a representative democratic republic. Gabriel Boric was elected as the country's new president in 2021. The 35-year-old leftist legislator and former student activist will be the youngest leader in the country's history, besides being one of the most left-leaning presidents in the country's history. His biggest promises during his campaign were to tax the rich and increase social spending, besides leading the country through the process of writing a new constitution. His progressivist agenda also included enlarging the recognition of minority groups, such as the LGBT community and indigenous peoples.

5.14. Denmark



Denmark is a Nordic country located in Northern Europe. It is almost entirely inhabited by ethnic Danes but has one officially recognized Indigenous group, the Greenlandic Inuit. Although Denmark's initial relationship with its Indigenous Population reflected typical Western European imperialism, its more recent promotion of governmental sovereignty for Greenland illustrates its sincere investment in and respect for Indigenous Peoples. Denmark has been galvanizing the creation of a monumental policy that has allowed Indigenous Peoples to engage actively with mechanisms to protect and to control their land, resources, and culture.

Denmark is an example of a current developed country since it supports a high standard of living and its per capita gross national product is among the highest in the world, with well-developed social services. The UK is its most important trading partner along with the other Nordic countries.

Today, Denmark is a parliamentary monarchy ruled by a representative democracy and a strong defender of human rights. Denmark also helps fight poverty around the world through its long-standing development cooperation. It follows a multi-party structure, where several parties are represented in the Parliament. Denmark's current Prime Minister is Mette Frederiksen, leader of the Danish Social Democratic Party. She has been involved in many controversies involving her anti-immigration policies during her election campaign, which were adopted as a strategy for wooing voters from the far right. Denmark is not a secular state since the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) is established as the national church, which has privileges not available to other religious groups.

5.15. Belgium



Belgium and the Netherlands (Holland) were once united to form one State, but Belgium had its independence declared on October 4th, 1830. Today, it is one of the smallest and most densely populated European countries, as well as one of the most heavily industrialized and urbanized countries in Europe.

Belgium has a free-enterprise economy, extremely tied to Europe's, with most of the gross domestic product generated by the service sector. Therefore, Belgium's economy has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, as its restrictions weighed especially on the consumption of services. In Belgium, officially recognized religions receive financial support from the state, therefore, there is no clearly implemented secularism. The country has been, since its independence, a representative democracy headed by a hereditary constitutional monarch. The current Belgium King is King Philippe and the country's Prime Minister is Alexander de Croo, a liberal politician elected in 2020.

Belgium's government was recently reached by Brazilian Indigenous leaders who were seeking support for their campaign "Indigenous Blood, not a Single Drop More" to testify about the human rights violations in the Amazon, since Belgium is one of the biggest importers of Brazilian wood, now using 80% more of the rainforest than it did six years ago.

Besides that, Belgium was also involved in a discussion with Canada after the signing of CETA, the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, because Canada's First Nation Hupacasath did not agree with the document. Since the country's courts have not afforded the right to consultation to Indigenous leaders, Belgium raised similar concerns as Hupacasath First Nation and stood up with them against the approval of the Agreement. For this reason, the Canadian government promised to implement the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

5.16. Spain



The period of Spanish colonization of the Americas was referred to as the “Spanish Golden Age”, in which Spain became the most powerful monarchy in Europe and the Americas.

The Spanish Imperialism system was, however, a cruel period on Native Americans’ perspective: the Indians were constantly forced to abandon their beliefs and required to pay taxes with their labor and food. Indigenous populations also declined over the seventeenth century as epidemics brought by the Spanish killed large numbers of natives or were killed by sheer violence.

Nowadays, Spanish historical relationships with Aboriginal peoples are still a substantial topic of discussion. For instance, Spain's right-wing politicians have recently been involved in discussions with the USA’s president Joe Biden and some Latin American leaders for still refusing to apologize for the atrocities suffered by Native Americans during the “Spanish Golden Age”. In response, Joe Biden issued a proclamation to make the 11 October US holiday Indigenous Peoples' Day, alongside the existing Columbus Day, causing great dissatisfaction among the Spanish, who reacted like their national identity was compromised. The feeling of discontentment grew as even Pope Francis formally recognized the harm done to the country’s original inhabitants in the name of Catholicism by Spanish missions.

Spain is the 4th economy of the EU and the 14th in the world, which represents huge improvement since the country has been considered for a long time a member of the “PIIGS” along with Portugal, Italy, Ireland and Greece, a pejorative term coined as a catch-all for Europe’s most troubled economies. The country has been a secular country since 1978 and its system of government is a parliamentary monarchy. Its current monarch is Felipe VI of Spain and the country's Prime Minister is Pedro Sánchez, member of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, both of whom had already been asked to issue an official apology to the Indigenous peoples of the Americas and refused it.

5.17. Ireland



In 1801, Ireland became a part of the United Kingdom. A war of independence in the early 20th century was followed by the partition of the island, thus creating the Irish Free State, which became increasingly sovereign over the following decades, and Northern Ireland, which remained a part of the United Kingdom. For this reason, Northern Ireland also left the European Union along with the rest of the UK.

During the British colonial period, Ireland had an important role in the imperial project since it took part in land theft from Native Americans and genocide. Today's relationship between Native Americans and Ireland, on the other hand, has become surprisingly peaceful and they assist each other mutually. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and other Aboriginal peoples chose to help fight the Famine in Ireland between 1845 and 1852 when they themselves were struggling with the Indian Acts in the USA or Canada. In return of the favor, Ireland has recently been one of the main helpers to Native Americans on battling the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ireland is one of the most open and export-driven economies in the world, besides having a mixed economy. Ireland is ranked 2nd among 45 countries in the Europe region and its overall score is above the regional and world averages.

Ireland is a secular state, although Christianity still has influence over some laws and education. It is a parliamentary democracy governed by the president and the legislature. The Chief of State is the President Michael D Higgins, and the Prime Minister is currently Micheál Martin. Michael Higgins, member of the Labor Party, already came public to acknowledge and apologize for Ireland's responsibility for persecution against Aboriginal communities, and, overall, has great popular support.

5.18. Netherlands



The Netherlands, a country located in northwestern Europe, is also known as Holland. Overall, the Netherlands is now a modern, industrialized nation and a large exporter of agricultural products. However, climate change has been a problem for the country's economy because of its geographical vulnerability to rising sea levels. It is a parliamentary democracy and also a constitutional monarchy in which the powers of the monarch are extremely limited. Under the Constitution, the ministers, and not the monarch, are responsible for what the Government does. Its current King is Willem-Alexander.

Regarding the country's relationship with Aboriginal peoples, the Dutch, differently from the French and Spanish, did not emphasize religious conversion in their relationships with Native Americans in the past and made strong trade alliances with American Indians. Nowadays, the Netherlands has an important non-governmental organization based in Amsterdam named "Netherlands Center for Indigenous Peoples" recognized by the United Nations Human Rights Council. NCIV acts to bring the issues and views of Indigenous peoples to the attention of the Dutch government and works to encourage them to make a positive contribution to improving the situation of Indigenous peoples at national and international levels. The Dutch government has an impact on indigenous peoples through international cooperation and looks for sustainable ways of trade that won't affect Aboriginals around the world.

The Netherlands is also one of the most secular countries in the world, since many Dutch people believe religion should not have a significant role in politics and education. Fewer than a third of Dutch people have a religious faith and nearly one in four describe themselves as atheists.

5.19. Italy



Italy is a European country with the longest Mediterranean coast, has more than 59 million inhabitants, is one of the most touristic cities in the world and it is currently ruled by Sergio Mattarella since 2015.

The capital, Rome, is the seat of the Vatican, and even though the constitution establishes the liberty of all religions before the law, it recognizes the special status granted the Roman Catholic Church by the Lateran Treaty in 1929. That special status was modified and reduced in importance by a new agreement between church and state in 1985. Because of these changes and the liberal tendencies manifested by the church after the Second Vatican Council in 1960, religion is much less a cause of political and social friction in contemporary Italy than it was in the past.

Although the constitution remained formally in force after the fascists seized power in 1922, it was devoid of substantial value. After World War II, on June 2, 1946, the Italians voted in a referendum to replace the monarchy with a republic. A Constituent Assembly worked out a new constitution, which came into force on January 1, 1948. With the exception of the World War II years when Benito Mussolini's government declared war upon the United States (1941-43), the United States has had warm relations with the Kingdom of Italy and, after 1946, its successor, the Republic of Italy. Currently, the United States and Italy share strong bilateral relations. Italy is a member of NATO and is a founding member of the European Union.

5.20. Japan



Japan is a large, highly industrialized island nation located off the eastern shore of Asia. Japan's captivating history includes samurai warriors, the bushido code, the Meiji Restoration, the Nanking Massacre and more. Is currently home to over 125 million people. Those who, since their formation, based their religious belief on Shintoism. Since this religion is polytheistic, foreign religions such as Buddhism and Christianity have also become accepted.

Under the present Constitution of Japan, the emperor is "the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people". And the political part of the country has been handled by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga since 2020 after Abe's resignation in the same year.

The alliance with Japan has been the cornerstone of U.S. security policy in East Asia for decades. Now, Japan's role in global security is growing as challenges from China and North Korea mount. The alliance began during the U.S. occupation after World War II.

Japan's indigenous people, the Ainu, were the earliest settlers of Hokkaido, Japan's northern island. The Ainu have long been of interest to anthropologists because of their cultural, linguistic, and physical identity, they were the earliest settlers of Hokkaido, and were oppressed and marginalized by Japanese rule for centuries.

After the Meiji Restoration (about 150 years ago), people from mainland Japan started emigrating to Hokkaido as Japan colonized the northernmost island, and discriminatory practices such as the 1899 Hokkaido Former Aborigines Protection Act displaced the Ainu from their traditional lands to the mountainous barren area in the island's Centre. They were required to adopt Japanese names, speak the Japanese language, and were slowly stripped of their culture and traditions, including their bear ceremony. Due to the wide stigmatization, many Ainu hid their ancestry. And the long-term effects are clear to see today, with much of the Ainu population remaining poor and politically disenfranchised, with much of their ancestral knowledge lost.

5.21. Mexico



Ruled by Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico is a country rich in history, tradition, and culture, made up of 31 states and one federal district. It is the third largest country in Latin America and has one of the largest populations, more than 100 million, making it the home of

more Spanish speakers than any other nation in the world. According to the 1917 Constitution, Mexico does not have an official religion. Even so, Christianity is professed by most of the country's population.

Despite the political and social changes that have occurred over the centuries, evidence of past cultures and events are apparent everywhere in Mexico. Many of Mexico's rural areas are still inhabited by indigenous people whose lifestyles are quite similar to those of their ancestors. In addition, many pre-Columbian ruins still exist throughout Mexico, including the ancient city of Teotihuacán and the Mayan pyramids at Chichén Itzá and Tulum.

Mexico's indigenous population is one of the two largest in the Americas. The country is home to 68 Indigenous Peoples, each speaking their own native language and together accounting for 364 variants. Therefore, Mexico has adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is a declared pluricultural nation since 1992. Yet, the country's indigenous population is still facing a few challenges.

One of the main challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in Mexico relates to a lack of recognition. In 2001, as a result of an Indigenous Peoples' mobilization demanding legislation based on the "Acuerdos de San Andrés", Articles 1, 2, 4, 18, and 115 of the Mexican Constitution were amended. But another challenge relates to Mexico's Indigenous People's health. Indigenous Peoples are considered to be the most vulnerable sector of the population in regard to this matter, with the highest maternal and infantile mortality rates, acute and chronic malnutrition rates higher than the national average, lower life expectancy, and severe limitations for access to health services.

5.22. Paraguay



Paraguay is a landlocked country that borders Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. It has large swaths of wetland, subtropical forest and Chaco, a wilderness consisting of savannahs and shrubland. Its current president is Mario Abdo Benítez, elected in 2018. The Constitution of the Republic of Paraguay establishes freedom of worship and other laws and policies that contribute to the free exercise of any religion, but Christianity, particularly Catholicism, is the dominant religion in the country.

Since 1989 the democratization process has been rocky, and Paraguay has experienced bouts of instability in its military, the assassination of a vice president in 1999, and the indictment of former presidents on corruption charges. Despite that Paraguay has a more-homogeneous population than most other countries in South America. Most Paraguayans are of European and Guaraní ancestry. Guaraní culture is strongly represented through folk art and festivals, and Guaraní was designated an official language of Paraguay in the country's 1992 constitution. Paraguayans are intensely nationalistic and are proud to converse in Guaraní, which acts as a strong marker of their identity. That indigenous language is much more widely spoken in Paraguay than is Spanish, which is unique in Latin America.

There are 19 indigenous peoples in Paraguay. Although Paraguay has adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the fundamental rights of the country's indigenous peoples are continuously violated. They are especially challenged by structural discrimination and lack of economic, social, and cultural rights.

During 2016, the state intensified the structural discrimination faced by Paraguay's Indigenous Peoples, as was expressly observed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial (CERD), non-treaty bodies, and treaty bodies of the UN, as well as other international monitoring bodies. This discrimination translates into violations of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples both by acts and omissions of the state. An example is the forced removal of communities from their ancestral territories.

5.23. Portugal



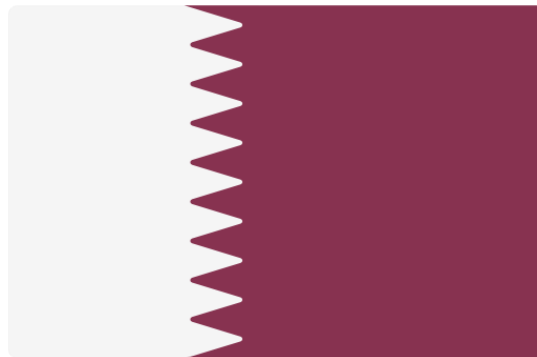
António Luís Santos da Costa is the prime minister of Portugal, officially Portuguese Republic. The country lies along the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe. Once continental Europe's greatest power, Portugal shares commonalities, geographic and cultural, with the countries of both northern Europe and the Mediterranean. Currently the country houses more than 10 million people and the most predominant religion in Portugal is Christianity, mainly Roman Catholicism. Portugal has no official religion, though in the past, the Catholic Church was the state religion.

Portugal is one of the oldest countries in Europe. It's history is the combination of the story of Iberian tribes, Celtic peoples, the Roman Empire, Germanic kingdoms, Muslim invasions and the consequent Christian Reconquista, and finally, of the Exploration of the World.

As a major colonial power, Portugal was a major player in the global slave trade, taking slaves from western Africa to the Americas. It was also the first colonial power to abolish slavery, some 50 years before Britain, Spain, France, and the United States. Its past related to indigenous peoples is turbulent, due to the colonization of Brazil and exploration of Africa, although there are no concrete records of indigenous peoples living in Portugal, many claim their existence in the Azoreans and Madeirans islands.

The country currently has a harmonious relationship with the Canadian government and supports the causes of the country's first nations.

5.24. Qatar



Qatar came to the attention of the British in 1867 when a dispute between the Bahraini Khalifah and the Qatari residents escalated into a major confrontation. Until the attack, Britain had viewed Qatar as a Bahraini dependency. It then signed a separate treaty with Mohammed ibn Thani in 1868, setting the course both for Qatar's future independence and for the rule of the Thani dynasty, who until the treaty were only one among several important families on the peninsula.

Being an absolutist monarchy, its current religion is Islam, and its Emir is Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. Despite this, the country also has a prime minister, Khalid ibn Khalifa ibn Abdul Aziz, who took office after the resignation of his predecessor. The country currently has more than 2 million inhabitants, the capital is the eastern coastal city of Doha (Al-Dawḥah), which was once a center for pearling and is home to most of its inhabitants.

During the 1990s Qatar agreed to permit U.S. military forces to place equipment in several sites throughout the country and granted them use of Qatari airstrips during U.S. operations in Afghanistan in 2001. These agreements were formalized in late 2002, and Qatar became the headquarters for American and allied military operations in Iraq the following year.

Qatar had been subjected to some discriminatory practices, which had impacted the fundamental freedoms of the Qatari people, and which had affected many families as the result of restrictions on their freedom of movement.

5.25. Dominican Republic



The Dominican Republic is located in the Greater Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean region and takes two thirds of Hispaniola Island that it shares with Haiti. The country is divided into 31 provinces, and its capital is Santo Domingos.

During colonization, the DR's first habitants were the Taino people. Taino people were the indigenous people of the Caribbean, and were the main inhabitants of most of Cuba, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. When Columbus arrived, in 1492, there were five Taino chiefdoms on Hispaniola.

The Taino were almost extinct, mainly by infectious diseases brought by the Spanish. Besides sickness, warfare and enslavement by the colonists also caused many deaths. Nowadays, there are a few people that identify themselves as Taino, especially in Puerto Rico and the D.R. . Those people come from survivors who had descendants and intermarried with other ethnic groups.

Those two countries have had diplomatic relations since 1954. Nowadays they are strong partners both politically and economically since Canada is D.R's third most important trading partner. Canada and the Dominican Republic share the same ideals of social inclusion and democracy, as well as fair-competition and free-market.

5.26. Switzerland



Switzerland is in central Europe next to France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Liechtenstein. Filled with beautiful landscapes, Switzerland brings together glacier-carved Alpes and mountain Wales valleys.

Switzerland was formed in 1921 by an alliance of cantons. Nowadays, it is a union of 26 cantons, 6 of which are demi cantons. It has no official capital, but Bern is considered capital because it holds the house of parliaments.

Canada and Switzerland relations are close and multifaceted bilateral. More than 155,000 Canadians are of Swiss origin and there are approximately 17,000 to 20,000 Canadians in Switzerland. Both countries have French as an official language. Both countries also enjoy a diverse commercial relationship, which covers a Science, technology and Innovation Joint Statement signed in 2018, aiming cooperation between countries' institutions in these domains.

5.27. Venezuela



Venezuela is a country in South America, bounded by the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. The national capital is Caracas, Venezuela's commerce, tourism, and industry center.

The diplomatic relationships between Venezuela and Canada are turbulent. Although Venezuela has established an embassy in Canada in 1952 and created good commercial relations between them, Canada has participated and contributed with \$110,000 in the Electoral

Observation Mission (EOM) in December 2006, to supervise the conduction of Venezuela's elections. The 2006 elections, which re-elected Hugo Chavez, had some irregularities noted by the EOM, but overall described as generally satisfactory.

Canada supports civil societies in Venezuela that work in the area of democracy.

Canada also recognized Juan Guaidó as president when, on January 23, 2019, the 2018 Venezuelan elections were declared invalid. The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, stated "Canada rejects the Maduro regime's illegitimate claim to power and has called upon Nicolas Maduro to cede power to the democratically elected National Assembly".

Besides the troubled political relations, these countries are great trade partners. Venezuela is Canada's second largest export market in South America for goods as well as for service. Venezuela exports to Canada mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation, iron and steel, fertilizers and many more.

Also, Canada supports Venezuelan indigenous affairs efforts, through the use of Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

5.28. Inuit representative (observer member)

Inuit people, as stated before in this study guide, are arctic indigenous populations. For many years, interactions between them and European colonizers was minimal, consisting mostly of trading whale and fur. However, after the arrival of missionaries in northern Canada, an educational shift occurred.

Some missionaries started offering occasional day education based on inuit seasonal movements, with the objective of introducing kids to Christian values and morals.

Indian schools at the southern half of the northwest territories started in 1867 and were financed by the federal government after 1899.

Few inuit children were institutionalized during these early years, due to inuit land movements, meaning that some children had to stay at school for months or even years at a time. Inuit parents then became vocal about wanting their kids to return home at night, so the Society of the Church of England in Canada (MSCC) lobbied for the construction of a residential school in Aklavik, located near the mouth of the Mackenzie River.

While demands for schools in Aklavik were heard, Indigenous families were unsatisfied. They didn't agree and consent to their children's institutionalization and poor treatment, besides the content taught in those schools.

Nowadays, Inuit people suffer from the intergenerational colonization trauma, social and health problems. The Inuit Health Survey found that in Nunavut, 68,8% of Inuit households are food insecure. That's six times higher than the Canadian average. There is a lack of nutritious market food supplies, and the food available is low quality, besides expensive.

On top of that, global warming is severely threatening Inuit way of living. The vanishing ice and unpredictable seasonal changes force Inuit to adapt in many ways, one of them being food. Climate change affects seals, for example, that tend to move further up the bay as the ice melts. That makes communities rely on store-bought unaffordable food.

5.29. Penelakut representative (observer member)

The Penelakut tribe is a first-nation tribe mainly located on Kuper Island (also known as Penelakut Island) near the south end of Vancouver. The tribe keeps traditional cultural customs alive and speaks Hul'qumi'num, their native language, celebrating their culture.

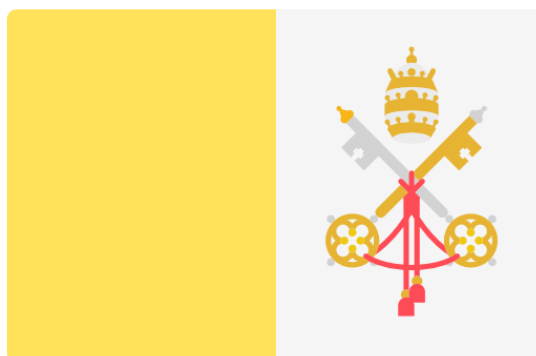
Penelakut's experience with the Residential School system was one of the most violent ones in Canada. The school operated from 1889 to 1975. In 1896 (seven years after the opening) a poll found out that from the 264 students who attended the school, 107 had died.

In 1969 the Canadian government took over the school and demolished it in the 1980s. It was nicknamed Canada's Alcatraz due to its remote location and difficulty of escape.

In 2018, researchers from the University of British Columbia and Penelakut's Chief and Council and Elders' Committee used GPR (ground penetrating radar) and identified unmarked graves on their grounds and foreshore. On 12 July 2021, a letter was sent to neighboring tribes and organizations by Penelakut's Chief confirming the find of more than 160 unmarked graves.

The discovery of these new graves affected Penelakut and other Indigenous communities deeply. Most families share the desire of identifying their lost loved ones and bringing them home in a proper way, honoring them with the respect and worthy burial they deserve.

5.30. Vatican representative (observer member)



The Vatican City is a city-state surrounded by Rome, Italy, and is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. Today it has about 830 people and is a very touristy city, especially for the Catholic portion of society, which currently has one billion people. The area evolved into a popular pilgrimage site and commercial district. Vatican City is the world's smallest fully independent nation-state.

The state itself, on the other hand, came into existence on 11 February 1929 by the Lateran Treaty between the Holy See and Italy, which spoke of it as a new creation, not as a vestige of the much larger Papal States (756 - 1870), which had previously encompassed much of central Italy. However, it was abandoned in 1309, following the move of the papal court to France.

The Holy See is the name given to the government of the Roman Catholic Church, which is led by the pope as the bishop of Rome. As such, the Holy See's authority extends over Catholics throughout the world. Since 1929 it has resided in Vatican City, which was established as an independent state to enable the pope to exercise his universal authority. The Pope, also called the Holy Father, is the Bishop of Rome, and as such, is the world leader of the Roman Catholic Church. The current high pontiff is Pope Francis, elected in the conclave that ended on March 13, 2013. The Pope is elected by the College of Cardinals through the Conclave and his post is for life.

The Catholic Church ran most of Canada's residential schools. Thousands of children died from malnutrition, abuse, disease, or neglect. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has said Canada's residential school policy was cultural genocide.

Under this aspect, a group of 48 Catholic Church entities, including dioceses and religious orders, agreed to make three forms of financial restitution to survivors and Indigenous organizations. They agreed to pay \$29 million in cash, provide \$25 million in church and religious kind of services and make "best efforts" to raise \$25-million in a national fundraising campaign. To handle these payments, the church set up a special organization, the Corporation of Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement (CCEPIRSS).

The church's compensation was not paid in full so far, and Canada and the Vatican are increasingly at odds with each other.

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