Internment of Ukrainians in Canada 1914-1920

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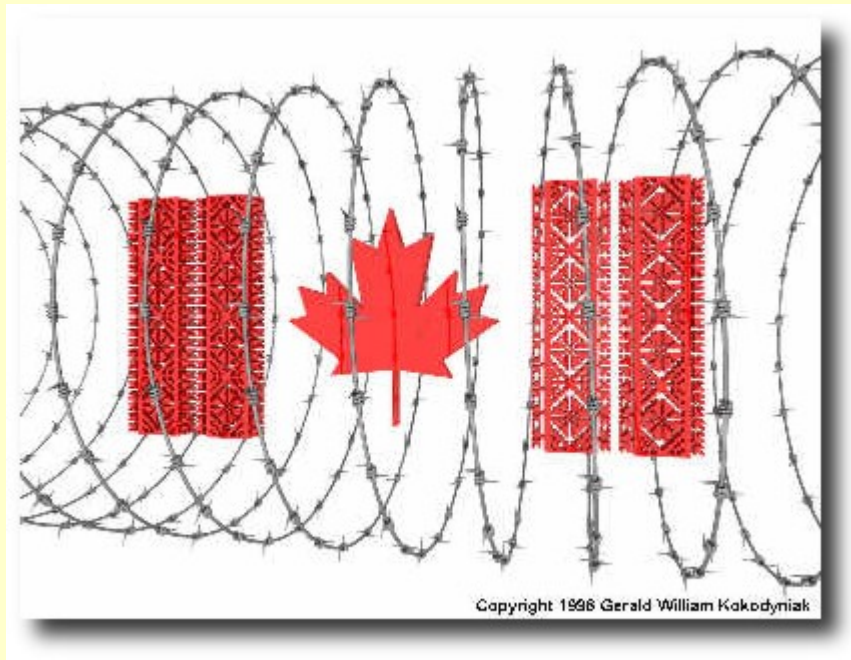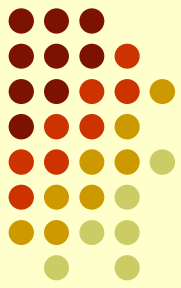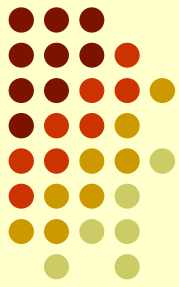
Immigration to Canada

- Between 1891 and 1914, approximately *170,000 Ukrainians* immigrated to Canada, from the Western Ukrainian regions of Halychyna* and Bukovyna, enticed by the offer of free land and a better life on the Canadian prairies.

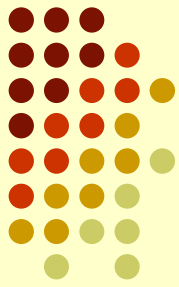*also called *Galicia*, using the Polish term.

Mistaken Identity

- During this time, the regions (oblasts) of L'viv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, and Chernivtsi were part of the **Austro-Hungarian Empire.** Ukrainians immigrants from these regions were labelled as "Austrian" or "Austro-Hungarian". *(Area # 6 and #2 on the map)*


Note: Lemberg = Lviv;
Czernowitz = Chernivtsi

"Enemy Aliens"

- In 1914, through the War Measures Act, Canada issued an order for *registration* and in certain cases, *internment* of individuals who were considered to be of 'enemy nationality' to Canada.

- Austria was *not* an ally of Canada during the war. Therefore, many Ukrainians and other East European immigrants were described as Austrian "enemy aliens" by the Canadian government.
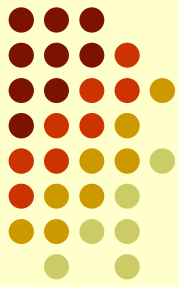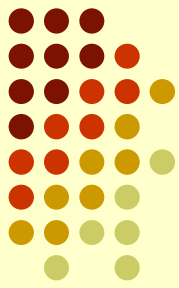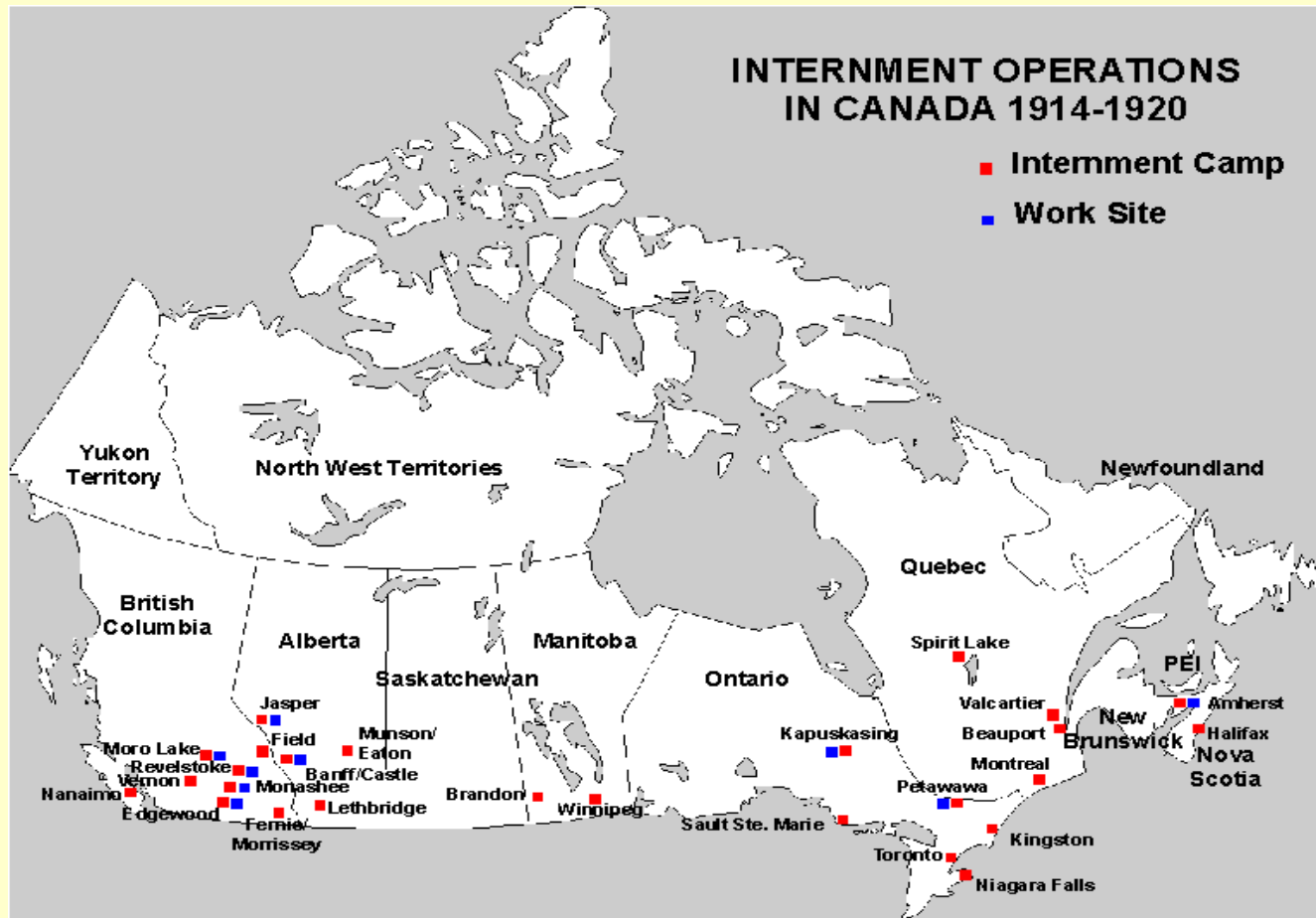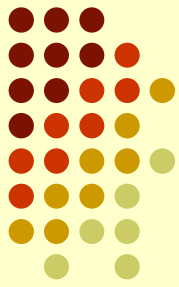
Tracking Immigrants

- As many as 80,000 Ukrainians were forced to carry identity documents and report regularly to government authorities.
- Over 9,000 men, women and children were interned in 24 concentrations camps across Canada. Approximately 5,000 of those interned were Ukrainian.

Internment Camps

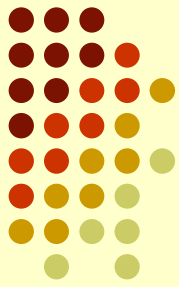INTERNMENT OPERATIONS IN CANADA 1914-1920
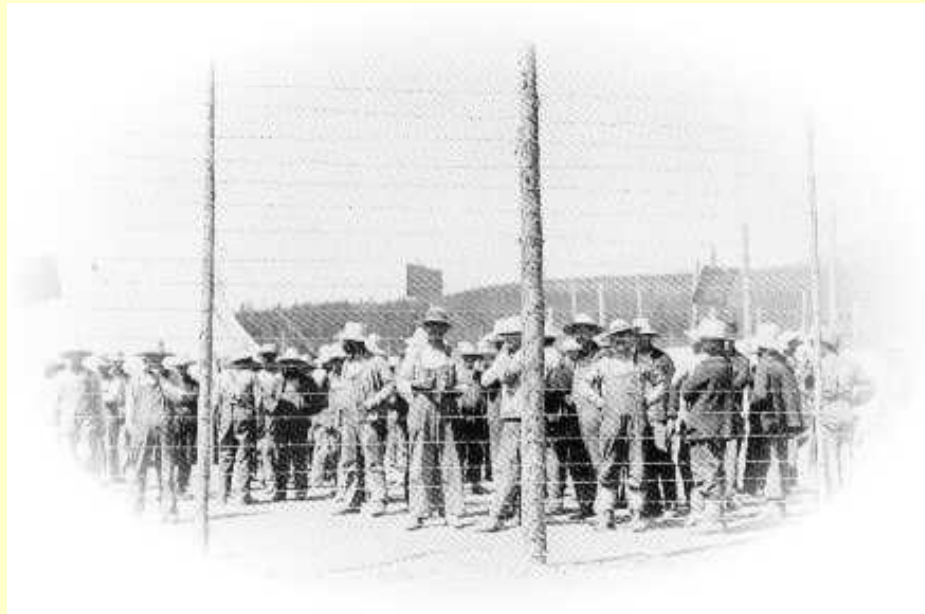
Lives Altered

- Ukrainian immigrants lost trust in the government after having their activities tracked and their loyalty to Canada questioned.

- Some Ukrainians were deported after the war. Others changed their names to hide the shame of being interned from their children.

- The ethnic pride and self-image of Ukrainians in Canada was negatively affected because of their internment as war criminals.

Moving Forward

- In order to prove their loyalty to Canada, large numbers of Ukrainian Canadians volunteered for military duty during World War II.

- Canadians of Ukrainian heritage continue to play a pivotal role in political, educational and cultural activities in Canada.

Distinguished Ukrainian Canadians include (left to right): former Governor – General of Canada Ramon Hnatyshyn, former Premier of Saskatchewan, Roy Romanow, Senator Raynell Andreychuk and well-known artist William Kurelek.
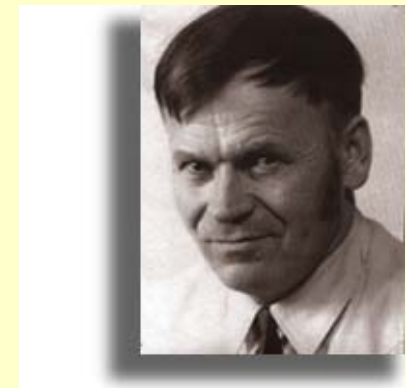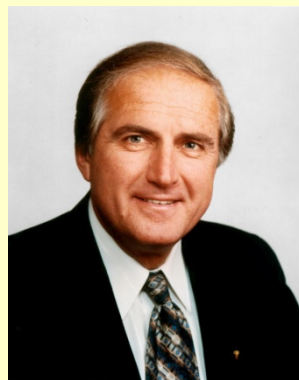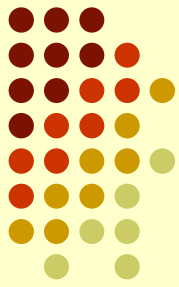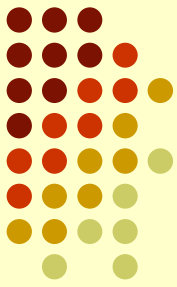
Photo Credits

- Slide 1: Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association website: http://www.uccla.ca/sources.htm Gerald William Kokodyniak, InfoUkes website: http://www.infoukes.com/history/internment/

- Slide 2: The Canadian Encyclopedia - Poster "160 acres of free land for all settlers...," published by Dept of Immigration 1890-1920 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/C-6196)

- Slide 3: Map of Austria-Hungary: Wikkipedia information at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary

- Slide 4: The Canadian Encyclopedia - Galician (Ukrainian) immigrants at Québec, circa 1911 (photo by W.J. Topley/courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-10401).

- Slide 5: Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association website:http://www.uccla.ca/sources.htm

- Slide 6: Map of Canada: *Luciuk, Lubomyr Y., " A Time for Atonement", The Limestone Press, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 1988, pages*

Recommended Resources

- http://www.uccla.ca/sources.htm
- http://www.infoukes.com/history/internment/gulag/
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainian_Canadian_internment
- http://scaa.usask.ca/gallery/ukrainian/
- http://www.histori.ca/prodev/lp.do?id=17554
- http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/ccs/Current-Constitutional-Issues/Ukrainian-Internment.php
- http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1SEC907466