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Coming of Age: Independence and Foreign Policy in Canada and Australia, 1931-1945

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The Halibut Fishery Treaty. The British could also take some comfort from
the fact that Britain had been a major player in the trade of halibut fish for centuries. However, the treaty was not without its critics. Many in the British Parliament were concerned that it would weaken their national security and economic interests. They argued that the treaty would allow the United States to gain control of the fishery and that it would be difficult to enforce.

The 1912 Treaty was not the only issue that caused tension between the two countries. In fact, there were several other treaties and agreements that had been signed over the years. One of the most significant was the Treaty of Washington, which was signed in 1880. This treaty established a more formal system of relations between the two countries and set the stage for future negotiations.

Despite the challenges, the relationship between Canada and the United States continued to evolve. In the years that followed, the two countries worked together on a number of important issues, including the construction of the Panama Canal and the development of the North American continent. These efforts helped to strengthen the bond between the two countries and laid the groundwork for future cooperation.

In the end, the efforts of both the Canadian and American governments were successful in managing the relationship between the two countries. While there were certainly challenges along the way, the two countries continued to work together and to develop a strong and enduring partnership.


dicitionary unit of the empire under British direction. The Canadian government, on the other hand, was determined to protect its own interests and to ensure that its voice was heard in international affairs.

The Canadian and American relationships have been characterized by a complex mix of cooperation and conflict. While there have been many challenges along the way, the two countries have also worked together to achieve important goals. The future of the relationship between Canada and the United States remains uncertain, but it is clear that the two countries will continue to be important players on the world stage.
the divided years of Canada and Australia exemplified the emphatic realization that the
canada and australia in the 1930s: working at cross-purposes

...towards the determination of interest. where an individual has a set of beliefs about the best course of action, it is likely that these will be reflected in his actions. for example, an individual who believes in the free market economy is likely to support policies that promote competition and reduce regulation. the opposite would be true for an individual who believes in a more regulated economy. however, when these beliefs are not in line with the actions of others, it can lead to conflict and dissatisfaction.

In summary, the 1930s in Canada and Australia were characterized by significant economic challenges and government responses. These challenges highlighted the importance of policy coordination and the need for effective communication and collaboration. The experiences of these two countries during this time can provide valuable lessons for current and future policymakers.
support from all of the dominions when it needed it most. Second, it differentiated intra-Commonwealth relations from relations between "foreign" states.

Even when the national interests of Canada and Australia came to the fore at Commonwealth meetings, the public portrayal still emphasized unity. One of the most glaring displays of Commonwealth fragmentation and dominion pursuit of self-interest occurred at the Ottawa Imperial Economic Conference of 1932. This gathering was the brainchild of Canada's prime minister, R.B. Bennett (1930-5), who believed that greater reliance on Commonwealth and imperial markets could offset the devastating effects of the Depression. The British, never keen on preferential tariffs, attended reluctantly but were hopeful that the dominions would lower their high protective tariffs against British exports. They misjudged the dominions, whose negotiators bargained single-mindedly to secure concessions that would benefit their exports, while making few reciprocal concessions. British delegations singled out Stanley Bruce, the leader of Australia's delegation, and Bennett for their ruthlessness in securing as much as possible while giving little in return. "Both Bennett and Bruce demanded further concessions - brutally and as if they were dictating terms to a beaten enemy, as indeed they were - and all were at once conceded." The British delegation was thoroughly disabused of the belief in collective interests prevailing over national ones. Thus this gathering rightly belongs to the national histories of the dominions. But the public portrayal of this meeting emphasized cooperation, not discord. The very fact of coming together, against an international backdrop of mistrust and chauvinism, was more important than the results. As Stanley Baldwin, who led the British delegation, explained to the opening session, the decision to exchange preferential terms signaled a willingness to subordinate national interests to collective welfare: "it marks the point where two roads diverge, the one leading to the development of purely national interest, the other to closer imperial unity." This description was totally inaccurate - but it was widely believed. Not on the heels of the Statute of Westminster, imperial preference suggested that ties remained strong and that practical realities reinforced a Commonwealth alignment.

The description of Commonwealth meetings as family gatherings further obscured the limitations of British authority over the dominions. Even Mackenzie King, who was scrupulous about upholding Canada's independence, fell into the trap of using the family analogy. For instance, after emphasizing the differences among Britain and the dominions at the 1937 Imperial Conference, King commented on how "we have enjoyed and exercised the family privilege of free and frank speech." The family construct perpetuated the historic roles of Britain and the dominions. Britain as the parent and head of the family could speak on behalf of the clan. The dominions were children, even if they were growing up. Thus the family analogy impeded the realization of Australian and Canadian independence.

Despite its attendance at imperial gatherings and the failure to distinguish itself at the League of Nations, Mackenzie King believed he had differentiated Canada from Britain. He regarded this as essential to Canada's domestic stability, even survival. King had witnessed the divisive effects of British foreign policy on English and French Canadians during the First World War. He believed his primary political task was to minimize this source of strain. His mottoes were "No Commitments" and "Parliament Will Decide," which he believed captured his commitment to preserving the sovereignty of the government of Canada. Without a doubt, King earned his reputation as a champion of Canadian sovereignty and national unity. But his tactic - adhering to a policy of inaction and non-commitment - did not positively demonstrate that Canada had a foreign policy, let alone that it controlled it. Until Ottawa affirmed its foreign policy powers by revealing what it stood for, rather than by refusing to state its views concretely, it did not fully own them.

The perception of Canada as subordinate to Britain in matters of foreign policy also persisted because Canada did support Britain in its greatest test of the 1930s: going to war against Nazi Germany. King had always intended to support Britain if a fight came. It was obvious to King that morality, justice, and law were on Britain's side. He rarely said this publicly because he did not want to be accused of following Britain's lead or of being implicated in British foreign policy, especially its wars. When Britain and Germany did go to war, King summoned parliament to debate whether Canada should also go to war. No vote was taken because support was overwhelming. King succeeded in bringing a united Canada into the war, thereby reconciling his domestic and external goals. Outside observers did not appreciate King's punctilious regard for Canadian authority and sovereignty. As Jay Pierrepont Moffat, the American ambassador in Ottawa confided to his diary, fighting alongside Britain reversed King's efforts to disentangle Canada from British foreign policy: "despite the outward trappings of independence, it [Canada] is, at least for the duration of the war, a mere adjunct of British foreign policy as laid down from London." Australia in the 1930s still did not try to disentangle itself from Britain. The strength of its attachment to Britain was evident in Australia's refusal to ratify the Statute of Westminster. When the attorney-general, Robert Menzies, introduced the statute to the House of Representatives in 1937, he described it as a "grave disservice" and an exercise in frustration because it attempted "to reduce to written terms something which was a matter of the spirit and not of the letter." Most of Australia's elected officials agreed so completely that they decided not to endorse it at all. Hardly surprising, in the realm of foreign policy Australia continued to support a collective imperial stand in international affairs, decided upon in London. Stanley Bruce, the high commissioner to London in the 1930s, noted that there was rarely
Canada and Australia at War—Parallel Paths

In the early years of the Second World War, the British Empire was Britain's refusal to treat them as independent states. This was not merely a consequence of the League of Nations. It was also a reflection of the view that Canada and Australia were part of the British Empire. This view was shared by many in the British government, including Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. Chamberlain believed that the British Empire was an indivisible whole, and that Canada and Australia were integral parts of it.

As the war progressed, the British government began to realize the limitations of this approach. The League of Nations had failed to prevent the outbreak of war, and Canada and Australia were not prepared to accept a subordinate role in the British Empire. They began to demand greater autonomy and self-determination for their countries. The British government was forced to concede that it could not continue to treat Canada and Australia as parts of the Empire.

In 1943, the British government began to pursue a policy of self-determination for Canada and Australia. This policy was embodied in the Commonwealth Relations Act, which gave the British government the power to enter into separate treaties with Canada and Australia. The Act also established a new relationship between the British Empire and its former colonies, based on equality and mutual respect.

The Commonwealth Relations Act was a significant step towards the independence of Canada and Australia. It was a recognition of the fact that these countries were no longer mere parts of the British Empire. They were now independent nations, with their own governments and constitutions. The Commonwealth Relations Act was a symbol of the changing relationship between the British Empire and its former colonies. It marked the beginning of a new era of international relations, in which the British Empire was replaced by a new system of international cooperation.
The department of external affairs as the foreign office. Its mission was to manage and promote the foreign relations of the Commonwealth. The department conducted significant missions with foreign countries, ensuring the promotion of the Commonwealth's interests. The department undertook various diplomatic and consular functions, including the management of consular services abroad. Its responsibilities included the representation of the Commonwealth in foreign countries, the protection of Commonwealth citizens abroad, and the management of foreign investments.
Unemployment and Poverty Policy: did unemployment and poverty rise, or fall, during the years of the Commonwealth's existence? Despite the Commonwealth's efforts to reduce unemployment and poverty, these problems persisted and, in some cases, worsened. The Commonwealth's policies often failed to address the root causes of unemployment and poverty, and the effects of these policies were unevenly distributed. The Commonwealth's approach to unemployment and poverty was often criticized for being too focused on short-term solutions and not addressing the underlying structural issues.

The Commonwealth's policies aimed to address unemployment and poverty through a range of measures, including job creation programs, education and training initiatives, and social welfare benefits. However, these measures often had limited impact, and in some cases, created additional problems. For example, job creation programs often failed to create sustainable jobs, and social welfare benefits were insufficient to lift people out of poverty.

The Commonwealth's policies also faced opposition from a range of groups, including business interests, who argued that intervention in the economy would stifle growth and hinder innovation. This opposition, combined with the Commonwealth's limited resources and the complexity of the issues it faced, made it difficult to implement effective policies.

In conclusion, the Commonwealth's policies to address unemployment and poverty were complex and often contradictory. While some measures had positive effects, others had limited impact or created additional problems. The Commonwealth's legacy in this area is mixed, with both successes and failures to be acknowledged. However, the challenges of unemployment and poverty persist, and the Commonwealth's approach provides a valuable lesson in the difficulties of addressing complex social problems.
The question of whether Australia's support for the meeting in America is the right move, and the potential implications for the relationship between Australia and New Zealand, is a matter of concern. While Australia's decision to send a representative to the meeting may be seen as a sign of support for the United States, it could also be viewed as a step towards further engagement with the United States on important issues.

In recent years, Australia has continued to strengthen its ties with the United States, with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visiting the White House in July 2016. This visit was seen as a significant moment in the relationship between the two countries, with Turnbull and President Barack Obama discussing a range of issues, including trade, security, and global governance.

However, Australia has also been cautious in its approach to the United States, with a focus on maintaining a strong relationship with China. This balance is likely to be a key consideration in any future decisions regarding international relations.

Overall, the decision to support the meeting in America is a complex one, with potential implications for Australia's standing in the region and beyond. It is important to consider the broader context and to reassess the relationship between Australia and the United States, as well as with other key partners, to ensure that Australia remains a strong and influential player on the global stage.
The continued strength of the Canadian dollar and the rising cost of living, combined with the economic downturn, have led to a significant deterioration in the country's economic situation. The government, in its effort to address these challenges, has implemented various measures to stimulate the economy and promote growth. These include tax cuts, increased spending on infrastructure, and initiatives to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.

In addition, the government has been working to strengthen its international partnerships, particularly with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, to expand trade and investment opportunities. This strategy is intended to diversify the country's economic base and reduce its dependence on traditional markets.

The government has also taken steps to improve education and training programs to ensure that the workforce is equipped with the skills needed to thrive in the global economy. This includes investing in research and development, as well as providing support for small and medium-sized enterprises to help them innovate and expand.

Despite these efforts, the country continues to face significant challenges, including the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, and geopolitical tensions. However, the government remains committed to working with its partners both domestically and internationally to navigate these challenges and build a stronger, more resilient economy for the future.

The two main issues discussed in the document are:

1. The need for economic stability and growth, which includes measures to stimulate the economy, promote innovation, and diversify the country's economic base.
2. The importance of international partnerships and trade agreements, including efforts to expand trade and investment opportunities with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The government is committed to addressing these issues through a combination of targeted policy measures and collaboration with its partners to ensure a more prosperous and resilient future for all Canadians.
Canada's contribution and performance were strong with this in mind. The expression of support and appreciation was meaningful, and both sides agreed on the need to work together to achieve common goals.

In conclusion, the levels of understanding and respect that were expressed during these interactions were significant. Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining a constructive relationship and working towards mutual benefits. The focus was on identifying areas of cooperation and potential collaborations in various fields.

The discussions highlighted the need for continued dialogue to address emerging issues and challenges. It was agreed that regular meetings and consultations would be valuable in ensuring a sustained and productive relationship.

In summary, the meetings were characterized by a strong spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. Both sides expressed a commitment to advancing their shared interests and building a strong partnership based on mutual benefits and cooperation.
The story of the Dominions (understanding was a case of standing on one leg). To understand the Commonwealth, we must understand the nature of the Dominions. The Dominions are now a part of the Commonwealth. This understanding is essential to grasp the full extent of the Commonwealth's impact on the world.

The Commonwealth and Australia: Middle Powers

Conclusion: Canada and Australia as Middle Powers

The Commonwealth, with its middle power status, plays a crucial role in international affairs. By working together, these two countries are able to achieve their common goals. The Commonwealth provides a platform for these nations to collaborate and strengthen their relationships. This cooperation is essential for maintaining peace and stability in the world.

The appeal of Canada and Australia to their middle power status lies in their ability to leverage their positions as middle powers. By working together, these nations are able to achieve a balance of power that is necessary for maintaining international order.

In conclusion, the Commonwealth and Australia are essential partners in the global community. Through their cooperation, they are able to achieve their goals and contribute to the betterment of the world.

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