Nativist, Fascist and Nazi movements sprung up in Canada between the first and second world wars. These groups promoted the idea of a country free of Jews. They derived many of their ideas and tactics directly from Fascist and Nazi organizations in Germany. Organizations with anti-communist, anti-immigrant, and anti-Semitic platforms provided an outlet for many Canadians to voice their anxieties about a changing nation.

Nativists opposed immigration and saw newcomers as a threat to Canadian society. Fascism, begun by Benito Mussolini in 1920 in Italy, promoted the ideas of militarism, ultra-nationalism, anti-communism, conformity of the group and allegiance to a single leader. Nazism was the ideology of Adolf Hitler’s National Socialist German Workers Party, which stressed many of the same ideas as fascism, along with racism and anti-Semitism.

There were many fascist groups in Canada during the 1930s, including the Canadian Nationalist Party of Winnipeg, the Canadian Guard based in Vancouver, the National Worker’s Party of Canada, and the Canadian Union of Fascists, which published *The Thunderbolt*.

**Brown Shirts in Winnipeg**

September 1933, a dozen ex-soldiers led by William Whittaker launched the brown-shirted Canadian Nationalist Party in Winnipeg. Highly militaristic and fervently patriotic, members wore swastika tiepins with their khaki uniforms and delivered fiery speeches against a backdrop of the Union Jack. They published *The Canadian Nationalist*, which featured anti-Semitic propaganda similar to that being produced in Germany that included allegations of a global Jewish conspiracy. The party and its publications played upon the poor economic conditions to denounce Jews violently and equate them with communists. Western fascism drew support from German and Ukrainian immigrants who held a historic animosity towards Jews. In 1935, a successful group libel suit was launched that prevented Whittaker and his publication from further vilifying Jews.

**Ontario Swastika Clubs**

As Ontario became more ethnically diverse in the 1930s, some Toronto residents began to feel threatened and complained of a “foreign invasion” and of “obnoxious and undesirable elements.” Swastika Clubs sprung up, expressed their anti-immigrant sentiments and waged violent street campaigns against Jews. Defiant youths sported swastikas on armbands, sweaters, bathing suits, and bare chests, and clashed with Jewish patrons.
On August 14, 1933, violence erupted after a predominately Jewish baseball team, the Harbord Playground, won a game at Toronto's, Christie Pits. A group known as the Pit Gang lifted a swastika-emblazoned sweater into the air. That night, Pit Gang members painted a large swastika and “Hail Hitler” on their clubhouse roof. The next day, during a second game, the crowd yelled anti-Semitic slurs. Six hours of fighting ensued during which both sides called in reinforcements and fought each other with baseball bats, stones, and lead pipes. Today, the Christie Pits riot stands as the worst race riot in Toronto's history.

Nazism in Quebec

Quebec nationalism, Catholicism and unfavourable economic conditions fuelled French Canadian anti-Semitism of the 1930s. Most disturbing were the extremist activities of Adrien Arcand and Joseph Menard. Arcand was an admirer of Adolf Hitler and Nazi racial policies. He drew inspiration, propaganda and funding directly from the German Nazi party. Determined to help roll back the Jewish “invasion”, Arcand formed the National Socialist Christian Party in 1934. A combination of German Nazism and Italian Fascism, the party espoused the values of law and order, a strong leader, and a Canada free of Jews.

In 1930, Arcand and Menard launched Le Goglu, one of many anti-Semitic publications that featured loathsome caricatures of Jews, historic accusations of blood-libel, world conspiracy and economic domination. Promoted as a “journal humoristique,” the newspaper was similar to the German Nazi publication Der Stürmer. Le Goglu received funding from the federal Conservative Party until it ceased publication in 1933.

For a brief period between 1936 and 1938, Arcand's politics gained public legitimacy and were supported by Quebec's provincial government. His party merged with other fascist groups including the Canadian Nationalist Party of Winnipeg to form the National Unity Party of Canada. After the outbreak of World War II and as Canada declared war on Nazi Germany, tolerance towards homegrown Nazis wore thin and Arcand's headquarters were raided. The police confiscated truckloads of anti-Semitic propaganda and arrested suspected Fascists. Arcand and other members of the National Socialist Christian Party were interned for the duration of the war.
Anti-Semitism and Nazism were not confined to Germany or Nazi-occupied Europe but were in fact too close to home. Explain why you think these racist ideologies found expression in Canada during the 1930s and 1940s and were not discredited until the outbreak of WWII. How can this help you understand the rise of Nazism in what was a modern, industrialized country like Germany? Explain.

In the 1920s and 1930s, many democracies ended, including those in Italy, Germany, Spain and Russia, and were replaced by totalitarian states. There were groups and organizations in Canada at the time, which believed that democracy was unable to meet the challenges of the day and should be replaced. Why did democracy survive in Canada during this period when it succumbed in so many other countries? Is democracy in Canada secure today?

Ernst Zundel arrived in Canada from Germany in 1958. He met and became a follower of Adrien Arcand, a right-wing author and activist known as “Canada's Hitler.” In 1996, Zundel was charged by the Canadian Human Rights Commission with using his web site to distribute hate literature and Holocaust denial material. He moved to the United States but was deported back to Canada by U.S. immigration agents. As of January 2004, Zundel faced deportation from Canada to his native Germany, where he is wanted on hate crime charges. Do you think Zundel should be deported from Canada to face hate crimes charges in Germany? To support your position, research the connection between Arcand and Zundel and compare their publications.
Photo
Nazis at a meeting in Canada, at an unknown location during the 1930s.
Courtesy of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives
Photo
The production of Nazi-style uniforms in Canada.
Montreal, circa 1938.

Courtesy of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives
Photograph
Synagogue defaced with swastikas.
St. Margerite (Lac Casson), Quebec, 1938.
Courtesy Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives
Photograph (top)
Anti-Semitic literature & Nazi publications of the National Socialist Christian Party.
Quebec, circa 1930s
Courtesy Don Stewart

Photograph (bottom)
Documents & propaganda seized by police during raids against suspected Montreal Fascists.
Quebec, 1940
Courtesy of the Canadian National Archives
Photograph
Adrien Arcand leader, National Socialist Christian Party, pictured at his typewriter. In 1938 his party merged with William Whittaker's Canadian Nationalist Party in the West and a newly organized Ontario group to create the National Unity Party with the goal of making Fascism accessible to all Canadians.
Montreal, Circa 1938
Courtesy of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives
Letter

Adrien Arcand, leader, National Socialist Christian Party writing in English to a sympathizer of the National Unity Party of Canada, outside of Quebec.

Montreal, August 3, 1939

Courtesy of the Canadian National Archives
Mock Currency
This mock currency was sent to supporters of the National Unity Party of Canada to acknowledge donations to the party's funds. A portrait of Adrien Arcand, Supreme Chief of the National Coalition of Canadian Fascists, appears at the centre of the bill.

**Courtesy Don Stewart**

Poster
The poster cordially invites young and old alike to attend a rally for the National Unity Party of Canada to fight the three plagues: war, immigration and unemployment.

Quebec, April, 1930s

**Courtesy Don Stewart**
Les dates d'assemblées se trouvent à la page 12

LE Fasciste CANADIEN

VENDUS AUX JUIFS!

Par les juivecrates King et Lapointe. — Pour permettre la réalisation de l'accord commercial anglo-américain, ils cèdent des privilèges canadiens chèrement gagnés, sans aucun avantage réciproque pour le pays. — Triomphe de l'international Juif, d'après les journaux nationalistes d'Angleterre. — Plus les démocrates nous trahissent, plus ils prouvent la nécessité d'un régime Fasciste patriotique, autoritaire et fort.

Patriotes indignés, venez lutter avec nous!

Les journaux nationalistes et Fascistes d'Angleterre soutenus par la Fédération des Industries Britanniques dénoncent un triomphe juif et une trahison démocratique le nouvel accord commercial anglo-américain qui sera bientôt signé. Les grandes agences de nouvelles (Presses), les grands journaux de contrôle (The Age et The Times) les organisateurs juifs, socialistes et populaires ont appelé à un parti anti-blanc à peu près

Tous ces organismes de haine et de vengeance, qui font les plus grands efforts pour préparer l'opposition à une guerre contre les pays libres des Juifs et étrangers. Tels Allemagne, Espagne, Portugal, Roumanie, Grèce, Autriche, Hongrie, Brésil, États-Unis, ont salué l'accord anglo-américain comme une contribution à la pacification mondiale. Leurs «efforts pour sauvet la croix par l'absolutisme» etc.

Fascistes musulmans, pour le commerce de la «morale» ! Le commerce international est une chance pour la France et pour le monde. Le commerce international est une chance pour le monde. Le commerce international est une chance pour la France et pour le monde. Le commerce international est une chance pour la France et pour le monde. Le commerce international est une chance pour la France et pour le monde.

Vraie définition

Brigade de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brigade de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brigade de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brigade de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brilgate de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brilgate de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brilgate de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire. — Brilgate de la mort : et bricolage, c'est à dire.

Anglo-American trade pact

Wall Street

City London

18

Le Fasciste Canadien was published by The National Socialist Christian Party and the Canadian National Socialist Party and edited by Adrien Arcand. The headline reads, "Sold to the Jews" The article denounces the new Anglo-American trade agreement as "democratic treason" and as a triumph for international Jewry. The cartoon depicts wealthy Jews on Wall Street and in London joining forces to bring about the financial ruin of the "white race." Montreal, February 1938

Courtesy of Don Stewart
The Ontario Swastika Club organized parades on the boardwalks of Toronto's beaches. Members sported swastika emblems on their shirts and taunted Jewish visitors in the area.

*Courtesy Toronto Daily Star, August 8, 1933*
Newspapers

Toronto newspaper headlines reported on the activities of the Ontario Swastika Club, which provoked outrage from the press and Toronto's Jewish community. Anxious about incidents of beachfront violence, law enforcement authorities and municipal leaders insisted that the Swastika Club give up its Nazi emblem.

Toronto, August 1933
Photograph (top)
Following a baseball game at Christie Pits Park in Toronto on August 14th, members of a neighbourhood gang painted a swastika symbol and the words *Hail Hitler* on the clubhouse roof.

Toronto, August 15, 1933
*Courtesy of the Toronto Daily Star*

Photograph (bottom)
Members of the Harbord Playground Juvenile baseball team of 1931, many of whom went on to play for the team in 1933. The victory of this predominantly Jewish team in the first game of a Toronto baseball series sparked events that led to the Christie Pits riots.

Toronto, 1931
*Courtesy of the Toronto City Archives, DPW 52-1492*
The Thunderbolt was published monthly by the Canadian Union of Fascists and edited by Charles Brandel. The front page article suggests that Jews financed and spread Communism world-wide. It is a direct response to an article by the "Committee on Jewish-Gentile Relationships" which tried to dispel misconceptions about Jews. Toronto, January 1939

Courtesy of Don Stewart
Photograph (top)
William Whittaker, head of the Canadian Nationlist Party of Winnipeg. A retired British soldier, he infused his party with militaristic patriotism. Members wore brown shirts and swastika badges. Shrugging off the obvious resemblance to Nazi storm troopers, Whittaker maintained that their costumes were “typical Western Canadian dress.”
Winnipeg, circa 1930s
Courtesy of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives

Photograph (bottom)
Members of the National Unity Party shown in the Nazi salute. The party was formed as a partnership between William Whittaker and Adrien Arcand, leader of the National Socialist Christian Party in Quebec.
Courtesy of the City of Toronto Archives, GM 52654
BOYCOTT THE JEWS!

ALWAYS BUY GENTILE!

THE JEWISH ARE A MENACE!
Their Religion, A Religion of Hate

Out of the strangest things in Canada, which is supposed to be a Christian country, is the fact that anyone who wishes can backstage the destruction of the Christian Religion by any denunciation. A person can print stones and stones against the Jews, and the expression of the same nature in any way possible, Christianity can be stamped out, boycotted, boycotted and turned to pieces and thrown down; if ever a city was persecuted from one Christian, no one gets saved and very little is done to protect the speaker.

A different story.

But, anyone who makes it a Jewish matter, incurs the law of the Jews in Canada, and there are thousands of the people who make it a moral duty not to support the Jews, and the Jews are treated like the criminals they are.

The Jews fear discussion of their religion.

The reason for the clausel up the Jews when anyone makes their religion is because they do not want their religion discussed. The Jews have quite well that when it is exposed their position is very uncomfortable. They know this from experience of experience. As such the Christian causes the Jews nothing that is so serious that the Jews are not their natural to speak against the Jews and the Jews are treated like criminals they are.

What is the Jewish religion?

The Jews are always looked upon as a very religious people, but very few Christians ever take the trouble to look into the Jewish religion. The Jews themselves are very careful to see that it is kept a secret. Let us look at some of the Jewish teachings. We quote from "Who are the Jews, and Why are They Harassed?" by Eliezer Ben Jacob, in "The Jewish Religion,

"The teachings of the Talmud are the core of the Jews' belief. God, Jehovah Himself, is the one and only God of the Jewish people. He is the creator of the world, the sustainer of the universe, and the redeemer of the Jews. He is the ruler of all creation. He is the source of all knowledge. He is the author of all good and evil. He is the judge of all men."

"This belief in God is the foundation of the Jewish religion. It is the basis of all Jewish thought and practice. It is the source of all Jewish law. It is the reason for all Jewish sacrifice. It is the cause of all Jewish suffering. It is the reason for all Jewish resistance."

"Thus shall not do injury to thy neighbor (Bible), but it is not said, 'Thus shall not do injury to thy neighbor.'"

Newspaper

The official publication of the Canadian Nationalist Party, edited by the party's leader William Whittaker. This issue exploits the staples of religious anti-Semitism and urges readers to boycott Jewish businesses.

Courtesy of Dan Stewart