

What Would You Do? Canada, Immigration, and Jewish Refugees

1. Discuss with a partner the differences between an immigrant and a refugee. Brainstorm a list of possible examples of refugees and immigrants in the news recently. What is the significance of the difference between refugees and immigrants?

Some examples of refugees and immigrants in the news are:

- Syrians leaving their country and heading to Turkey and other countries due to war and unrest in their country.
- The violence over the fight for Crimea is causing many Ukrainians and Russians to vacate their country.
- The Islamic group ISIS is wreaking havoc across the Middle East and forcing many native inhabitants to leave their homeland.
- Tamil refugees entered Vancouver, Canada on a boat that was refused entry into other countries.

The significance of the difference between refugees and immigrants is that immigrants come to a new country willingly for their own personal reasons, while refugees are technically forced out of their country due to political/economical/social/environmental strife.

2. As you read the evidence in this half of Section Three and the next (The Official View), gauge public opinion and the government’s attitude toward the Jewish refugee crisis. Monitor your data by completing a table like the one below.

Evidence Number	+ (For immigration)	- (Against immigration)	Justification (reasons)
3.28 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because Commissioner Turner is racist and talks about having the right kind of people in the country to bring up the right kind of nation.
3.29 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it clearly depicts anti-Semitic drawings and it is showing how Canadian laws won't budge when it comes to Jewish people and others with non-Christian views trying to enter Canada.
3.30 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it states that Canada's borders should be kept closed due to unemployment numbers and that the government should stay uncompromising when it comes to Jewish pressure.
3.31 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it discusses how the economic situation in Canada at this

			moment is terrible and that bringing Jewish refugees in would just make the problem worse.
3.32 (Public)	✓		This piece of evidence is for immigration because it states the problem that is taking place in Toronto and it discusses how the mayor is taking immediate action against it which is a positive in this situation. The mayor is trying to solve the issue and the newspaper is bringing attention to it instead of turning a blind eye.
3.33 (Public)	✓		This piece of evidence is for immigration because it says that after the series of events that took place on Kristallnacht, the Canadian people were outraged and demonstrated. These protests were accompanied by an outpour of letters to government offices in which they demanded that Canada should ease up on their policies and let Jewish refugees in.
3.34 (Public)	✓		This piece of evidence is for immigration because C. E. Wilson believes that Canada should share the responsibility of accepting a number of refugees in to the country along with other nations. This shows that Mr. Wilcox is clearly fine with the whole idea of immigration.
3.35 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it is saying that just because Germany is treating the Jewish people terribly, it does not mean that they should be able to come to Canada and live a good life there.
3.36 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because the petition that was signed by 127364 people clearly states that they are "vigorously protesting against all immigration whatsoever and especially Jewish immigration."
3.37 (Public)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because the sign distinctly says "no Jews allowed" which refers to Canadians not wanting Jewish immigrants in Canada.
3.38 (Government)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it prohibits all immigrants from landing in Canada except if they meet certain stipulations as outlined in the four points explained below.
3.39 (Government)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because Bennett states that Canada cannot accept Jewish immigrants into Canada because it wouldn't be fair to the other Canadians who are currently working or looking for any type of job opportunity.
3.40 (Government)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because Bennett has strong anti-Semitic views and dislikes the idea of immigrants coming to Canada and taking all of the job opportunities away from Canadians.

3.41 (Government)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because even though King would like to have Jewish refugees in Canada, the views of other Cabinet members and the public contradict his wishes, so he must put his country before his own desires. Therefore to keep the peace within Canada, he must decide not to accept a certain number of Jews.
3.42 (Government)	✓		This piece of evidence is for immigration because Arthur Heaps is saying that Canada is really strict on immigration and due to that, it is very cruel to the vast number immigrants who are refused entry into Canada. He wants Canada to ease its laws to allow immigrants to enter freely.
3.43 (Government)	✓		This piece of evidence is for immigration because King states that Canada should do its part and let immigrants in because of the strife they have to endure over in Europe.
3.44 (Government)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it states that as long as there is an unemployment problem in Canada, no immigrants should be allowed to enter the country.
3.45 (Government)		✓	This piece of evidence is against immigration because it shows that the government denied the passengers aboard the S.S. St. Louis entry into Canada and they were then forced to go back to Europe where many of them died.

3. What does the headline suggest about the newspaper's attitude toward the "swastika clubs"?

The headline suggests that the newspaper views are leaning more against the ideologies and actions of the "swastika clubs" (even though newspapers should just state the facts and remain unopinionated on any topic that they report on) because they bring to light the issue that is taking place in the city and are talking about how the mayor is immediately putting suggestions forward that are going to rid/diffuse Toronto of the recently formed anti-Semitic groups.

4. What does this sign suggest about the accuracy of Wilcox's observance in Evidence 3.34? Revisit his remarks when you have finished reading the next section (The Official View) about government responses.

This sign suggests that Wilcox's observance in Evidence 3.34 is inaccurate because in many pieces of evidence, it states that the public and the government share negative views on Jewish immigration into Canada. If Mr. Wilcox wants to state that other countries should gladly share the responsibility of accepting immigrants with open arms, then Canada should be more tolerant toward them (clearly not the case in Evidence 3.37) if they think that they are providing a "haven" for them.

5. Given the evidence presented here, should the government of Canada have allowed a significant number of Jewish refugees to immigrate here in the 1930s? Be ready to explain your position.

I think Canada should have allowed a significant number of Jewish refugees to immigrate here in the 1930s because they were facing deplorable conditions in Germany and other parts of Europe so with Canada being one of the largest countries in the world, it could have provided a refuge for them, at least a temporary one until circumstances improved. The Jewish immigrants would have been hard working citizens that would have used their stay here to contribute to the overall financial gain of Canada.

6. What "international problem" is King afraid of? What evidence from the previous section (The People's Views) might support his fears?

The "international problem" King is afraid of is unrest amongst the citizens due to unwanted Jewish immigrants entering their countries. Evidence 3.32 supports his fears because it shows that groups are being formed and are not afraid to showcase their anti-Semitic opinions through violence and other fear mongering tactics.

7. Using the evidence presented in Section Three, put together a horizontal timeline like the one below, plotting public and government opinion. Place events favouring refugees above the line; place events against refugees below the line. Use two different colours to represent government and public opinion. The dates should progress chronologically from left to right.

Rating Scale: Government and Public Opinion on Jewish Refugees

