

Canada's History of Welcoming Refugees

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Hungarians 1956/1957 - Canada accepted 37000 (same as U.S.A.)

Czechoslovakians

Chileans

Indo Chinese (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) "known as the 'Boat people'"

American "Refugees" (American Civil War & Vietnam War)

Sikh Refugees 1987 (174 by ship)

Tamil Refugees 1987 (175 by ship)

Ongoing immigration worldwide & refugee process

Today same tactic used to restrict refugee applicants by requiring strict rules around documents and identification in the name of security and counter-terrorism

Today, looking at the Syrian Refugee & Iraqi Refugee crisis, Canada has committed to 10000 more but that ends up being 600 per year for 4 years in the face of over 4 million Syrian refugees worldwide (tokenism)

A racist immigration policy dominated for much of Canada's history

The view of Canada as a "white settler nation"

Chinese Head Tax (policy aimed at slowing Asian immigration)

Late 1800s accepting only whites seeking entry into Canada from the U.S.A.

Early 1900s Black Americans fleeing racially motivated violence met with strict laws around health, education & finances meant to exclude (1911 - 200 Black Americans met the legal criteria & Black immigration banned outright)

"Blacks deemed unsuitable for the climate of Canada" Laurier Government

same excuse used for South Asians & Japanese "unsuited to Canadian climate given tropical origins"

1930s the Jewish "None is too many" policy (St. Louis ship carrying approx. 1000 Jews escaping Nazi Germany & Genocide) (even after WWII Canada denied refugees from death camps until 4 years after the war)

1914 - 376 South Asians on the ship Komagata Maru allowed to port in Vancouver but denied entry to Canada on the basis of race (decision supported by courts & the "Continuous Journey" law that restricted refugees based on how they travelled to Canada)

(CDN immigration officials sent to source countries to ensure tickets not sold to South Asians trying to come to Canada)

escaping brutal dictatorships & war

accepted, but then CON gov't changed the law to

make it harder to arrive by boat (panic around security & terrorism)