Canada Matures: Growth in the Post-War Period
1945 - 1960s
Canada’s Changing Role Internationally

• WWII had given Canada’s economy a huge boost. Canada was now in a position to help the countries ravaged by war.

• As a result Canada developed a new foreign policy – an action plan for handling its relations with other countries in areas such as trade, defense, foreign aid, and immigration.
Canada’s Position in the World

- After WWII two nations emerged as the most influential in international affairs – USSR and USA – they were referred to as superpowers! Other influential countries included Britain, France and China.

- Canada’s new status allowed it to become a **middle power**. We had influence because of our natural resources, military, size and political stability.

Other middle powers: Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Belgium
Canada’s Foreign Policy

To use Canada’s new international influence to our advantage the government developed its foreign policy on four areas;

1. Support of the United Nations to promote world peace
2. Co-operation with the US in continental defence
3. Support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for defence
4. Co-operation within a strong Commonwealth
The United Nations

- In 1945 the United Nations was formed. It is an international organization to promote peace (collective security) and address the global problems of poverty, health, human rights and justice.

- Canada, as a middle power, has played an important role in the development and operation of the UN.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoIafzc0k74
The United Nations

**Military Staff Committee**
Offers advice on military matters. The five main powers are represented.

**Security Council**
Five permanent members, plus ten elected for two years. Can decide on military action if necessary.

**Secretariat**
International civil servants who run the United Nations.

**Trusteeship Council**
Prepares countries for self-government.

**Secretary-General**

**General Assembly**
Each country has one vote. On major issues there must be a 2/3 majority.

**Social and Economic Council**
Deals with cultural, social, economic and health matters. Co-ordinates agencies such as UNICEF (United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund), World Health Organization, and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

**International Court of Justice**
Settles international disputes.
The Work of the UN

• Permanent HQ in New York City

• Security Council had 5 permanent members US, USSR, Britain, France, and China - and 10 members that serve for 2 year terms. They meet in cases of international emergency.

• Veto power: all five permanent members of the Security Council must approve all major decisions or the action is blocked. This is a powerful tool that sometimes prevents the UN from taking decisive action.
General Assembly

• The General Assembly meets once a year, each member has one vote.
• Countries pay the costs according to their ability to pay
• They discuss items like;
  • Human rights
  • Aid to developing countries
  • International use of the sea

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHmXZXsABm0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHmXZXsABm0)
Rise of the Superpowers

- The UN was formed to promote peace, but tension in the world was developing in another arena.

- Competition between the US and the USSR rose as the war ended. Each had large populations, masses of land and resources, huge militaries. They would compete to establish influence over countries defeated in WWII.
Basic Differences

- USA
  - Democracy
  - Private ownership & profit
  - Individual rights and freedoms

- USSR
  - Communist
  - Gov control of business and property
  - Gov control of rights and freedoms
Post War Problems and the Cold War

- At the end of WWII the Soviets had moved into Eastern Europe (Poland, East Germany, Albania, Czechoslovakia,....). Stalin had promised to withdraw his troops and allow free elections after the war as outlined in the principles of the Atlantic Charter – which stated that defeated nations should have the right to self-determination – the right to choose their form of government.

- When Hitler was defeated Stalin refused to honor his promise and took control of Eastern Europe
Cold War

- As WWII ended the Cold War began.

- The Cold War was the contest for international advantage between the US and the USSR and their allies. It was conducted by diplomacy, economic measures and propaganda rather than by military action.

- The biggest threat during the Cold War was the feared use of atomic bombs. Although it never happened there were several conflicts.
Canada and NATO

- NATO is a military alliance formed in reaction to the rising tensions during the early years of the Cold War. It was a defensive alliance whose members will defend each other in the event of an attack. Its members are committed to collective security.

- Members include: Canada, USA, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands.....

- The USSR formed its own military alliance called the Warsaw Pact.
Canada and NORAD

• Throughout the Cold War both sides were involved in an arms race.

• An arms race is a military competition or build-up of arms (especially nuclear missiles and bombs) between countries.

• By the 1950s missiles had been developed that could reach targets in North America in a matter of hours. Canada was now in the strategic position if a means of early detection could be found.
In North America three chains of radar stations were built to detect an air invasion of NA.

- Pinetree Radar System – along the Canadian-American border
- Mid-Canada line – along the 55° parallel
- DEW line – along the Arctic coastline
- HQ is in the Cheyenne Mtns in Colorado with another in North Bay, ON
Canada and the Commonwealth

- All members of the Commonwealth recognize the British monarch as head of the Commonwealth.

- The Commonwealth consists of countries with many different languages, races, religions, and cultures.

- One of Canada’s main roles within the Commonwealth is to provide financial aid, education, work experiences and technology to developing countries.