

Remembrance Day: Is time distorting our contemporary view on Canada's role in World War 2?

Jack Jedwab
 Association for Canadian Studies
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Some 75 years after the start of World War 2 a significant majority of Canadians agree that "Canada's soldiers played a very important role in the victory of the Allied Forces in the Second World War." That view is held by over eight in ten Canadians with 52% strongly in agreement. Given concerns about a lack of knowledge and interest on the part of Canadians in their country's past, the Government of Canada has put much effort into ensuring that Canada's contribution to the second World War is an important element in the construction of the country's historic narrative. Maximizing participation in Remembrance Day and support for the War Museum represent important examples in the Government's efforts in this regard. Most Canadians are rightly proud of their Veterans.

Canada's soldiers played a very important role in the victory of the Allied Forces in the Second World War

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Net Agree	81%	80%	72%	83%	80%	87%	79%	65%	69%	76%	81%	91%	94%
Strongly agree	52%	64%	31%	59%	60%	61%	49%	32%	33%	44%	53%	64%	75%
Somewhat agree	29%	26%	41%	24%	20%	26%	30%	33%	36%	32%	28%	27%	19%
Somewhat disagree	5%	1%	8%	3%	3%	1%	9%	9%	7%	6%	4%	2%	1%
Strongly disagree	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	3%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%
I don't know	13%	8%	17%	12%	13%	11%	11%	22%	21%	15%	14%	6%	4%
I prefer not to answer	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Canada was a country of some 11.5 million with a strong connection to Britain, a connection that was often evoked in justifying participation in the War effort. That period in the country's history was quite divisive as there were emotional

debates about the level of participation and particularly in Quebec where opposition to forced military service resulted in a 1942 referendum that severely polarized the nation.

The majority of Canadians concur that “World War 2 rallied all Canadians behind the Allied War effort” including some 51% of Quebecers. That view clearly runs counter to the divisive debates over participation in the second World War that appear to get insufficient attention in a revised narrative that increasingly makes Canadian participation in the second World War a central part of the nation’s story. Paradoxically older Canadians are more likely to agree that all Canadians rallied behind the Allied War effort.

World War 2 rallied all Canadians behind the Allied War effort

	World War 2 rallied all Canadians behind the Allied War effort												
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Net Agree	63%	68%	51%	70%	66%	65%	62%	43%	55%	55%	64%	75%	80%
Strongly agree	27%	33%	13%	35%	33%	27%	24%	11%	18%	26%	29%	34%	40%
Somewhat agree	36%	35%	38%	35%	33%	38%	38%	32%	37%	29%	35%	41%	40%
Somewhat disagree	11%	10%	18%	7%	4%	10%	13%	12%	13%	9%	11%	10%	10%
Strongly disagree	3%	2%	6%	2%	1%	3%	4%	5%	3%	4%	4%	2%	3%
I don't know	22%	20%	24%	20%	27%	21%	21%	38%	28%	30%	21%	11%	7%
I prefer not to answer	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%

	<i>Canada soldiers played a very important role in the victory of the Allied Forces in the Second World War</i>			
<i>World War 2 rallied all Canadians behind the Allied War effort</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Somewhat agree</i>	<i>Somewhat disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	47.8%	7.8%	2.1%	7.3%
<i>Somewhat agree</i>	35.5%	53.4%	31.6%	10.7%

<i>Somewhat disagree</i>	6.6%	18.0%	32.6%	19.6%
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	1.8%	3.4%	15.1%	45.9%
<i>I don't know</i>	8.0%	16.8%	17.8%	12.4%
<i>I prefer not to answer</i>	0.2%	0.4%	0.8%	4.0%
<i>Total</i>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%