PowerPoint Guided Notes Sir Wilfrid Laurier

# Canada is a Nation that stretches from Coast to Coast

Obstacles:

1. Economic power: Canada struggles to compete with their neighbour—the United States which pose a threat to their nation in the early years of Confederation.
2. Politic issues: Canada wants to become independent of Britain completely. Although they had power to run their own country, Britain still had some form of power over Canada’s nation as a whole.  
     
   Also, Canada has created tensions between multiple groups of people while forming a country: (First Nations, Metis, Chinese, Irish, French, etc.)

# Imperialism

First task for Laurier: Uniting the French and the

English: harder to do than just by saying.

Solution: Canada needs to be more independent.

English Canadians favoured the “mother country”

Britain---a country that expresses imperialism --extending control of a region by creating colonies

Problems:

Canada was using the British navy which were stationed in Esquimalt, BC and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Turning Points: An event or something that changes a decision and its consequences after.

1) South African War/Boer War 2) the Naval Crisis

# South African War/Boer War

Britain’s Imperialism causes the nation to try to control South Africa.

Boers—descendents of early Dutch colonists---resisted violently.

Britain wanted South Africa’s newly discovered gold and diamond mines.

Boers declared war on Britain in 1899.

Britain wants Canada (still connected to Britain at the time) to send troops to support the war.

**DECISION TIME FOR LAURIER!**

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LAURIER’S DECISION:

Tried to satisfy both sides: He sent “volunteer” troops to help fight the war so

That it wasn’t mandatory to fight.

BUT: as the war dragged on, Canada continued to send volunteer troops over

and spent $3million with 7300 volunteer troops total on a war that wasn’t even

supposed to be Canada’s business.

Angered the French citizens.

**The Naval Crisis**

Germany’s navy began to expand and challenge Britain’s domination of the sea.

Britain responds by building the ***HMS Dreadnought—***that started the naval race in the world.

English Canadians wanted the government to spend money to contribute to Britain’s navy. French Canadians wanted Canada to build their own fleet.

Laurier creates the Naval Services Act: Canada would have their own navy but will be lent to the British in times of need. Britain responds by giving them two cruisers: Niobe and the Rainbow.

By the start of WWI, Canadians still did not have a naval policy and were stuck with two obsolete, British warships. **Laurier was opposed!**