

Certainly there is more to learn from Canada's history during the war than phrasing and claims of national identity. After digging through historical journals, I found that a large majority of the secrecy in regards to Canada's involvement in the Great War surrounded government and army injustices towards its own peoples.

For example, the British Columbian government has a sketchy history in terms of accepting the Japanese, Afro-Canadian, and First Nations who wished to fight for the coasts and mainland's they too called home. At the beginning of the war, those who were not English-speaking white Canadians were turned away. This was not only the case in British Columbia. Government documentation of the scene in Nova Scotia tells how Afro-Canadian's who attempted to join the war were told by the recruiting department that, "this is not for you fellows, this is a white man's war."

Those who were turned away because of their race eventually fought in the war, and in most cases, they were very successful during their campaigns. However, the fact still remains that their original dismissal by the government was due to prejudice and racial fears. Surely there were those who were capable of transcending ignorant attitudes in some shape or form?

On the opposite side of the discrimination spectrum came the opportunity for the women at home to prove what they had already known, that they were fully capable at excelling in positions that were labelled by the patriarchal Canadian society

as "men's work." The Canadian women during the Great War did everything from sewing socks and canning fish to riveting aircrafts and packing munitions. Although they were paid less than the men for their services, their accomplishments were a huge stepping stone for women's rights in Canada.

It doesn't matter how you cut it, the Great War showed the best and worst moments of the world at large. Perhaps it is best to leave with the quote painted on pilot Eugene Bullard's aircraft, "all blood runs red."

