

# Liberal PM Mackenzie King: A simpleton who naively praised Hitler until 1939



King used mediums to talk with dead pets, relatives and politicians. More disturbingly, Canada's favourite prime minister had real meetings with living dictators, like Mussolini and Hitler, who shared his antisemitic and anticommunist views.

Even before the Russian revolution, and the first Red Scare (1917-20) Canada's Liberal and Conservative elites targeted leftwing activists and unions that might threaten corporate power. Besides being rabidly anticommunist, major Canadian institutions (political, academic, reli-

"I feel I must set out a policy in writing as Hitler has in 'Mein Kampf' [1925] - a constructive policy for 'protecting our peace.'" King's diary, August 9, 1936.

"I wished him [Hitler] well in his efforts to help mankind.... he truly loves his fellowmen, and his country, and would make any sacrifice for their good." King's Diary, June 29, 1937.

"I believe that the world will yet come to see a very great man-mystic in Hitler... He will rank some day with Joan of Arc among the deliverers of his people, & if he is only careful may yet be the deliverer of Europe." King's Diary, March 27, 1938.

"[Y]ou could do more than any other man living to help your own and other countries along the path of peace and progress." A letter to Hitler from King, February 1, 1939.

## William Lyon Mackenzie King Canada's most-elected Prime Minister 1921-1926, 1926-1930, 1935-1948

gious, economic and media) were riddled with violently racist, classist and antisemitic imperialists. This was normal for such ideologues who were sympathetic to the rise of fascism, and therefore happily supported it.

King embraced all of these ideologies. Bred by a wealthy family loyal to British imperialism, King was a top civil servant by 1900 and an MP by 1908. With a PhD in political economy from Harvard, he is the only Prime Minister to have had a doctor-

ate. His PhD thesis, "Oriental Immigration to Canada," was based on a 1908 report that he wrote as Deputy Minister of Labour. In it he said what was blatantly obvious to Canadian white-power elites that he served:

That Canada should desire to restrict immigration from the Orient is regarded as natural, that Canada should remain a white man's country is believed to be not only desirable for economic and social reasons but highly necessary on political and national grounds.<sup>1</sup>

After losing his seat in 1911, King did Liberal Party lecture tours. Then, when WWI broke out, he avoided the draft by moving to the US and working for J.D. Rockefeller Jr. (1914-18). (JDR Sr., an oil tycoon/robber baron, was America's first billionaire.) As the Rockefeller's labour consultant, King was paid the 2020 equivalent of \$405,000 per year. King's job was to help JDR Jr. deal with the 1914 strikes in which 75 were murdered. In the Ludlow Massacre alone, Rockefeller's thugs used machine guns to kill 21 strikers and family members. After leaving the company, King guided labour relations for other huge US firms, earning the 2020 equivalent of \$33,000 a week.

## Blind Faith in Crystal Balls and Hitler

King was a gullible and naive simpleton. This is clear not only from his trust in spiritualists, but from his faith in the Rockefellers, Mussolini, Hitler and other fascists.

King's use of ouija boards, crystal balls, palm readers and spiritualist mediums

## Liberal Immigration policies: "None is too many" vs. Too many is not enough

In 1939, Canada's Navy turned away a ship with 900 Jewish refugees. Forced back to Europe, many died in the Holocaust. When it came to Jews, Liberal policy was that "none is too many." King refused Jewish refugees coming to Canada from Germany and Austria. As he wrote in his diary: [N]othing is to be gained by creating an internal problem in an effort to meet an international one. We must seek to keep this part of the Continent free from unrest and from too great an intermixture of foreign strains of blood.<sup>1</sup>

In discussing increased RCMP powers, King said communists "are our real enemies and we must not allow subversive activities to gain headway at this time."<sup>2</sup> In 1940, Britain sent thousands of its POWs to Canada. Among them were Jews and communist who had fled the Nazis and their crazed fixation on Judeo-Bolshevik enemies. Aghast, the Liberals sent back as many as they could. Forced to keep 2,000 Jews and 300 Reds, Canada interned them, many un-

til 1943, in army-run POW camps surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire.<sup>3</sup>

In telling contrast to this "none is too many" policy towards Jews and Reds, the Liberals brought in many thousands of Nazi collaborators from Eastern Europe after the war, including 2,000 Ukrainian vets of the Waffen SS Galicia. While far-right émigrés welcomed this influx, it was opposed by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the leftwing Assoc. of United Ukrainian Canadians.<sup>4</sup>

Canada's self-image as a multicultural haven is ludicrous to First Nations and others subjected to racial and political bigotry. For generations, official government policies were blatantly racist, antisemitic and anti-Red. Ironically, far-right ethnonationalist émigrés were prime beneficiaries of Canadian multiculturalism. For example, after being the Nazi's top Ukrainian propagandist in WWII, deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland's grandfather, Michael Chomiak, was embraced by Canada. Freeland de-

scribed her grandfather's intense gratitude for Canada's warm benevolence:

I remember his kids once saying something mildly critical of Canada. He pounded his fist on the table and said he'd lived in six countries and Canada was the best in the world.<sup>5</sup>

Canadian governments continue to support far-right ethnonationalist émigré communities. Their shared anticommunist, proNATO beliefs continue to match Canada's enduring Cold War myths, policies and programs.

## References

1. Diaries of WLM King, March 29, 1938.
2. *Ibid.*, Nov. 16, 1939.
3. Martin Auger, *Prisoners of the Home Front: German POWs and 'Enemy Aliens' in Southern Quebec, 1940-46*, 2005. [bit.ly/Auger06](http://bit.ly/Auger06)
4. Richard Sanders, "Left-Right Camps: A Century of Ukrainian Cdn. Internment," *Press for Conversion!*, Spring 2016, pp.40-56.
5. Linda Diebel, "How Chrystia Freeland became Justin Trudeau's first star," *Toronto Star*, Nov. 29, 2015. [bit.ly/2mdiop6](http://bit.ly/2mdiop6)

indicate his dubious mental capacities. Between 1920 and 1950, King hosted many seances and believed he was talking with his dead siblings, father, grandfather and mother. King also suffered from the foolish delusion that he was conferring with the ghosts of Leonardo da Vinci and such deceased leaders as Wilfrid Laurier, Teddy Roosevelt, Lord Earl Grey, Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone. That King also communicated with three of his dead dogs, speaks volumes about the sanity of Canada's longest serving prime minister.

King's well-meaning but simple-minded idiocy would have been inconsequential had it not been for the power he wielded as Canada's prime minister for 22 years. King's leadership before WWII exhibited his fawning adulation for Mussolini<sup>2</sup> and Hitler, whom he met and admired.

### King's Man Date with der Führer

In June 1937, King was in Berlin to meet Hitler. He also met a slew of other Nazi war criminals, like Gestapo founder Hermann Göring and SS Gruppenführer Konstantin von Neurath, who were sentenced at Nuremberg.<sup>3</sup> King had wonderful things to say about them all, but was most effusive about Hitler, who he lovingly revered.

King was overjoyed to meet Hitler, calling it "the day for which I was born." His diary describes how he praised Hitler on "the constructive work of his regime, and said that I hoped that that work might continue. That nothing would be permitted to destroy that work." King said he also told the Führer that his great work "was bound to be followed in other countries to the great advantage of mankind." King congratulated Hitler for "what he was seeking to do for the greater good of those in humble walks of life" and said he "was strongly in accord with it, and thought it would work." Saying Hitler "would be remembered" for his good work, King told him "to let nothing destroy that work." King concluded his naive praise by saying "I wished him well in his efforts to help mankind."

King was easily seduced by elitist trappings of power and dazzled by conspicuous displays of wealth. After being greeted by a "guard of honour" at Hindenburg Palace and then "conducted upstairs, preceded formally by attendants" "attired in court dress," King was awed by Hitler's entourage of diplomats, and those in Nazi military uniforms and "Court dress."

King was also impressed by Hitler's love of mountains, because "he needs the quiet and nature to help him to think out the problems of his country. It seems to me that

## King supported Adolph Hitler throughout the 1930s

*He should have known better. Here are a few Nazi crimes from that decade:*

**1933 Feb. 27:** German parliament & media falsely blamed Reichstag fire on communists.

**Feb. 28:** The Reichstag Fire Decree allowed internment without trial. Within months, 100,000 people, mostly communists, were interned.

**Mar. 22:** Opening of what Heinrich Himmler called Germany's "first concentration camp for political prisoners," at Dachau, near Munich.

**April 1:** The Nazi Party, SS and the Hitler Youth began a boycott of Jewish businesses.

**May 10:** Students and Nazi Party members held public rallies across Germany where they burned books by Jews and political opponents.

**1934 Aug. 19:** Hitler declared himself Führer and became absolute dictator of Germany.

**Sept. 15:** Hitler "Race Laws" prohibited intermarriage and sexual relations between Jews and those of "German or related blood."

**1935 April 1:** Germany's Nazi government banned all Jehovah's Witness organizations.

**June 28:** Germany outlawed male homosexuality and began their systematic persecution.

**1936 June 6:** A national decree on "the Gypsy plague" was announced. State and local police forces rounded up Roma and others said to be behaving in "a Gypsy-like manner."

**July 12:** Opening of Sachsenhausen concentration camp, mostly for German communists.

**Aug. 28:** Germany began mass internment of Jehovah's Witnesses in concentration camps.

**1937 July 15:** Opening of the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany.

**Nov. 8:** *Der Ewige Jude* (The Eternal Jew), a Nazi propaganda exhibit, opened in Munich.

**1938 Mar. 11-13:** Nazi Germany invaded

Austria. Street violence against Jews in Vienna was the start of antisemitic riots across the Third Reich that continued until the fall.

**June 13-18:** Police arrested about 9,000 so-called "asocials" and convicted criminals, including about 1,000 Jews. This was the first mass arrest of Jews in Nazi Germany.

**May 3:** Opening of the Flossenbürg concentration camp in northeastern Bavaria.

**Aug. 8:** Opening of the Mauthausen concentration camp near Linz, Austria.

**Sept. 29-30:** Germany, Italy, UK and France sign the Munich agreement to approve Nazi Germany's intent to invade part of Czechoslovakia. That occupation began on Oct. 1.

**Nov. 9-10:** The Nazis burned synagogues, looted Jewish homes and businesses. About 30,000 Jews were interned in the Dachau, Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald camps.

**Nov. 12:** The Nazi "Decree on the Elimination of the Jews from Economic Life" barred Jews from selling any goods or services.

**Dec. 3:** A Nazi decree forced Jews to sell property, businesses and stocks to non-Jews, usually at prices far below market value.

**Dec. 8:** Heinrich Himmler issued the Nazi Decree for "Combating the Gypsy Plague."

**1938 Jan. 30:** Hitler declared that if there was another world war, "International Finance Jewry" was responsible. The result, he said, would not be "the Bolshevization of the earth and with that the victory of Jewry, but rather the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe."

**May 5:** Opening of Ravensbrück, the women's concentration camp, near Berlin.

**Source:** Key Dates, *Holocaust Encyclopedia* encyclopedia.ushmm.org/tags/en/tag/key-dates

in this he was eminently wise."

King took Hitler at face value and read much into his "smooth skin" and facial expressions. Saying the Nazi leader "smiled very pleasantly," he remarked on the "appealing and affectionate look in his eyes." Hitler's "eyes impressed me most of all," cooed King. "There was a liquid quality about them which indicate keen perception and profound sympathy." Hitler, King said confidently, "is really one who truly loves his fellow men, and his country, and would make any sacrifice for their good."

### Hitler as King's personal 'guide' on 'path of peace and progress'

King called Hitler a "very nice," "sweet," "calm, passive man" and said "one could see, how particularly humble folk would come to have a profound love for the man."

King's love for Hitler was clear. "As I talked to him," King said, "I could not but think of Joan of Arc. He is distinctly a mystic."<sup>4</sup>

In March 1938, King told his diary: "I believe ... the world will yet come to see a very great man-mystic in Hitler" and he "will rank some day with Joan of Arc among the deliverers of his people, and if he is only careful may yet be the deliverer of Europe." Besides seeing Hitler as the potential saviour of Europe, King also saw Hitler as his own personal "guide." Hitler, King said, was meant to guide me at this time to the purpose of my life—...to help men to know the secret of the path to peace, in industrial & international relationships.<sup>5</sup>

In 1937, King told Hitler that he "could do more than any other man living to help your own and other countries along the path of peace and progress." In another