

Two different perspectives emerge if Canada's response to the outbreak of war in 1914 is compared to its reaction to the outbreak of war in 2001. There is a dramatic difference between the two reactions, and this difference is mainly due to several factors which may have contributed to the people's opinions and affected their views in 1914 and in 2001.

When Britain declared war on Germany in 1914, Canada was automatically at war since it was a British colony. During that time, the people's enthusiasm and excitement about the war were shown. Based on an article from Toronto *Mail and Empire*, 1914, the people were "cheering" and it was evident that they show patriotism towards Great Britain. It was indicated that they "greeted the news" that Britain, their "Mother Country" had declared war on Germany. In the article, it was noted that groups of men sang "Rule Britannia", "God save the King", and "Onward Christian Soldiers." These songs that they sang show that they are patriotic and religious people – primarily Christian people. Based on a visual source from *Queen's University Archives*, a photo taken in 1914, the pro-war crowd were mostly young, Caucasian males.

On the other hand, during the outbreak of war in 2001, a totally different perspective was shown. The people illustrated an anti-war stance. No enthusiasm or excitement was evident. Based on an article from *Vancouver Sun*, 2001, the people protested against the war and shouted for peace. According to the article, some of those protesters were female Afghans, and their perspectives were also noted in the article. An anti-American statement was even quoted from a female Afghan. From the photo taken in 2001 (from *Vancouver Sun*), a very diverse crowd can be seen, unlike the crowd in 1914. People were of different ethnicities, gender and religions. Diversity is very evident, both the newspaper article and the photo give multiple perspectives. An illustration of a dove, which symbolizes peace, being held by one of the female protesters can also be seen in the visual source.

Analysing the primary sources from 1914, one could see bias. Both written and visual sources presented the perspective of a single majority group – young, white males. In the photo, one could hardly see females, and in the article it was indicated “groups of men.” The primary sources from 1914 only contain a perspective from a single majority group, whereas in the primary sources from 2001, one could see multiple groups, and diverse crowd. Not only males were present, but also females. Ethnicities, ages, and religion also vary, so perspectives of different kinds of people were presented.

Several factors played an important role in the response of the people to the outbreak of war in 1914 and in 2001. In 1914, Christianity (Anglican or Protestant) was the main religion of the people. Religion united the country, and it played a role in prompting the people to feel the sense of duty, and to feel obligated that they should protect and serve their families and country. Some Canadians of British origin also felt the ‘patriotic urge’ to participate in the war. Also, due to some financial hardships, the people see the war as a source of income and jobs. Another factor is gender expectation, and in 1914, males were deemed by the society to be brave, and strong, and were heavily expected to participate in the war and serve.

The media factor and technology contributed a lot to the people’s views and opinions. Since in 1914, technology was not that advanced, there was a lack of media; Canadians would hardly see the negative effects of war. Due to lack of media in 1914, Canadians were not educated nor informed about the destructiveness of war and how violent it could be. However, in 2001, technology and media were already advanced and people were aware of the violence of war. Canadians have seen the consequences of war through media, and this may have contributed to the development of their anti-war stance.