

HIS311- March 3, 2016

# Pierre E. Trudeau & Canadian Foreign Policy



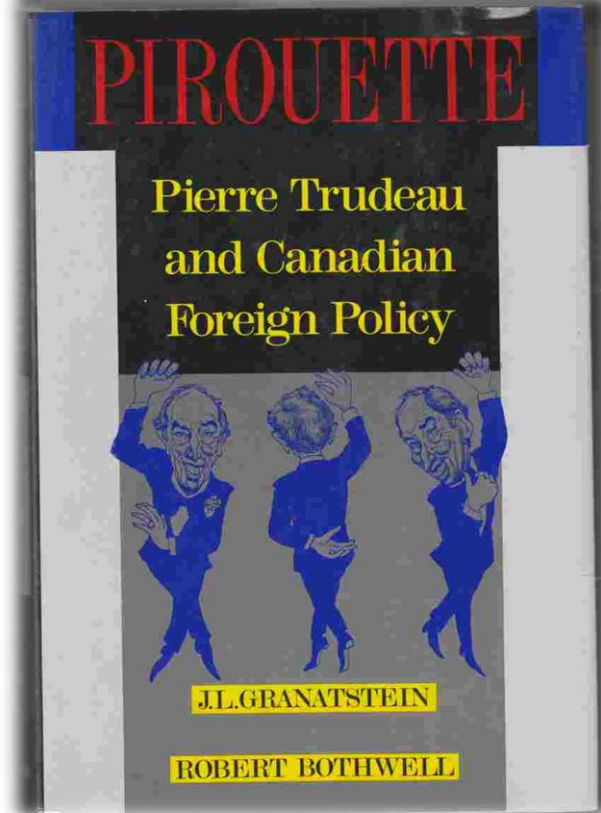
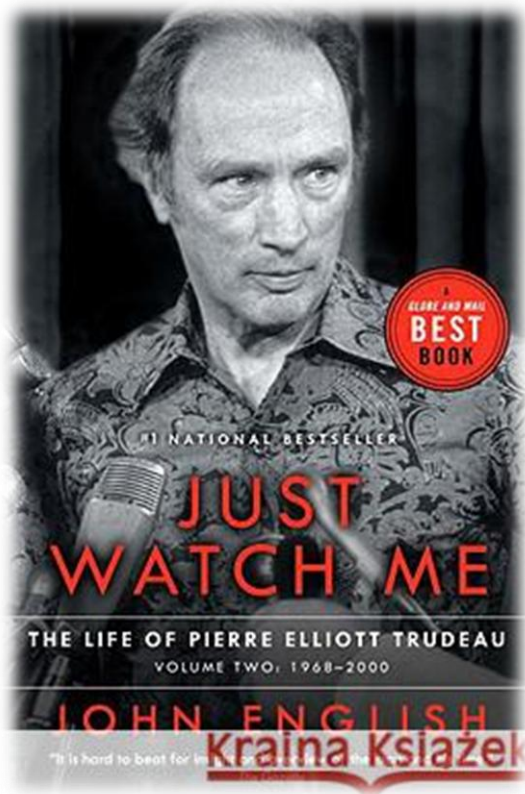
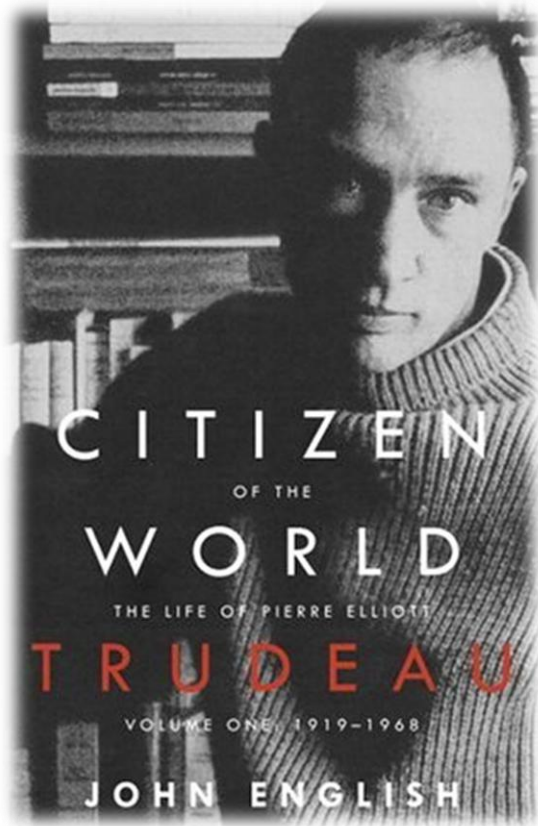
# AGENDA

- **GOAL: Assessing the Trudeau era in Canadian foreign relations** (68-79 & 80-84)
- Focus on:
  - Trudeau's background, style & world views
  - Dealing with Quebec
  - Canadian-American relations
  - Economic nationalism & the Third Option
  - Trudeau & Communism

# Reflecting upon Trudeau (video)

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# The #Trudeau Era...>>>



# Famous quotes by Pierre E. Trudeau\*

- “The attainment of a just society is the cherished hope of civilized men.”
- “There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.”
- “Of course a bilingual state is more expensive than a unilingual one — but it is a richer state.”
- “As against the “invisible hand” of Adam Smith, there has to be a visible hand of politicians whose objective is to have the kind of society that is caring and humane.”

# "A citizen of the world"



- Born 18 October 1919 in Montréal
- the son of a successful French Canadian businessman and a mother of Scottish ancestry
- Wealthy family, extremely protective mother
- Jesuit Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, Université de Montréal, Harvard, and the London School of Economics, Sorbonne
- Travelled a lot in his youth (backpacking)
- *Cité Libre & a spirit of contradiction*
- Law professor (constitutional law)

# Trudeau's domestic legacies >>>

- A new **Canadian Constitution** with an entrenched *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- *Official Languages Act* in 1969
- While he played an important role in **defeating the Quebec separatist movement of the 1970s and 1980s**, his federalist stance as well as his language and economic policies alienated many in Canada, particularly in the western provinces.
- **Prime Minister of Canada 1968–79 & 1980–84**



# Patriation of the Constitution (1982)





# October Crisis & War Measures Act

- October Crisis began **5 October 1970** with the kidnapping of James CROSS, the British trade commissioner in Montréal, by members of the [Front de Libération du Québec](#) (FLQ).
- Minister of Immigration and Minister of Labour [Pierre Laporte](#), was kidnapped and killed....This help would lead to the only invocation of the **War Measures Act** during peacetime in Canadian history.

# “Just Watch Me” (video clip)

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7\\_a2wa2dd4&ebc=ANyPxKqVP9cd8LmM8zVs2FSwRD9g4c7kfysyll-9Tt6mN5qnMpmoNqGi74GelqoWfDUaxuDro6GUPbCtsqL6UqJLD1KX9MOXRw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7_a2wa2dd4&ebc=ANyPxKqVP9cd8LmM8zVs2FSwRD9g4c7kfysyll-9Tt6mN5qnMpmoNqGi74GelqoWfDUaxuDro6GUPbCtsqL6UqJLD1KX9MOXRw)

# #Trudeaumania



# Trudeau & Barbra Streisand



# Trudeau's style **\*\*EXAM**

- High standard for intellectual conversation
- Perfectionist but preferred genuine interactions
- Believed in discussions & emphasis on process (hated artificial settings) => NOT a fan of UN/NATO
- Had a coherent approach to policies
- Stress on informality (enjoyed the Commonwealth PM's Meetings)
- Visionary in domestic affairs but extremely pragmatic in international affairs
- Not a fan of the British Empire/did not get along with many of the US presidents (Nixon, Reagan..)



# 1977 "Pirouette" - Queen Elizabeth II



# Pierre Trudeau & CA-US Relations



Living next to you is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if I can call it that, one is affected by every twitch and grunt.

(Pierre Trudeau)

[izquotes.com](http://izquotes.com)



# Pierre Trudeau & CA-US Relations

- Trudeau was not particularly interested in the US, even though trade/defence relations remained very relevant in the Cold War phase
- Trudeau's views on foreign affairs: very conventional; Balance of Power best left alone
- Got along with Ford, but found Reagan and Nixon baffling ("grade 2" level of joke 1981)

# Economic nationalism in Canada\*\*

- a movement aimed at achieving greater control by Canadians of their own economy
- Protectionism in trade & national ownership
- dates at least to the *National Policy of 1879*
- rapid increase of foreign ownership in the Canadian economy after WWII was linked to the rise of the multinational corporation.

# The Walter Gordon Commission

- *Canada's Economic Prospects* (1955-57), under Walter L. Gordon, established in response to the growing tide of foreign ownership in the Canadian economy, estimated at that time to be about 40%.
- Noted the **growth of foreign direct investment**, concluded that perhaps "legitimate Canadian interests" were being compromised in the process; Canadians should be permitted at least part ownership in foreign-owned subsidiaries operating in Canada.

# Surge of economic nationalism

## (60s) \*\* EXAM

- University League for Social Reform:  
*Nationalism in Canada*(1966).
- The book was followed by 3 more government-sponsored reports in the late 1960s and early 1970s which described various problems created by foreign-owned subsidiaries operating in Canada

# Surge of economic nationalism

## (60s) \*\* EXAM

- The Watkins Task Force, in its **1968** report [Foreign Ownership and the Structure of Canadian Industry](#), recommended the creation of a special agency to co-ordinate government policies and programs dealing with multinational corporations

# 1972 Gray Report \*EXAM

- 1972 *Foreign Direct Investment in Canada*, known as the Gray Report after its chairman, Herb Gray, again recommended the creation of a "screening agency," but also specified the particular areas that should be considered in the decision to permit or forbid a foreign direct investment proposal.

# FIRA (1974)

- Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) set up in 1974 began to review all proposals for **foreign takeovers of existing businesses or the creation of new foreign-owned businesses in Canada**, for the purpose of ensuring maximum benefits to Canadians from these enterprises.
- National Energy Program, Petro Canada, etc..



# The "Third Option" (1972) **\*\*EXAM**

- Mitchell SHARP, secretary of state for external affairs, **calling for a lessening of US economic and cultural influence on Canada.**
- Noting an increasing nationalism on both sides of the border, the question of how to live "distinct from, but in harmony with" the US.
- He rejected 2 options, status quo and a deliberate policy of "closer integration with the United States."

# The "Third Option" (1972) **\*\*EXAM**

- Instead, he argued for a "third option" which would "develop and strengthen the Canadian economy and other aspects of its national life and in the process reduce the present Canadian vulnerability."
- Looking towards Asia & Japan...Ultimately failed because of geostrategic realities
- Mulroney's era: Free trade with the U.S.!

# Trudeau & Communism



# Trudeau & "Give Peace a Chance"



I must say that "Give Peace a Chance" has always seemed to me to be sensible advice.

— *Pierre Trudeau* —