

ences have supplied most of the matter for our social and political arguments.

These considerations lead directly to the central facts of our political life. Unlike the other nations in this hemisphere, Canada has no revolutionary tradition, with its myths and heroes. Existence was too precarious and too dependent upon the merchants and administrators and soldiers sent out from the imperial centres of Paris and London to allow for revolution. This trend was strongly reinforced by the conservatism of the early settlers. Those of French origin stoutly rejected both the American and the French Revolutions and all their works. The English-speaking refugees from the rebellious thirteen colonies went north in order to live in a country that would still be ruled by British law and social custom.

The appeal of later would-be revolutionaries to such a population, was extremely limited, especially when the restless or dissatisfied could so easily cross the border. Canada, in fact, has been from the beginning a stopping point for millions of Europeans on their journey to the hoped-for prosperity of the United States. Even now there are at least as many Canadian-born persons living there as the total population of several of our provinces. Meanwhile fresh waves of foreign immigration have been moving into Canada. Since the end of the Second World War, the number of new arrivals has equalled nearly one-seventh of our total population. The mobility of our people, both within the country and across our borders is extremely high; Canadians, new and old alike, change their place of residence on the average every six years. Such mobility is in itself a strong factor making for a conservative social and political order for the advocates