

CANADA'S ENTRY INTO WAR

Canada is proud of her position in the sisterhood of the British Commonwealth. But that position and that association, had other reasons been lacking, would not have sufficed to bring Canada into a European war. Ours was no automatic response to some mechanical organization of Empire. Canada's entry into war was the deliberate decision of a free people, by their own representatives, in a free parliament.

Canada is a nation of the new world. As a nation of the new world, we placed ourselves freely at Britain's side because Britain's cause was the cause of freedom, not in this island alone, not in the British Empire alone, not in the old world alone, but everywhere in the world. Lincoln, in his day, saw that the United States could not survive half slave and half free. Likewise, the Canadian people have clearly seen that the world of today can not long continue half slave and half free. Ere Poland was invaded, we had come to see, as you had come to see, that Nazi Germany had been maddened by the poison of the evil doctrines of race and of force; that the lust and passion of her rulers could be satisfied only by the blood and soil and treasure of her neighbours. We were well aware that ambition feeding on itself would steadily grow. We saw that if Hitler was successful in his immediate aims, the whole world would soon be threatened by the unlimited ambition of evil men, and by the might of the greatest military machine the world has ever known.