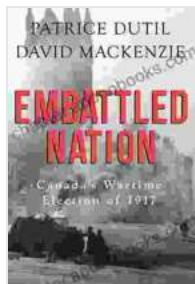


Embattled Nation: Uncovering the Pivotal 1917 Wartime Election in Canada



Embattled Nation: Canada's Wartime Election of 1917

by Sanford Levinson

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 7420 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 362 pages
X-Ray : Enabled



A Time of Turmoil and Division

As the Great War raged across Europe, Canada found itself grappling with profound social, political, and economic challenges. The conscription crisis, which erupted in 1917, threatened to tear the nation apart along linguistic and cultural lines. Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden's Conservative government pushed for mandatory military service, while Opposition Leader Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Liberals vehemently opposed it, fearing a backlash from the French-Canadian population.



The Rise of Sir Robert Borden

In the midst of the turmoil, Sir Robert Borden emerged as a charismatic and determined leader. A prominent lawyer and politician from Nova Scotia, Borden had served as Prime Minister since 1911. He was known for his unwavering support for the war effort and his ability to navigate the complex political landscape. Borden's vision for Canada was one of unity

and strength, and he believed that mandatory military service was essential to the nation's success.



Laurier's Opposition

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's first French-Canadian Prime Minister, led the opposition to conscription. A respected elder statesman, Laurier had served as Prime Minister from 1896 to 1911. He believed that conscription would

alienate French Canadians and further divide the nation. Laurier's opposition to the government's war policy resonated deeply with many French Canadians, who feared discrimination and the loss of their cultural identity.



The Battle at the Polls

The 1917 election campaign was one of the most bitter and divisive in Canadian history. The country was deeply divided on the issue of conscription, and the candidates traded barbs and accusations throughout the campaign. Borden accused Laurier of being unpatriotic and disloyal, while Laurier painted Borden as a warmonger who was willing to sacrifice the nation's unity for his own political ambitions.



Borden's Triumph

In the end, Borden's Conservatives emerged victorious, winning a slim majority in the House of Commons. The election results were a reflection of the deep divisions within Canadian society, with the Conservatives winning support in English-speaking Canada and the Liberals dominating in French-

speaking Quebec. The victory gave Borden a mandate to implement conscription, which he did in the following year.

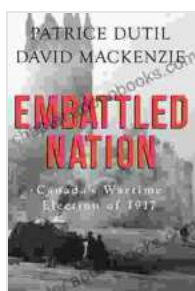


A Lasting Legacy

The 1917 Wartime Election had a profound impact on Canada. It revealed the deep divisions within the nation and tested the limits of its unity. The election also marked a turning point in Canadian history, as it solidified Borden's leadership and set the course for Canada's involvement in the Great War. The legacy of the election continues to shape Canadian politics and society today.

The Embattled Nation: Canada's Wartime Election of 1917 is a fascinating and important chapter in Canadian history. It is a story of political turmoil, social divisions, and the extraordinary leadership that shaped the course of Canada's involvement in World War I. By exploring the events and personalities of this pivotal election, we gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and triumphs that have shaped our nation.

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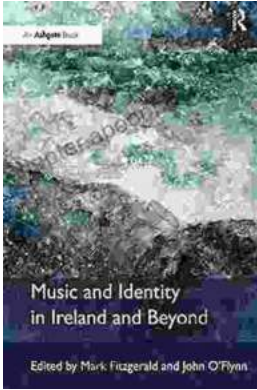
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