

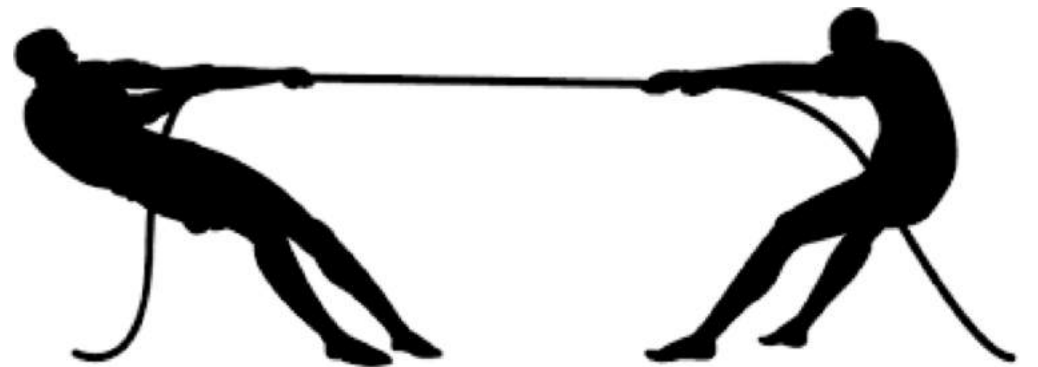
Chapter 5: Exploring Loyalties

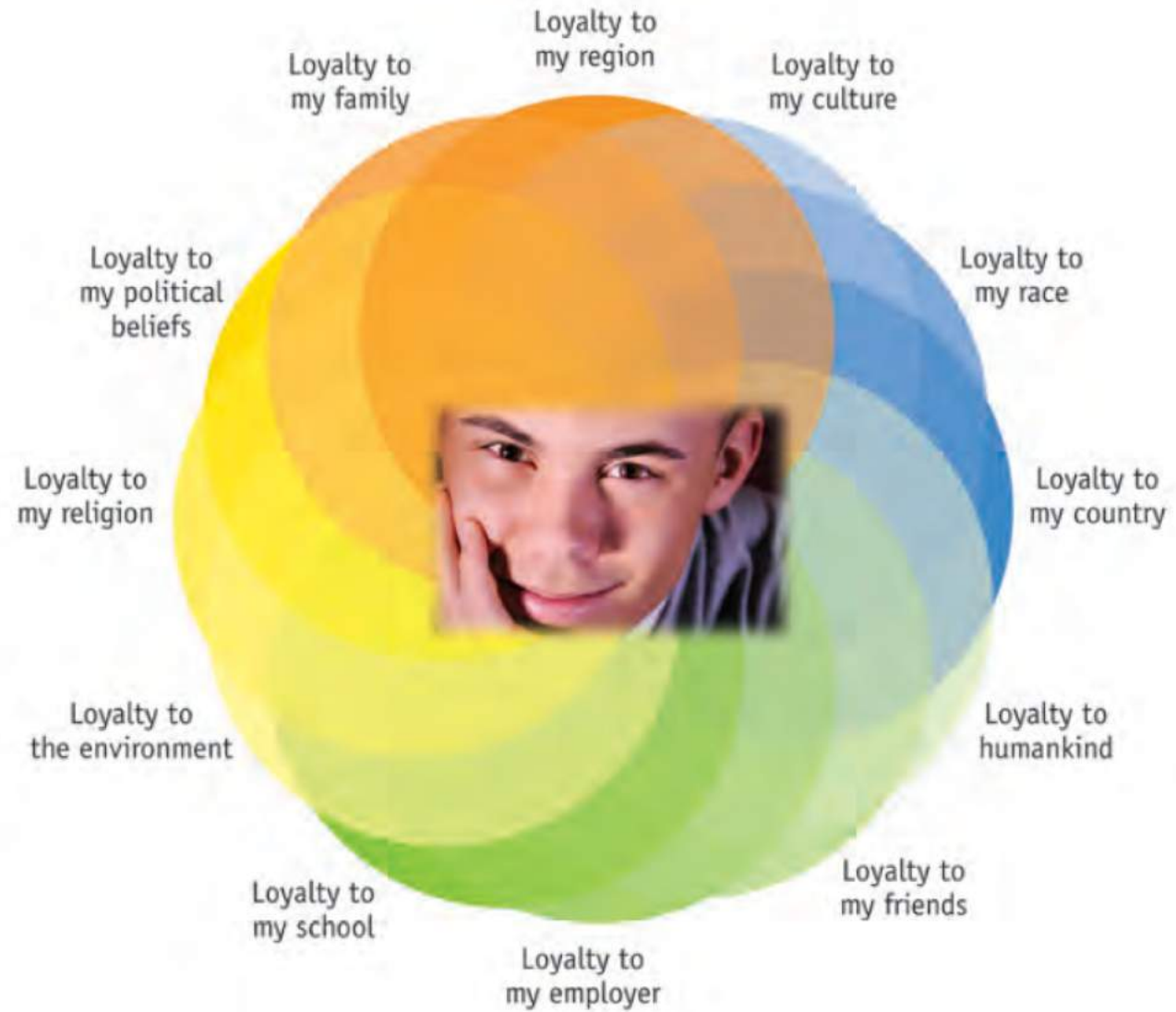
SS 20-1 Ms.Gill

Exploring Loyalties

An individual can identify with and be loyal to many different ideas, groups, and nations at the same time. In your own life, you may have felt challenged at one time or another by the different expectations of groups to which you have ties, such as your country, family, and friends.

To what extent have you managed to maintain a balance between your different loyalties? Have you ever felt the need to choose one over another?



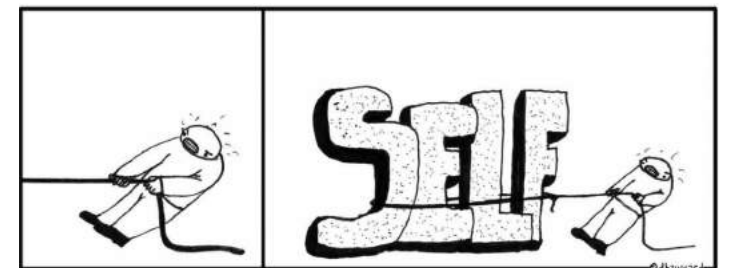


People have loyalties to their nations, as well as other loyalties, such as to their religion, region, culture, and race.

Contending Loyalties

When you join or identify with a group or organization, there are expectations placed on you as a member of the group. For example, as a member of a sports team you are expected to attend practices and games, be supportive of others on the team, and work collaboratively toward the team's success. These expectations require that you be willing to give something up.

Your loyalty to the group has a cost; for example, the time it takes to participate in practices and games, fundraising, and so on. These expectations can influence your other loyalties; for example, the time you spend on school work, your ability to participate in community cultural events, and time spent with your family.



Nationalism and Loyalty

Nationalism requires that people feel a sense of loyalty to, commitment to, and identification with a particular nation.

- How deep does one's loyalty to a nation have to be?
- Does this depend on the nation?
- Does it depend on the circumstances?
- Are there times when your loyalty to a nation might be challenged?



Nationalism and Loyalty

In some cases, it might be important to reconcile contending feelings of loyalty with your sense of nationalism.

For example, as a Canadian citizen you are expected to respect the rights and freedoms of others, yet perhaps some of the actions of others go against your religious beliefs.

- Do you decide to act on your loyalty to Canada or on your loyalty to your religion?
- Do you have to choose between the two or can you hold contending loyalties and continue to be loyal to both?

Do Canadians have to choose between their national loyalties?
For people to feel loyal to Canada, they must find something in
Canada for themselves.

What might this be? What is expected of people who feel loyal to
Canada? Do Canadians have to give up
some of their loyalties to other nations?



Religious vs. Civic Loyalties

Canada is a country of diverse religious beliefs. Occasionally, these beliefs contend with civic laws, and people feel a need to reconcile their religious loyalties with their civic loyalties. According to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, all Canadians have the right to freedom of religion. This freedom allows Canadians to challenge laws and regulations if they feel their religious freedom is at risk....



Religious vs. Civic Loyalties – Case Study

Hutterites exempt from driver's licence photos: Appeal Court

CBC News

Alberta has lost an appeal of a court ruling that exempts Hutterites from having photographs on their driver's licences.

The province argued that having all drivers photographed helps prevent fraud, identity theft and terrorism.

But in a ruling released Thursday, the Alberta Court of Appeal concluded that the government failed to justify the infringement on the Hutterites' religious objections to being photographed.

Members of the Wilson Colony, near Coaldale, 12 kilometres east of Lethbridge, took the province to court after the government introduced a new licence in 2003 that requires a driver's photo.

The following spring, Sam Wurz of the Wilson Springs Colony in southern Alberta was pulled over as he was driving to Lethbridge. His licence didn't have a picture and he was fined \$230 for driving without a valid licence.

That started the legal struggle that ended late Wednesday with the release of the Appeal Court decision.

The colony had argued that the government's rule violated its charter right to freedom of religion. Members believe the second commandment in the Bible ("Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image") prohibits them from willingly having their picture taken.

The colony was also worried about what might have happened to its large-scale farming operation if no one was allowed to drive.

Service Alberta spokesman Eoin Kenny said the government has already issued about 80 interim licences without photographs. He said the provision is now available to anyone with a religious objection to being photographed.²⁴

Conscientious Objection in Canada

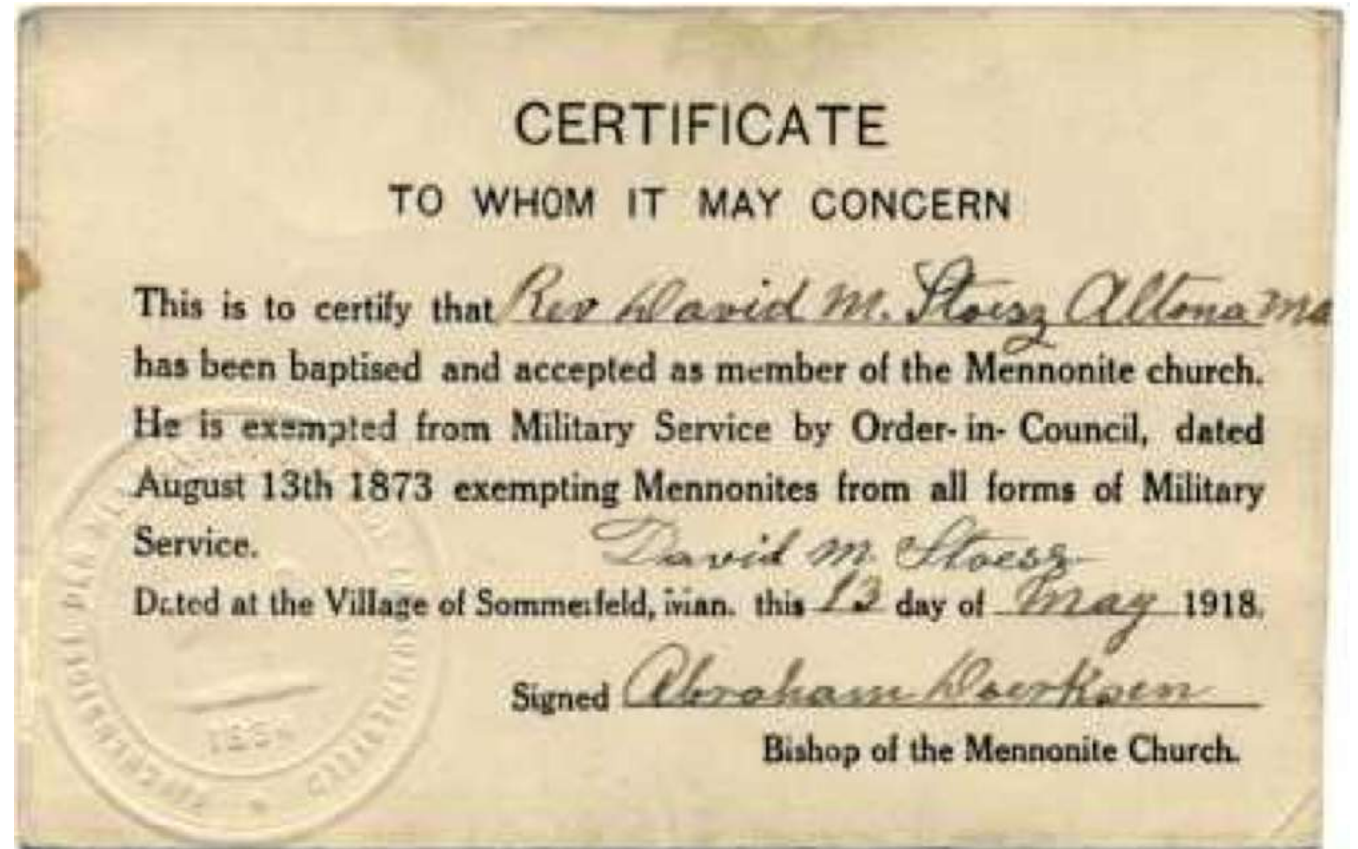
To populate the Prairies between the middle of the 19th century and 1919, the government provided special privileges for certain religious groups—including Hutterites from Germany, and Dutch Mennonites and Doukhobors from Russia—all of whom were pacifist and all of whom faced persecution in their home countries. These people were encouraged to emigrate to Canada, and to settle and farm in underdeveloped areas. **In exchange, they were promised religious freedom, including exemption from military duty.**



Conscientious Objection in Canada

Although they do not believe in bearing arms, many Mennonites contribute money to help victims of war. Yet despite their agreement with the government, when they refused to fight during the First and Second World Wars, they faced problems with some fellow Canadians who questioned their loyalty to Canada.

What are your thoughts on this?



Regional Loyalties

- There are many regions in Canada to which individuals and groups feel strong ties, such as the North, Eastern Canada, Central Canada, Western Canada, the Maritimes, the Prairies, Atlantic Canada, the West Coast, and so on.
- More than 225 000 people moved to Alberta from other parts of Canada between 2001 and 2006, many from Atlantic Canada. Unofficial estimates say that as many as 10 000 Newfoundlanders are making the 6000-kilometre commute back and forth from Newfoundland to Fort McMurray.
 - *There's a very strong Atlantic Canadian community in Fort McMurray. And so when we find ourselves going to communities like Stephenville, Nfld. or Port Hawkesbury in Cape Breton a lot of people we're talking to already know somebody here. That helps bridge the big leap when they come out West.*

Environmentalism and Contending Loyalties

Consider the current issue of the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline between Edmonton, AB and Burnaby, BC

Environmentalism is a philosophy and social movement based on the conservation and rehabilitation of the natural environment following the damage caused by human consumption and development.

Could there be issues of contending loyalties between those who would like to see it expanded for economic reasons but value environmentalism?





◀ Figure 5-8

Humanitarianism and Contending Loyalties

Humanitarianism is a philosophy based on the belief that all human beings deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Loyalty to humanitarianism drives people to save lives and alleviate suffering.

People may feel torn between their loyalty to humanitarian beliefs and other loyalties. For example, if their country is involved in a military conflict, they may feel loyalty to and support for their country, but they may also have loyalty to their belief that human suffering and death should not be supported for any purpose.

Consider your loyalties towards a specific political party vs your beliefs about refugees

What contending loyalties do you have?



Task - Contending Loyalties Poster

Create a poster (on paper or digitally) which outlines your contending loyalties.

Your poster must include:

1. Your picture (an actual photograph or self-portrait drawing) and name in the middle
2. At a minimum four contending loyalties in your life, each with a brief summary (6+ sentences) explaining how this impacts your life
3. Be creative, have components of symbolism, and make it colorful!
4. *Remember, this is all about you! Make your explanations and examples specific to your life!*



Environmental vs. Financial

Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation
Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation

Religious vs. Political Beliefs

Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation
Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation



Mr. Bob

Provincial Political vs. Federal Political Beliefs

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Quality Family Time vs School Work

Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation Explanation
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