

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

TO
THE
PAST

Directions: After reading the background information and examining the source, answer the questions below.

WWI Internment

During World War I, Canada established internment camps as a part of its war effort, particularly targeting individuals of enemy alien status. The Canadian government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, authorized the internment of thousands of people of Ukrainian, German, and other Central European descent.

SOURCE A

The prisoners in Canadian Internment Camps came to the Dominion [of Canada] as peaceful emigrants and the great majority of them at least have been good, law abiding residents ... In other words, these men now held as prisoners ... are good, sturdy [strong], inoffensive men, able and willing to work, most of them desirous of becoming [wanting to become] Canadian citizens. ... There is no doubt in my mind, that at the present moment, the great majority of the prisoners....could safely be returned to their homes and families, and that such return would be more profitable to Canada in the end...

Source: American government representative G. Willrich reported on prisoners of war being held in a Canadian internment camp, 29 December 1916. Under the terms of the 1907 Hague Convention neutral governments were permitted to inspect the treatment of prisoners of war being held in enemy camps.

SOURCE B

As for the Galicians [Ukrainians] I have not met a single person in the whole of the North West who is sympathetic [supportive] towards them. They are, from the point of view of civilization, 10 times lower than the Indians. They have not the least idea of sanitation [cleanliness]. In their personal habits and acts, [they] resemble animals, and even in the streets of Edmonton, when they come to market, men, women, and children, would if unchecked, turn the place into a common sewer.

Source: An interview with Reverend Father Moris in the *Calgary Daily Herald*, January 27, 1899.

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Statement: Which source would be more useful when inquiring into the living conditions and behaviour of Ukrainian immigrants in the Canadian prairies leading up to and during WWI? **Source A / Source B (Circle One)** Explain your reasoning below:

Source ____ is more useful because...

Source ____ is less useful because...

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