

Apologies: Beyond words, where's the change?



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DOES ACKNOWLEDGING HISTORICAL INJUSTICE IN THE FORM OF AN APOLOGY PROMOTE DEMOCRACY?

This project examines political apologies for historical injustices in Canada and investigates whether subsequent policy changes or legislative actions have contributed to meaningful democratic change



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TRACKING APOLOGIES

Canada has issued several political apologies for injustices such as the Japanese Internment Camps, Italian Internment Camps and Indigenous Residential Schools.

METHODOLOGY

- **Used the Political Apologies database**
- **Search the Hansard record of Parliamentary Proceedings and look for discussions in relation to the event or apology**
- **Check out if there has been any action post apology for event**

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FINDINGS

- 1988 Emergencies Act: widely seen as a democratic improvement in Canadian emergencies legislation
- The internment apology process helped turn Japanese-Canadian stories into legal action”
- Despite this possible example, it still seems hard to tell if apologies really bring accountability and change

