

## Evaluating Bias in History

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*Vimy Ridge (as part of the wider Battle of Arras) was largely only a diversionary attack for the French at Nivelles. Outside of this it held little strategic value for the war effort and even today, outside of the Commonwealth of Nations is rarely discussed by historians. The greater Arras offensive would still achieve the same purpose.*

*Where it was important was in it's tactical and social influence. Failure at Vimy would have a severely negative impact upon the modern tactics employed by the likes of Arthur Currie - proper planning and dissemination of information to all levels and not just to those with higher rank, fire and maneuver, proper rotation of reserve forces and a decent communications and logistical train - all of these would be hard to vindicate without a decisive victory. As such, these rapid moving and flexible tactics were the genesis of those that helped the Entente break the stalemate in late 1918 and an influence upon the tactics of the next great war.*

*From a social perspective, Vimy Ridge was Canadas Galipolli. Without it being such a prominent of watime nationalist symbol Canadas self confidence as an emerging independent nation may be affected in the long term, although probably not by much.*

Russell. "WI Canada Never Took Vimy Ridge?" *Alternate History Discussion Board*. July 16, 2011. <<http://www.alternatehistory.com/discussion/showthread.php?t=203316>>. February 27, 2014.

Consider the above comments and the painting to the right.

How do you react to "Russell's" commentary about Vimy Ridge? Why might some find it offensive?

What might the artist of the painting be trying to convey? How does this compare to "Russell's" view?

Why might Vimy Ridge be such a celebrated battle for Canadian politicians and historians?

How might Vimy Ridge be seen by other countries? Explain your thoughts.

What more recent events might be seen as nation-bonding events? Why?



*For further reading:*

*<http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/watters-chris-anzac-and-vimy-ridge/>*

