

Trudeau's Tango: Pierre Elliott Trudeau's Dance with Alberta, 1968-1972

Pierre Elliott Trudeau's tenure as Prime Minister of Canada from 1968 to 1972 was a period of significant change and upheaval in the relationship between the federal government and the province of Alberta. Trudeau's policies and actions, combined with the changing economic and political landscape of the country, led to a dramatic rupture in relations between the two levels of government.

This article will explore the complex factors that contributed to this rupture, examining the key issues that divided Trudeau and Alberta, and the lasting impact of their relationship on Canadian federalism.



Trudeau's Tango: Alberta Meets Pierre Elliott Trudeau, 1968–1972

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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Lending	: Enabled



The Early Years: Honeymoon and Heartbreak

Trudeau's election in 1968 was initially met with optimism in Alberta. The province had long felt neglected by the federal government, and Trudeau's promise of a "Just Society" and a new era of federal-provincial cooperation resonated with many Albertans.

However, Trudeau's honeymoon with Alberta was short-lived. His government's decision to impose a national energy policy that favored eastern Canada over the west angered many Albertans, who felt they were being treated unfairly. Trudeau's perceived indifference to Alberta's concerns further alienated the province, and led to a growing sense of western alienation.

The Turning Point: The Western Economic Opportunities Conference

The Western Economic Opportunities Conference (WEOC), held in Edmonton in 1973, was a watershed moment in the relationship between Trudeau and Alberta. The conference was intended to address the concerns of western provinces, but it quickly became a forum for expressing grievances against the federal government.

Trudeau's attendance at the conference was seen as a snub by many Albertans, who felt he was not taking their concerns seriously. His dismissive attitude towards the conference further inflamed tensions, and led to a complete breakdown in relations between the federal government and Alberta.

The Aftermath: A Legacy of Division

The rupture in relations between Trudeau and Alberta had a lasting impact on Canadian federalism. The sense of alienation felt by many Albertans led to the rise of the Reform Party in the 1990s, and has continued to shape

the relationship between the province and the federal government to this day.

Trudeau's policies and actions during his time in office exacerbated the already existing tensions between Alberta and the federal government, and his legacy in the province remains a controversial one.

The relationship between Pierre Elliott Trudeau and the province of Alberta was a complex and tumultuous one. Trudeau's policies and actions, combined with the changing economic and political landscape of the country, led to a dramatic rupture in relations between the two levels of government. The legacy of this rupture continues to shape Canadian federalism to this day.

Additional Resources

* [The Western Economic Opportunities Conference]
(<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-economic-opportunities-conference>) * [Trudeau and the West: A History of Discord]
(<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/trudeau-and-the-west-a-history-of-discord-1.1126811>) * [The Legacy of Pierre Elliott Trudeau]
(<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-legacy-of-pierre-elliott-trudeau/>)

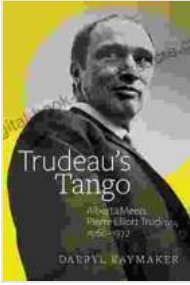
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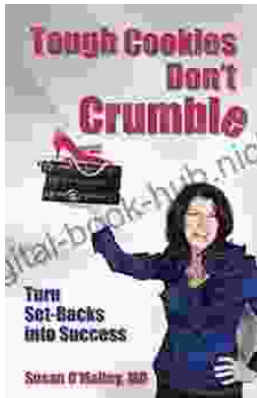
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