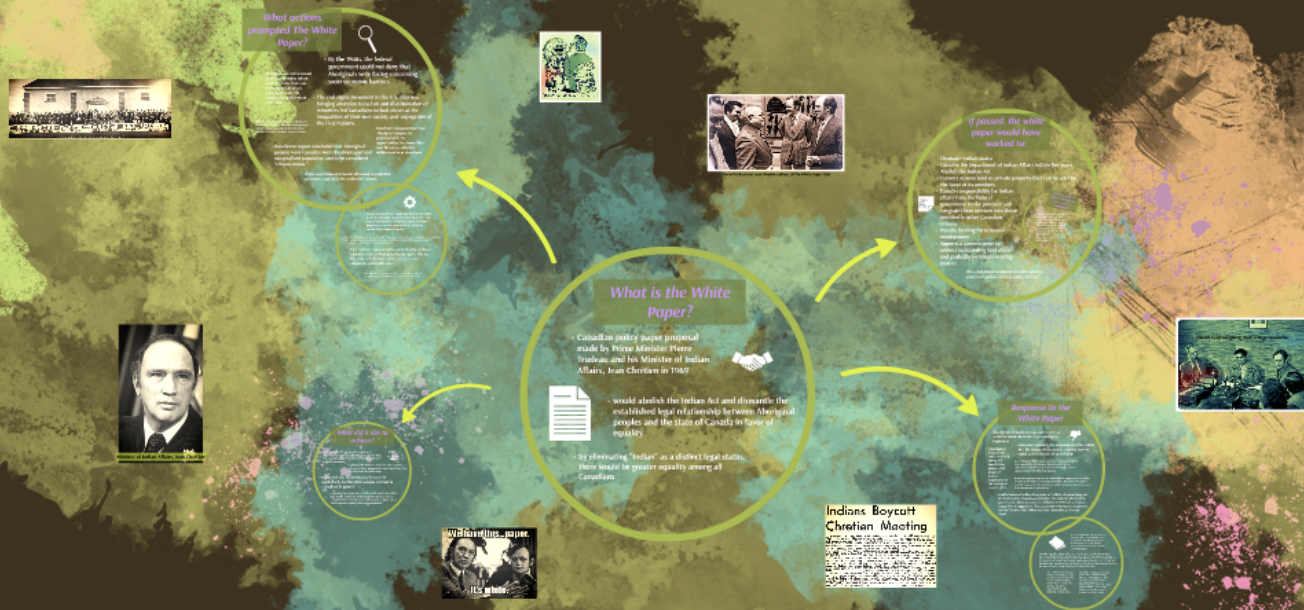


White Paper Harvard Case Solution & Analysis



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What is the White Paper?

- Canadian policy paper proposal made by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chrétien in 1969



- would abolish the Indian Act and dismantle the established legal relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the state of Canada in favor of equality
- by eliminating "Indian" as a distinct legal status, there would be greater equality among all Canadians

have this...paper.

Indians Chrétien

VANCOUVER (CP) — Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien up his met behind closed doors Tues. Ben day night with several Indian (federal but some)...



Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chrétien

What did it aim to achieve?

- to achieve equality among all Canadians by regarding Aboriginal peoples simply as citizens with the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities as other Canadians.
- keeping with Trudeau's vision of a "just society," the government proposed to repeal legislation that it considered discriminatory
- **Indian Act was discriminatory because it applied only to Aboriginal peoples and not to Canadians in general**
 - removing the unique legal status established by the Indian Act would "enable the Indian people to be free—free to develop Indian cultures in an environment of legal, social and economic equality with other Canadians."



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Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chretien authors of The White Paper 1969

What actions prompted The White Paper?



- By the 1960s, the federal government could not deny that Aboriginals were facing concerning socio-economic barriers
- The civil rights movement in the U.S. that was bringing attention to racism and discrimination of minorities led Canadians to look closer at the inequalities of their own society and segregation of the First Nations.
- Hawthorn recommended that Aboriginal peoples be provided with the opportunities to choose their own lifestyles, whether within reserve or elsewhere
- it was also advocated to end all forced assimilation programs, especially the residential schools.
- Aboriginals faced increased poverty and higher infant mortality rates than non-Indigenous Canadians along with lower life expectancy and levels of education
- 1963-the federal government commissioned University of British Columbia anthropologist Harry B. Hawthorn to look into the social conditions of First Nations across Canada.
- Hawthorns report concluded that Aboriginal peoples were Canada's most disadvantaged and marginalized population and to be considered "citizens minus."

