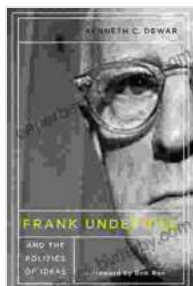


# Frank Underhill and the Politics of Ideas: A Journey into the Mind of a Canadian Visionary



**Frank Underhill and the Politics of Ideas** by Kenneth C. Dewar

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 927 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 232 pages



Frank Underhill, a towering figure in Canadian political thought, dedicated his life to understanding and influencing the political landscape of his country. Throughout his career, he produced a prolific body of work that continues to resonate with scholars, politicians, and citizens alike. This comprehensive examination of Underhill's life and ideas invites you on a journey into the mind of a visionary who shaped Canadian identity and political discourse for decades.

## Frank Underhill: A Biographical Sketch

Frank Hawkins Underhill was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, on November 16, 1889. As a young boy, he developed a passion for history and literature, which laid the foundation for his future intellectual pursuits. Underhill received his education at the University of New Brunswick and Oxford University, where he studied history and political science. Upon his

return to Canada in 1914, he began his teaching career at the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1927, Underhill joined the faculty of the University of Toronto, where he remained until his retirement in 1959. During his tenure, he taught political science and played a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual life of the university. Underhill was a brilliant lecturer and an inspiring mentor to generations of students. He was also a prominent public intellectual, contributing regularly to newspapers and magazines, where he shared his insights on Canadian politics and society.

### **Underhill's Intellectual Framework**

Frank Underhill's intellectual framework was rooted in a deep understanding of Canadian history and political institutions. He believed that Canada's unique identity and political development could only be understood through a thorough examination of its past. Underhill argued that Canada's federal system was essential to preserving its diversity and regional interests. He also emphasized the importance of nationalism in fostering a sense of unity and purpose among Canadians.

Underhill's views on federalism were influenced by his study of American history. He believed that the American Civil War was a cautionary tale about the dangers of excessive centralized power. In contrast, he saw Canada's federal system as a model of balance and cooperation between different regions and cultures.

Nationalism was another central theme in Underhill's thought. He believed that Canada needed to develop a strong sense of national identity in Free Download to stand on its own in the international community. However, he

cautioned against extreme forms of nationalism that could lead to intolerance and division. Underhill advocated for a moderate, inclusive nationalism that celebrated Canada's diversity and promoted a sense of common purpose.

## **Underhill's Influence on Canadian Politics**

Frank Underhill's ideas had a profound impact on Canadian politics for decades. His writings and public lectures helped to shape the political discourse of the country and influence government policy. Underhill's advocacy for federalism and nationalism resonated with many Canadians, who saw these principles as essential to the survival and prosperity of the nation.

Underhill's influence was particularly evident during the Second World War, when he played a key role in mobilizing public support for Canada's war effort. He also helped to shape the postwar reconstruction agenda, emphasizing the need for a strong social safety net and a commitment to international cooperation.

In the years following the war, Underhill continued to be a prominent public intellectual, commenting on a wide range of political and social issues. He remained a staunch defender of Canadian federalism and nationalism, even as the country underwent significant political and economic changes.

## **Underhill's Legacy**

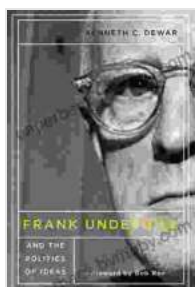
Frank Underhill's legacy as a political scientist and public intellectual is secure. His pioneering work on Canadian federalism and nationalism continues to inform political debate and public policy. Underhill's writings

are essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the history and development of Canadian political thought.

Beyond his academic contributions, Underhill left an enduring mark on Canadian society. His passion for his country, his commitment to democratic values, and his unwavering belief in the power of ideas made him a respected and influential figure throughout his life. Frank Underhill's legacy as a visionary Canadian thinker continues to inspire and challenge generations.

If you are interested in learning more about Frank Underhill and his groundbreaking ideas, I highly recommend reading his seminal works, such as "In Search of Canadian Liberalism" (1958) and "The Image of Confederation" (1964). These books provide a fascinating glimpse into the mind of one of Canada's most brilliant political thinkers.

Additionally, there are a number of excellent biographies and scholarly studies of Underhill's work. These resources can help you to deepen your understanding of his intellectual development and the lasting impact of his ideas on Canadian politics and society.



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