

# Race, Ethnic & Aboriginal Relations: Patterns, Paradoxes & Perspectives

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# Key Definitions

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- **Multiculturalism:** Supports the notion of living together with differences.
  - It is an “okay” principle unless it works to threaten Canadian life.
- **Aboriginal Peoples:** Descendants of the original occupants.
  - Status divided into Status Indians, Metis and Inuit.
- **Racialized (Visible Minorities):** According to Canada’s Employment Equity Act, “persons other than aboriginal and who are non-Caucasian in race and non-white in colour.”
- **Intergroup Relations:** Formed through individuals sharing cultural and similar ancestral backgrounds identifying with each other and act within their interests, despite it being at others’ expense.
  - Race, aboriginality and ethnicity may be invoked to...



# Canada: The Good, Bad and In Between

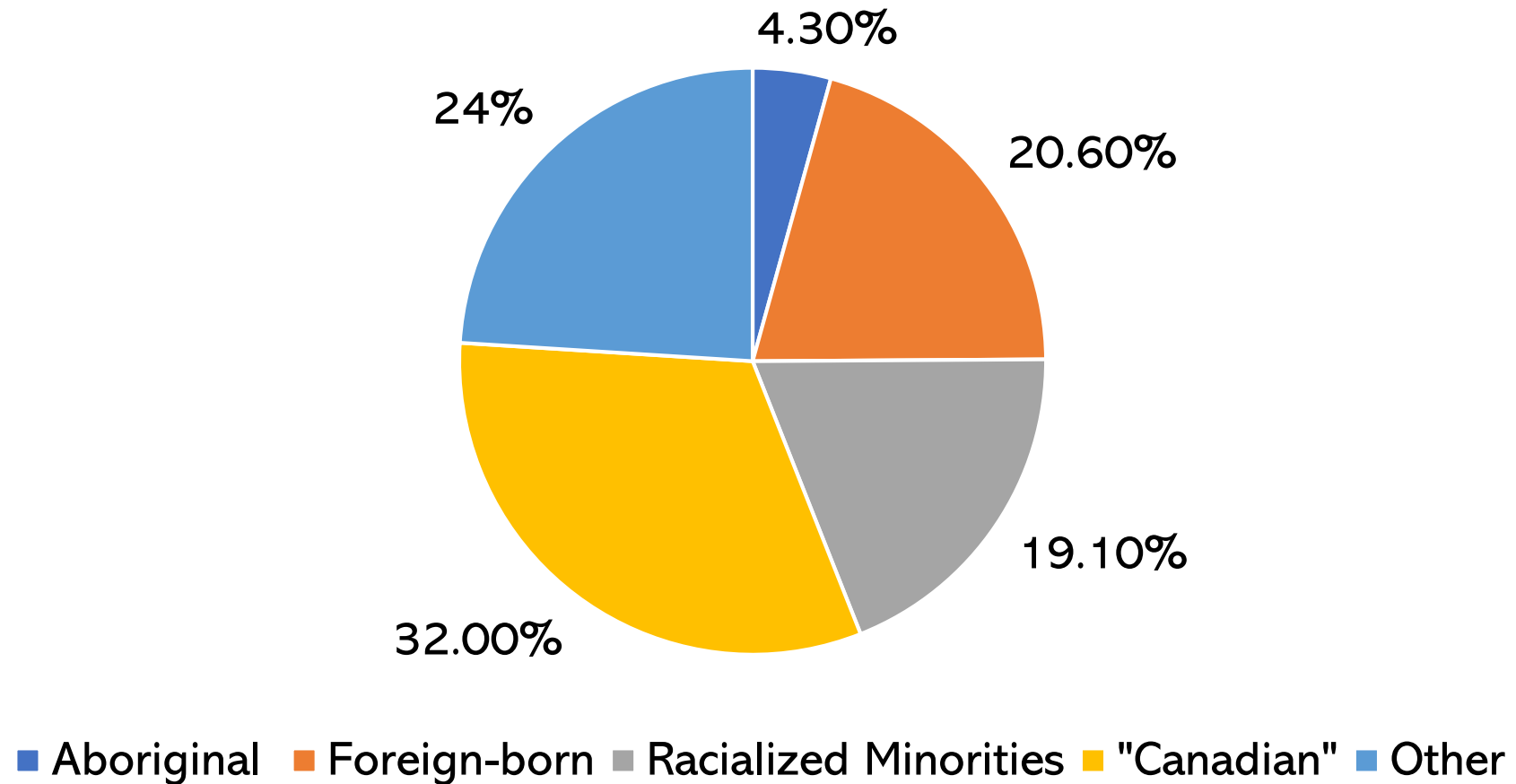
# Class Discussion



**Opinions, Perspectives  
and Experiences**

# Our Current State...

## Diversity in Canada 2011



\*\*\*Results from Canadian National Household Survey 2011

Canada's Role

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# A Beacon of Change



Canada's global  
firsts for equality  
and dignity



Reputation of  
virtue, tolerance  
and compassion



Human Rights  
protection via Bill of  
Rights in 1960 &  
Charter

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# Skeletons in the Closet

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Founded on exploitation of indigenous and race/ethnic minorities



One sided narrative on colonial history



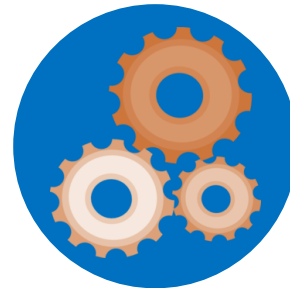
Falls short of self-imposed benchmarks



Recent History as a “White Man’s Society”



All are ‘equal’ before the law



Systematic working against minorities

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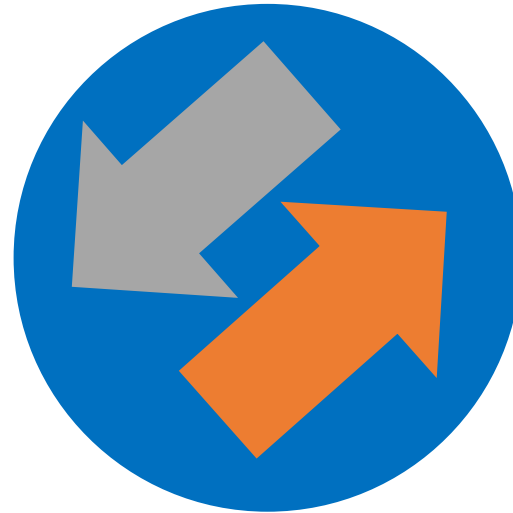


# Duality within Multiculturalism

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Mixed impact on  
'Canada Building'



Paradox Nature



Not fully accepted  
from a theoretical  
or practical stance

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# Governance Models

Patterns used to “Manage Diversity”

# 1. Genocide

## Five Classes of Action

1. Annihilation of group members
2. Foster the dispersal of the group
3. Psychological abuse and physical discomfort
4. Bringing the demise of their culture via transferring of children from one group to another
5. Prevention of births

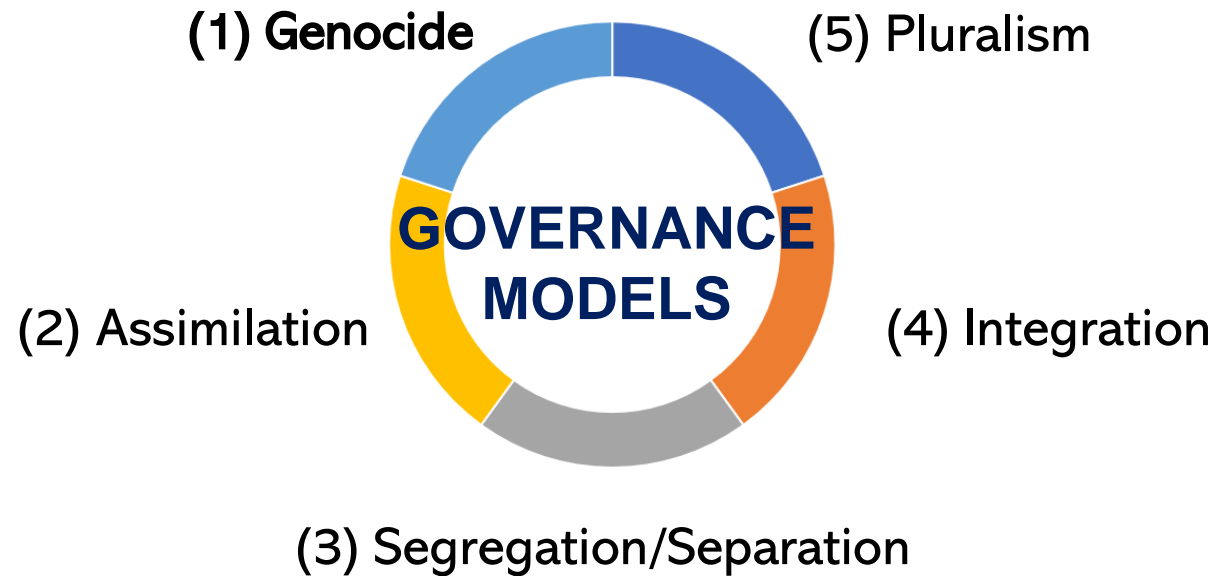
\*A calculated killing decision for political goals



Auschwitz, 1942



Rwandan Genocide, 1994



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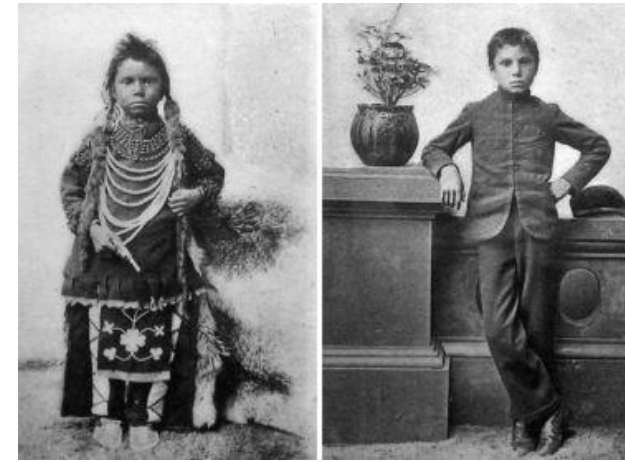
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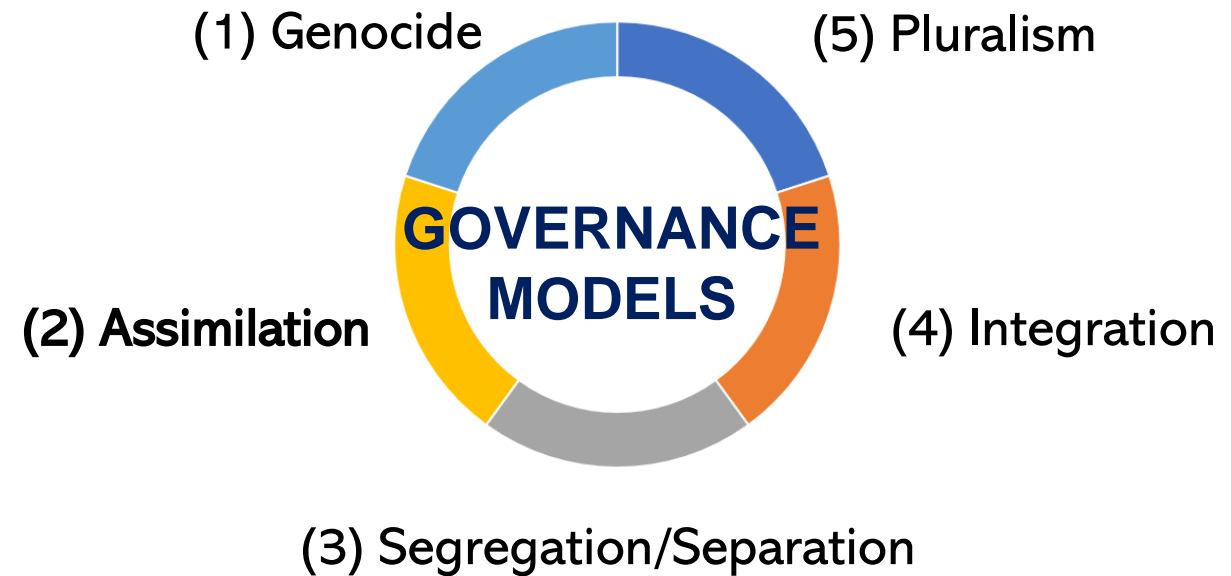
2.

# Assimilation

- Dominant sector imposes culture, authority, values and institutions
  - Occur formally or informally
- Specific facets of subdominant lifestyle are 'tolerated'
- Works to:
  1. Enforce norms
  2. Undermines subdominant group's culture
  3. Acclimate to mainstream society
  4. Convert into 'ideal' citizens



Indigenous peoples assimilation  
(Anglo-conformity)



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# 3. Segregation

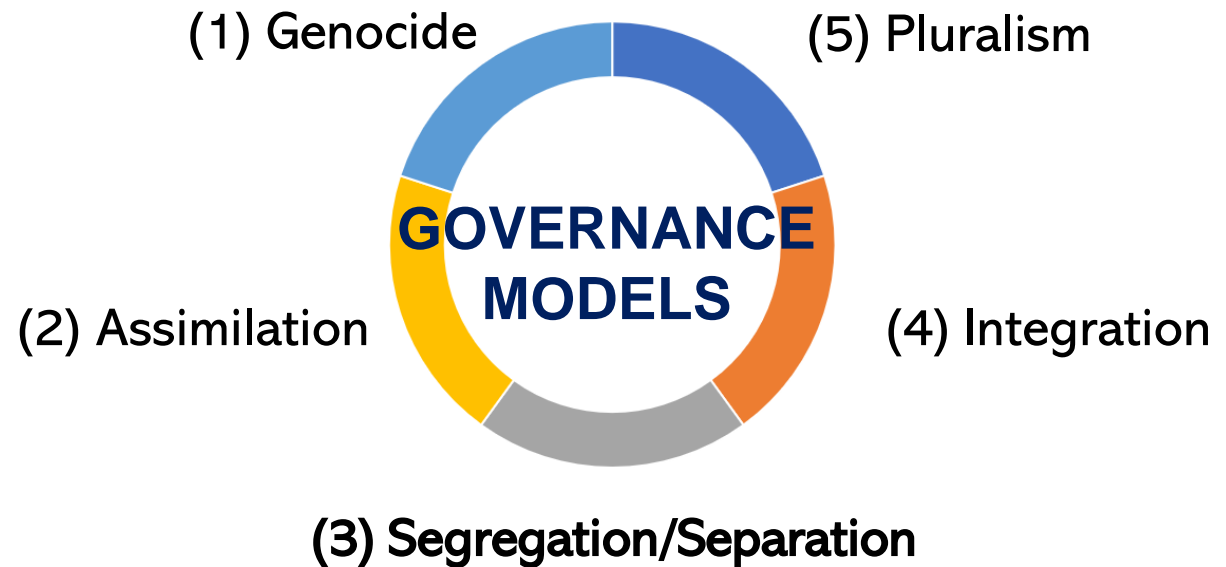
- Division into autonomous dominant and subdominant groups due to perceived power
  - Separation unless contact is to the dominant group's benefit
- Government's role (usually top down):
  - De Jure Segregation
  - De Facto Segregation
- Monopolistic control within the marketplace
- Segregation 'in effect' vs. 'cause'



South African Apartheid, 1948-1994



Black Segregated Schools (Last school closed in Nova Scotia in 1983!!!)



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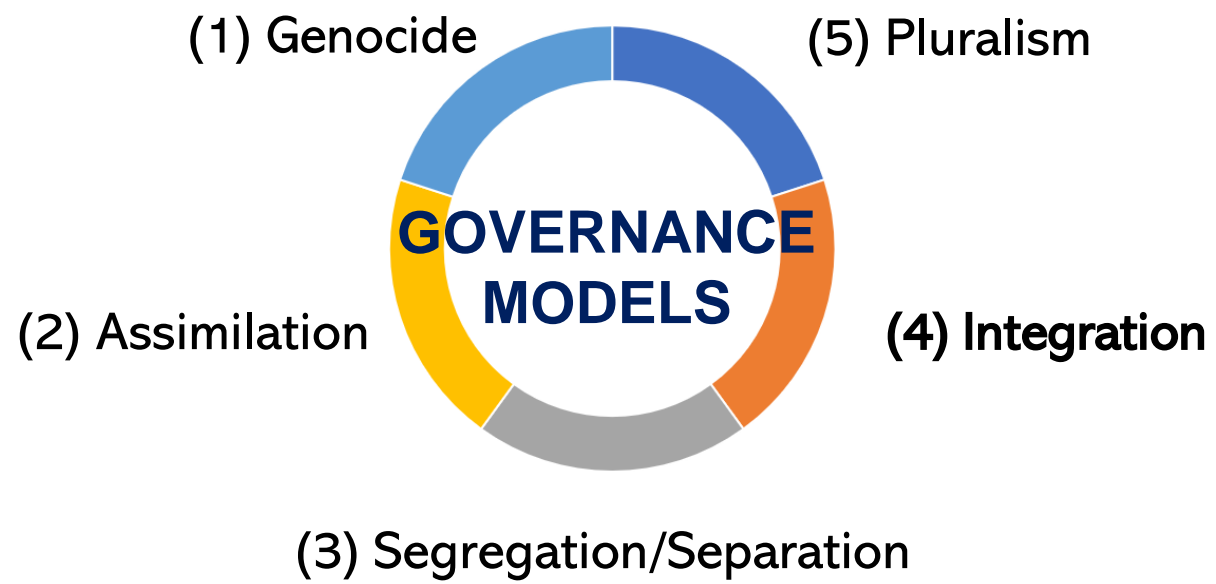
4.

# Integration

- Integration is, Interaction among groups at all institutional levels
- **Desegregation:** Dismantling physical or social barriers to formal equality
- Two variants of integration as 'a culture'
  1. Single comprehensive lifestyle without the loss of cultural identity
  2. Melting pot



USA, a *melting pot*



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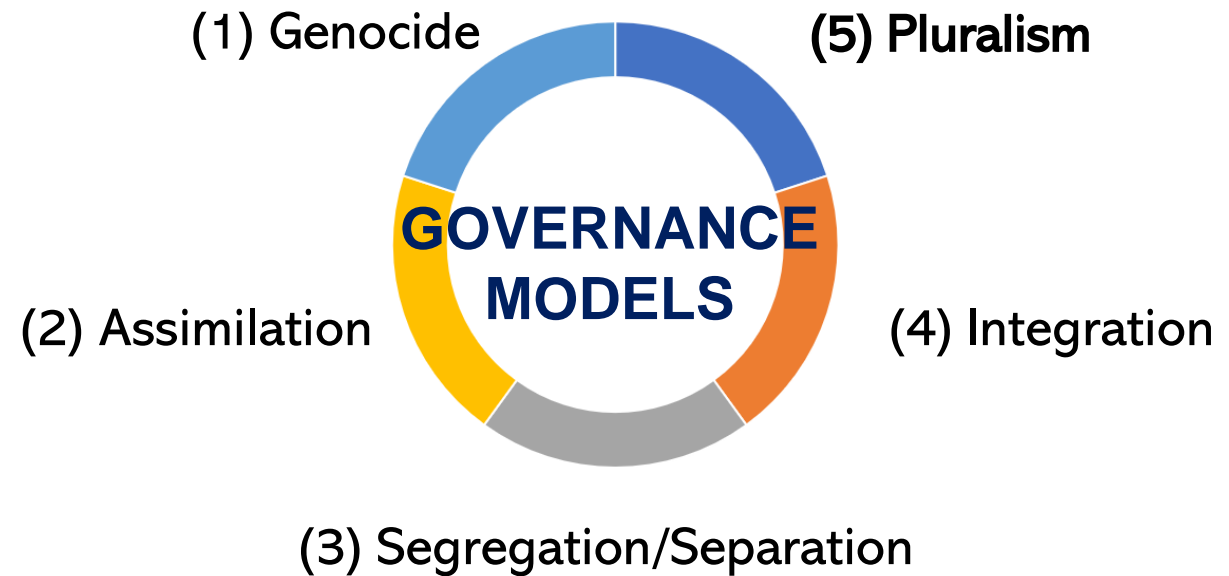
Multiculturalism

# 5. Pluralism

- National governance framework based on acceptance of diversity
- Two variants:
  1. Culture-conscious
  2. Culture-blind
- Expressed via multiculturalism, biculturalism, nationalism, multinationalism



Canada, a *cultural mosaic*  
Pluralism through Multiculturalism



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# Class Discussion



**What governance models has  
Canada used in the past? How?**

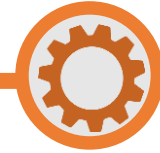
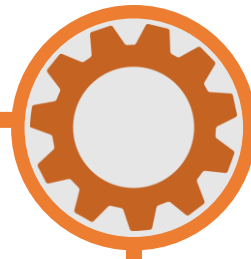




# Sociological Models of Society

As explanatory frameworks

## Functionalist Model



## Symbolic Interactionism Model

- Society is a living organism
- Society exists within a state of equilibrium and those that threaten such stability are isolated or removed.
- Cooperation, consensus and control are key to find balance
- Preferred Models: Assimilation & Integration

- Society is an ongoing human accomplishment shaped by human interactions
- Grouping is socially constructed
- Intragroup and intergroup relations are dynamic and ever changing
- Neutral on diversity



## Radical Conflict Models: Feminist and Marxist



### Feminism

- Society is shaped to reflect, advance and reinforce male interests and priorities
- The solution is found from the problem!

- Society is unequal groups competing for limited and valued resources
- Natural state is that of conflict and change due to structure
- Peaceful or violent tactics



### Marxist Theory

- Centered on the role of class in conflict and exploitation
- Ruling Class vs Working Class

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Multiculturalism



# Multiculturalism

A benefit, with no cost?

# Canada's Multiculturalism Through the Lens of Sociological Models

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## Radical Conflict

*"Ruling elites controlling unruly ethnics"*



## Symbolic Interactionist

*"Multiculturalism is an official site of negotiation"*



## Functionalist

*"Multiculturalism is a positive contribution to society"*



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# Class Discussion



The “In-Between” of  
Multiculturalism

A composite image featuring a laptop keyboard, a pen, and various financial charts and tables. The keyboard is on the left, showing keys like '+', '1', 'x', and '9'. A silver and black pen lies diagonally across the center. The background is filled with financial data, including line graphs, a bar chart, and tables of numbers.

Thank You

2 670
133
83 318

93 295
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542
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720
12 251
338
46