

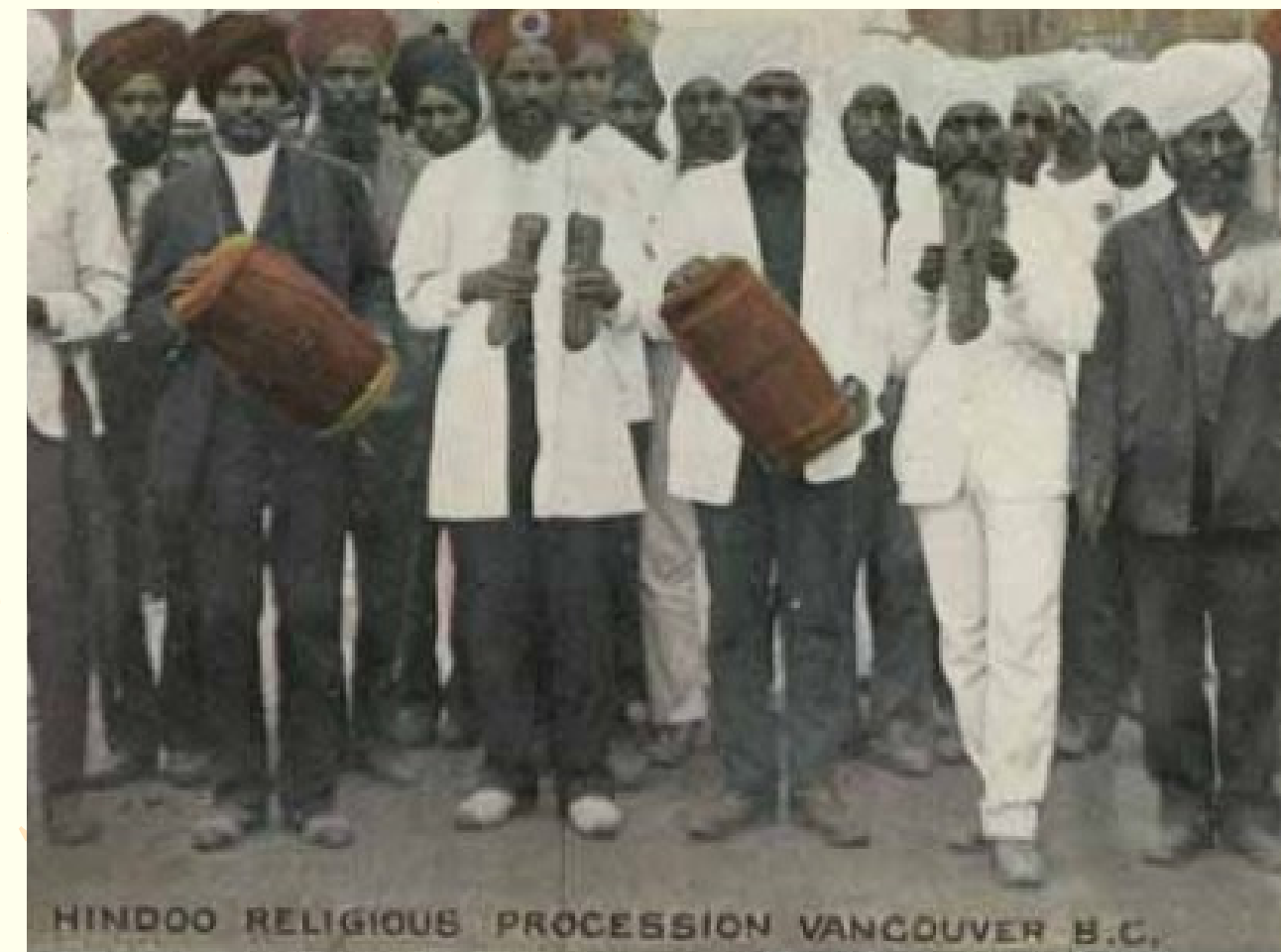
Becoming South Asian: Formation of a Community in Canada

Purpose

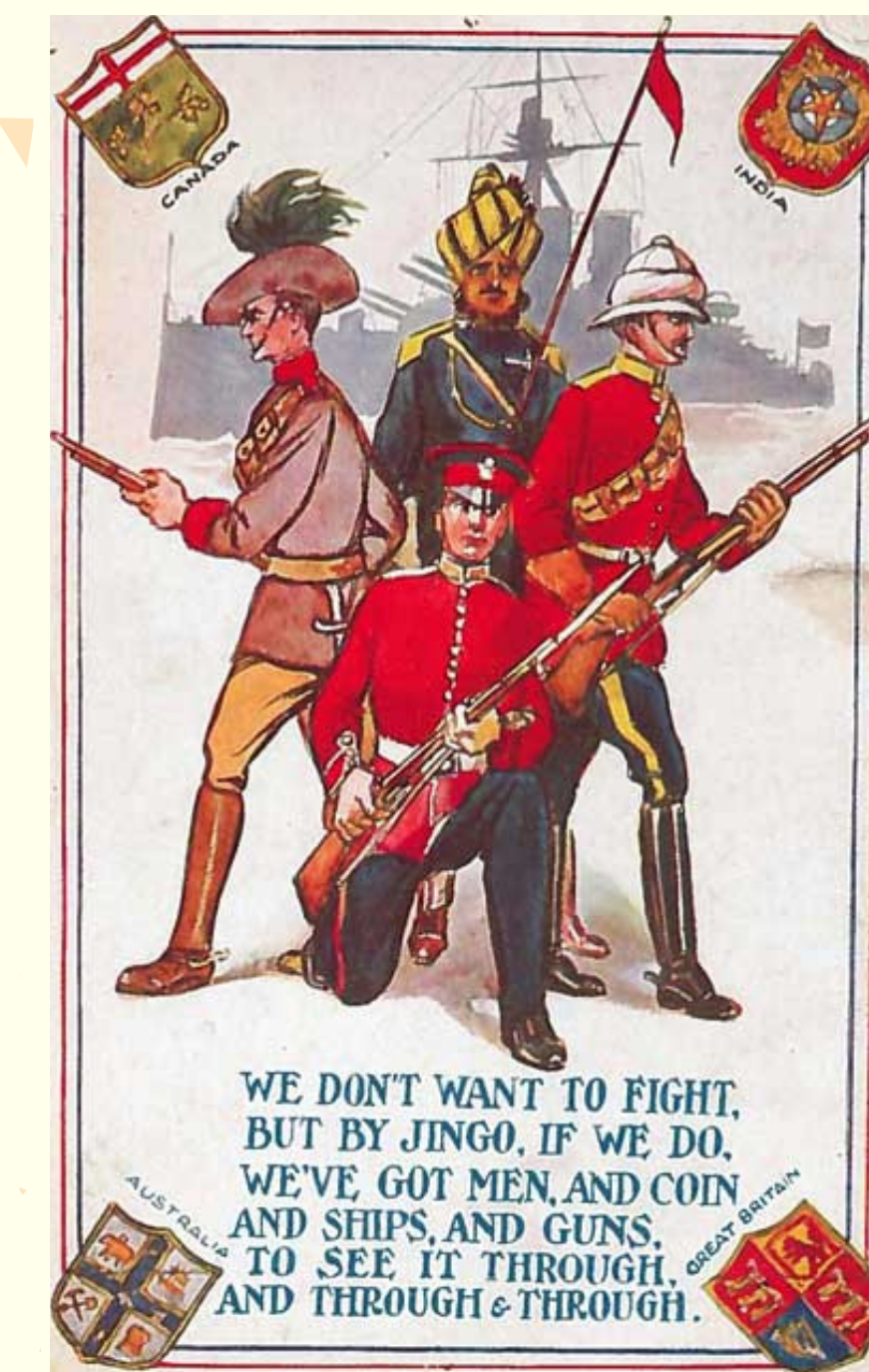
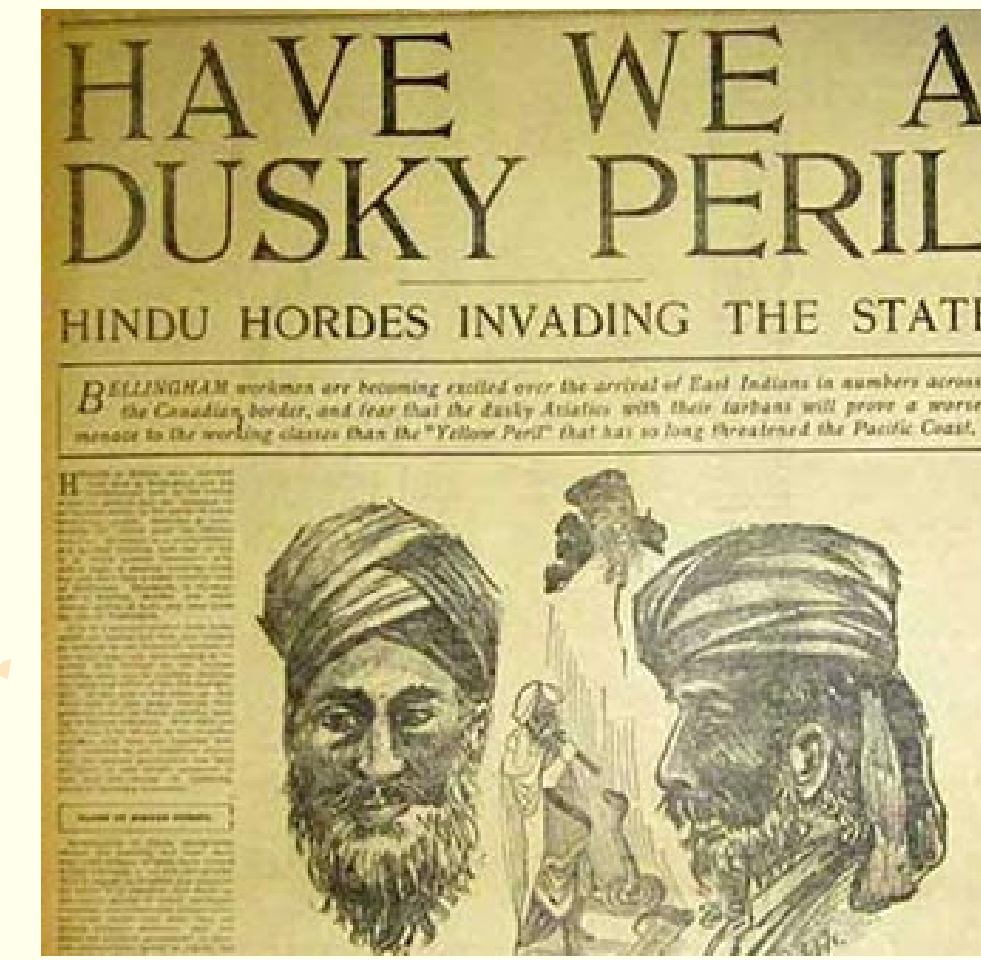
to understand the formation of various South Asian identities within Canada through experiences and activism related to migration, borders, racism, Islamophobia, and nationalism.



Indian School Children in Vancouver B.C.



HINDOO RELIGIOUS PROCESSION VANCOUVER B.C.



Wartime Propaganda Including Indians

EVERY COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA IS **DIFFERENT.**

-----**BUT**-----

WHEN YOU GROW UP IN THE [WEST] **IT DOESN'T MATTER...** BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL GOING **TO BE CALLED**

APU.



Hari Kondabolu

TO DECONSTRUCT STEREOTYPES.

Uncivilized and undisciplined

Taxi driver or store clerk

Can't speak English

Women wear sarees

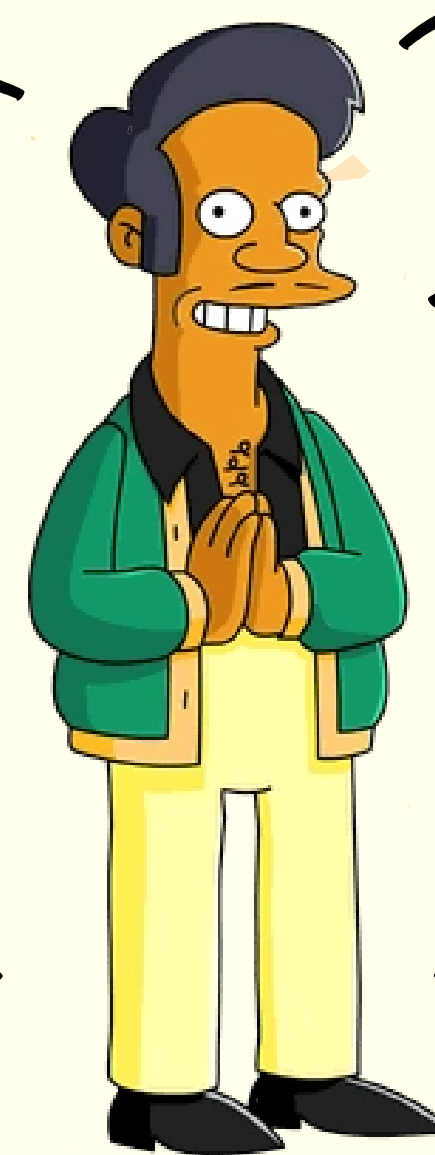
Snake Charmers

Uneducated

Do yoga and say namaste

Marriages are forced

Worships multiple Gods



Key Findings

- South Asians of all cultures have greatly contributed to Canada despite systemic racism
- They are portrayed as uncivilized and barbaric
- Negative stereotypes continue to harm second and third generation South Asians
- As a result, many South Asians either strongly reaffirm their cultures, remain ambivalent or wholly reject it

Using archival & library research

- 1) to trace the emergence and influence of the term 'South Asian' in Canada
- 2) to explore how this shaped individual and collective 'South Asian' and 'Canadian' identities
- 3) to examine how race, ethnicity, religion, gender, class and other dynamics inform this process
- 4) to understand in what ways the deployment of 'South Asian/ness' as a mode of collective identification within the Canadian context may be problematic.

