

Cluster 2

Chapter 6

CONFEDERATION

Chapter 6 p. 172-186

<u>Word Bank</u>		
“manifest destiny”	“rep by pop”	railways
Corn Laws	Rupert’s Land	Ireland
Orange Order	majority	British North America
	<i>British North America Act</i>	

A General Overview of Confederation

- During the 1860s, the colonies of _____ were interested in the idea of uniting
 - Main fear was that if separate from each other, they faced an uncertain future
 - Economically, they were not strong enough to survive on their own
 - Politically, they could be absorbed by the United States
 - (United States had a belief in _____ to rule all the Americas)
 - Britain showed little interest in protecting its North American colonies. Britain wanted to establish friendly relations with the USA, and worried that the colonies might get in the way of this.
- Not everyone was in support of a union of the colonies in Canada
 - Some did not like the idea of giving up their separate status
 - Some feared that the new union would have Central Canada

having the most power and influence

- In Quebec, a federal union seemed to put French language and culture at risk

Political Deadlock

- In Canada there was a political deadlock that made it almost impossible to maintain an effective government.
 - The deadlock existed because there were so many unstable political groupings and so many independent members of the legislature – difficult to form a stable, _____ government
 - As a result, there were a number of short-lived governments that had trouble pursuing effective policies
- Language and culture were still important issues
 - 1774: British promised French Canadians that their language and religion would be protected
 - 1850s: English-speaking outnumbered the French, and felt that being the majority meant they should hold the majority of the seats in the legislature.

- George Brown and the “Clear Grits” advocated _____ – Representation by population. This was opposed by French-Canadians.
 - A federal union would allow French Canada to control its own affairs, but allow English-Canadians to have the majority vote at the federal level.
- John A. Macdonald of Canada West and George-Etienne Cartier of Canada East opposed rep by pop and tried to maintain a sense of balance in the assembly.
 - Colonies needed foreign capital to build _____ and other public works seen as necessary
 - Foreign investors didn’t want to put their money into colonies with an uncertain future
- However, a united Canada seemed to be a more attractive prospect for foreign investment
 - Might stimulate trade by providing access to a bigger, united Canadian market
 - A union would be a better prospect for building railways
 - Would be in a better position to take over _____ from the Hudson Bay Company
 - This area would be a place for people to settle instead of moving to the US

Economic and Geographic Challenges

- In 1846, Great Britain repealed the _____, which meant for the BNA colonies that they would no longer receive a lower duty on the agricultural goods they produced.
- This meant that products made by the BNA colonies would have to compete with goods made in other parts of the world that were priced lower.
- As separate entities, the BNA colonies were not able to compete with lower-priced agricultural goods.
- The colonies started to look at creating products as a single entity and trading with each other and the rest of the world rather than having individual trade agreements with Great Britain.
- The political deadlock was bad for economic development.

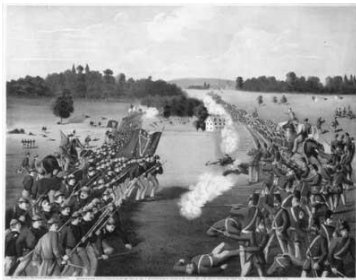
The US Civil War and Expansion

- A union of the British North American colonies was also seen as strengthening them against possible threats from the United States
 - During the US Civil War, the British did not support the Union as much as the Union wanted
 - Canadians feared that they would become the target of the Union’s anger/revenge
 - US had previously taken action against Canada when they didn’t renew the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854
 - The doctrine of Manifest Destiny was popular in the United States at this time. It was

a belief that the USA was destined to control all of North America.

Fenian Raids

- The Fenian raids of the Fenian Brotherhood (based in the United States) on British army forts, customs posts and other targets in Canada were fought in order to bring pressure on Britain to withdraw from _____, between 1866 and 1871.



- They divided many Catholic Irish-Canadians, many of whom were torn between loyalty to their new home and sympathy for the aims of the Fenians.
- The Protestant Irish were generally loyal to Britain and fought with the _____ against the Fenians.
- While the U.S. authorities arrested the men and confiscated their arms afterwards, there is speculation that many in the US government had turned a blind eye to the preparations for the invasion, angered at actions that could be construed as British assistance to the Confederacy during the American Civil War.

Results and long term effects

- Support for the Fenian Brotherhood's invasion of Canada leveled out and there was no real threat of any more raids after the 1890s. The raids, however, did have a large effect on Canada-U.S. relations for years after the last raid.

- There was a great deal of anger in Canada with the U.S. government, who Canadians felt had looked the other way and failed to prevent the raids on their end.
- By 1866, Britain no longer wanted to pay for defending its colonies, as it was engaged in wars in other parts of the world
- A union of the Canadian colonies would allow British military resources to be used elsewhere and the colonies could be responsible for their own defence.

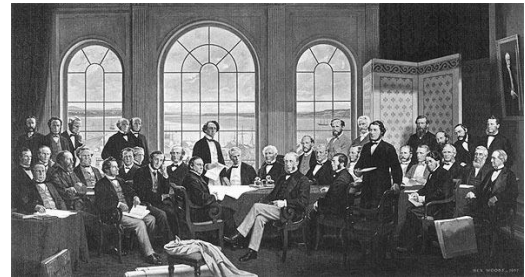
Moving towards Confederation

- The discussion of uniting British North America soon included the addition of the Atlantic colonies.
- Residents of the Atlantic colonies were worried that their small population would amount to having little influence in a united parliament.
- Atlantic colonists saw themselves as distant and isolated from the Canada.
- The discussion against having the Atlantic colonies becoming part of Confederation led to the Atlantic colonies uniting on their own.
- A decision was made to hold a conference in Charlottetown to discuss the idea of uniting the Atlantic colonies.
- Representatives from Canada East and Canada West managed to get an invitation to the conference.

- September 1, 1864: conference held at Charlottetown, PEI to discuss Maritime union, with delegates from the Canadas and all three Atlantic Colonies
 - Delegates agreed in principle to form a confederation
 - Met two months later in Quebec and outlined terms of union
 - This didn't go far. Public opinion in the Maritimes was against union.
- Britain began to pressure the colonies to change their mind and unite
 - 1866: representatives from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Canadas met at the London Conference with colonial officials and drafted a bill uniting the four colonies.
 - This was known as the _____
_____. It received Royal Assent in March 1867 and was proclaimed on July 1, 1867.

The Quebec Conference

- October, 1864: 33 delegates arrive in Quebec City to discuss the details of a confederation of colonies.
- All delegates agreed that ties with Britain would be kept and the British constitution would be a model for a constitution for the confederation.
- There was debate as to what ***kind*** of union should be made
 - Some wanted a strong national government that had power over all the colonies instead of just a union
 - Other colonies did not want a union unless it was federal in nature



1885 photo of Robert Harris' 1884 painting, Conference at Québec in 1864, to settle the basics of a union of the British North American Provinces, also known as The Fathers of Confederation. The original painting was destroyed when the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings was consumed by fire in 1916

Confederation Assignment (10 marks) – p. 179 in the textbook

1. What are the three causes of Confederation?

2. Which one do you think is the most important, and why?

p. 188-190

CANADIAN FEDERALISM, CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND DIVISION OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POWERS

Word Bank

Governor-General

“peace, order and good government”

Senate

federalism

natural resources

constitutional monarchy

- Sir John A. Macdonald wanted the British style of government, where a single, centralized government oversees the running of the entire country.
- BNA had four unique provinces and Nova Scotia and Canada East wanted local governing powers.
- The Fathers of Confederation looked to the American federal style of government. In a federal system, or _____, a central government addresses national concerns, while provincial governments look after local concerns.
- There were concerns that the US Civil War had broken out because the states had been given too much power and the central government did not have enough power to effectively set policies.
- As a result there was an effort made to ensure a strong central government, one that would be responsible for any area of responsibility that was not clearly laid out in the Constitution.

Constitutional Monarchy

- The Fathers of Confederation made Canada a _____, where the King or Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is also the King or Queen of Canada (as well as Australia, Antigua and

Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Not to mention Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands and many other British Overseas Territories), and **ceremonially** has final authority on making or changing laws.



- In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch's power is limited by the rules established by British tradition (the “Glorious Revolution”...look it up) and the Canadian Constitution.

- In Canada, the monarch has a representative to act on their behalf: the _____ (in the provinces, it is the Lieutenant-Governor).



- All proposed laws (bills) passed by the Canadian government have to be approved by the Governor General (called _____).
- The Governor-General also has the power to prorogue (adjourn for a specific time) or dissolve Parliament and call a general election, though these powers are almost exclusively directed by the Prime Minister (check out the King-Byng affair to see how that debate was settled).

The Parliamentary System

- The Fathers of Confederation decided that Canada would be governed by a parliament.
- Parliament would consist of the House of Commons, the _____ (they decided against the ramifications of creating a separate Canadian House of Lords) and a Cabinet. It would also have two official languages, English and French.
- The members of the House of Commons are chosen by the people (through elections) and representation is based on population.
- Canada is divided into constituencies (also called “ridings”) which are groups of voters in a specific area. The number of residents in a constituency is roughly equal.

The Senate

- The Senate was established to protect the regional interests and perhaps the property rights of Canadians.
- From the start of Confederation to the present, a property qualification is required of senators, who must own \$4000 worth of property in the province they represent.
- The Fathers of Confederation planned for senators to be knowledgeable and experienced and be able to carefully review any bills passed by the House of Commons.
- Because the Fathers of Confederation did not want senators to vote based on concerns over being re-elected, Canadian senators were appointed for life. This was later changed to age 75.
- The real power in parliament lies within the Prime Minister and the group of advisors called the Cabinet.
- In accordance with the principles of responsible government, both the Prime Minister and the Cabinet are appointed from the House of Commons and the Senate.
- The federal government was given the responsibility of _____ . It was also allowed broad taxation powers and the power to disallow provincial laws that went against federal law.
- Provinces were to have control over property and civil rights, as well as _____ .
- Provincial governments were also supposed to manage local matters that would help preserve regional identities.

- There was no procedure in place to amend the British North America Act without going through the British parliament and federal-provincial disagreements on the interpretation of the BNA Act had to be heard by a British court.

