

Section 3: Canada & the American Revolution

Introduction

This section covers events in North America immediately following England's victory over France during the Seven Years' War. In particular, this unit pays close attention to how political developments in the Thirteen Colonies affected the development of Quebec (Canada).

In the 1760s, the American colonies pressured England for more freedom and decision-making power. The English refused to meet these demands; and to teach the outspoken Americans a lesson (and pay for the costly Colonial Wars), George III passed a number of taxes affecting the colonies. The colonists responded angrily to the taxes and called them "intolerable." From the years 1765 to 1774 AD, England and America prepared for war. The English passed the *Quebec Act* in 1774 to guarantee French loyalty in the approaching conflict. The Americans responded by sending a letter entreating the French to make common cause with them against the British.

The war that followed has been called the American Revolutionary War. This conflict is important because of the influx of American immigrants (called "Loyalists") to Canada which resulted in the creation of new northern colonies.

A weak alliance of French, English, and Mohawk, successfully defended Canada from the invading armies of the Americans. Once the war was over, a new balance of power was established in North America. To bring stability to the colonies, King George III passed the *Constitution Act* (1791) that created two more new colonies and introduced a reformed colonial governing system.

Story Outline for 3.0: Canada & the American Revolution (1776-1783)

THE STORY	THE DETAILS	TERMS & PEOPLE
<p><i>The American Revolution was a war between rival world-views—British (aristocratic) and American (democratic).</i></p>	<p>3.0). Canada and the American Revolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Most Americans believed authority to govern comes from the people. 2). Westminster (England's parliament) insisted authority came from the king. 3). The "Revolution" was fought mainly over this philosophical difference. 	<p>World-view: a unique way of looking at the world; value system; perspective.</p> <p>Aristocratic: from the Ancient Greek meaning "rule by the best."</p> <p>Democratic: from the Ancient Greek literally meaning "people power"; however, when many people use the word they think "rule by the people."</p>
<p>An Analogy</p> <p>1). The American Revolution was a conflict between two opposing philosophies—a conflict between conservatives who preferred to keep things the same and liberals who preferred to "change with the times." The American Revolution was really a product of the French Enlightenment (also known as the "Age of Reason").</p>		<p>Conservative: a word used to refer to people who share a particular world-view, i.e. Loyalty to the English Crown.</p> <p>Liberals: a word used to refer to people sharing a world-view, i.e. Greater individual freedom and authority being directly accountable to the people.</p> <p>Enlightenment: an intellectual movement in Europe (1650 to 1800) advocating the use of reason and individualism instead of tradition and established doctrine.</p>
<p><i>By 1760 America no longer needed England's protection against the French.</i></p> <p><i>America began to call for greater autonomy.</i></p>	<p>A Comparison of Britain & the 13 Colonies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). In Britain, there was a "class system." 2). In America, social class existed but was less entrenched. 3). The British believed everything should be sacrificed for "King George III and country!" 4). Americans prided themselves on being self-reliant and greatly valued personal freedom. 5). British society was dominated by an oligarchy. 6). The British viewed American-style democracy as a form of "mobocracy." 	<p>Class System: a system of social stratification in which a person's status is determined by the family into which a person is born.</p> <p>King George III: the King of England at the time of the American Revolution.</p> <p>Oligarchy: literally means "rule by the few."</p> <p>Mobocracy: American democracy included every propertied white male (different than in England). Consequently, the British looked at the Thirteen Colonies being ruled by a "mob" (rather than being ruled by the "few" who were "best" suited to rule.</p>

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<p><i>Most Americans did not want outright independence. They just wanted a little more say in their own government.</i></p> <p><i>To pay for the costly Colonial Wars England increased taxes in the Colonies. Americans reacted by saying if they were paying taxes they should be allowed to have representatives in Westminster.</i></p>	<p>"No Taxation without Representation!"</p> <p>1). To pay for the Colonial Wars England raised taxes in the Thirteen Colonies.</p> <p>2). Americans had no problem paying increased taxes <i>if</i> they were given direct representation in Westminster.</p> <p>3). England responded to American requests for more power and freedom with further taxes and repression.</p>	<p>Representation: in democracy people elect "representatives" to "represent" them in parliament (legislature).</p> <p>Repression: the act of repressing; control by holding down.</p>
<p><i>The American Revolution was also a civil war.</i></p> <p><i>The American Revolution was also a revolution.</i></p>	<p>The Road to War</p> <p>1). Neighbour turned against neighbour, friend against friend, brother against brother, etc. There was no room to be neutral. Americans had to pick sides for the approaching conflict.</p> <p>2). Some conservative Americans called "Loyalists" supported the English Crown.</p> <p>3). Liberal Americans tended to support independence from England (and these people were called "Republicans").</p> <p>4). As tempers flared in the Thirteen Colonies the "rule of law" broke down.</p>	<p>Civil War: a war between factions in the same country.</p> <p>Revolution: a drastic and far-reaching change in ways of thinking and behaving; the overthrow of a government by those who are governed.</p> <p>Loyalists: a person who is loyal to an established government, political party or sovereign (king/queen) especially during times of war.</p> <p>Republicans: an advocate or supporter of living under a republican system of government instead of a monarchy.</p> <p>Republic: a political system whereby individual states come together voluntarily to cooperate in matters of defence, etc.</p> <p>Rule of Law: supreme authority exists in a constitution where all laws/rules are written down; all members of society are equally subject to these rules at all times.</p>

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<p><i>By 1774 most Americans had abandoned any hope of a peaceful solution to their problems being found. The Thirteen Colonies and Britain prepared for war.</i></p>	<p>Causes of the American Revolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Britain refused to grant America more decision-making power (hegemony). 2). Westminster passed a series of taxes that Americans called the "Intolerable Acts." 3). British troops fired upon American protestors in Boston (Boston Massacre (1770)). 4). American protestors dressed up like Mohawk Indians, boarded English ships in Boston Harbour, and then threw the ships' tea into the water below (Boston Tea Party (1773)). 	<p>Hegemony: a state of dominance of one group over another with or without the threat of force.</p> <p>Intolerable Acts: a series of taxes that England used to repress Americans.</p> <p>Boston Massacre: an event that sparked American hatred towards England.</p> <p>Boston Tea Party: Britain passed the <i>Tea Act</i> (1773) forcing Americans to purchase English tea instead of American produced tea. The "party" was a logical response to English repression.</p>
	<p>The Intolerable Acts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Several taxes were imposed upon the Americans, i.e. <i>Sugar Act</i> (1764), <i>Stamp Act</i> (1765), <i>Quartering Act</i> (1765), etc. 2). The greatest of the "Intolerable Acts" was the <i>Quebec Act</i> (1774). 	<p>Quebec Act: please download and read the <i>Quebec Act Companion</i> from the website.</p>
<p><i>In response to the Intolerable Acts, each of the Thirteen Colonies sent representatives to Philadelphia to participate in the First Continental Congress.</i></p> <p><i>After attempts for a peaceful resolution had failed, Congress appointed Washington as commander and chief and began recruiting/training a Continental Army.</i></p>	<p>The Continental Congress</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The First Continental Congress was not established to pursue outright independence. On the contrary, Congress' role was to provide the appearance of a "colonial united front" for England. 2). Congress sent a letter directly to King George III asking for the "Intolerable Acts" to be repealed and America given direct representation in exchange for the paying of taxes. 3). King George III responded to the letter by sending more troops to the Thirteen Colonies. 	<p>First Continental Congress: was the first legislature (parliament) of the United States established in 1774; it fulfilled the necessary functions of government during the Revolution.</p>
	<p>Open Letter to Quebec</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). In 1774, Henry Middleton (representing Congress) composed and sent a letter entitled <i>An Appeal to the Inhabitants of Quebec</i>. 2). The <i>Appeal's</i> purpose was to convince the French (Quebec) to join the Thirteen Colonies to boot Britain out of North America. 3). The <i>Quebec Act</i> had given the Canadiens everything they could possibly want. The French were unwilling to fight England and make common cause with America b/c they did not trust the Americans. 	<p>Henry Middleton: the author of the <i>Appeal to the Inhabitants of Quebec</i>. The <i>Appeal</i> largely failed because it failed to offer the French something they did not already have under the British.</p>

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<p><i>The best of the British could hope for in Quebec/Canada was a militant neutrality.</i></p>	<p>Mixed Reaction in Quebec 1). Governor Carleton ordered the French militia to assemble so the anticipated American attack could be repulsed.</p>	<p>Militant Neutrality: people that are neutral do not generally support any particular group during a conflict; a “militant” neutrality generally means you morally support one side but do not actively join it in open conflict.</p>
<p><i>The Thirteen Colonies wanted the French to be their allies; however, after the Appeal had failed to produce the desire support.</i></p> <p><i>America invaded Canada in 1775 (and 1778).</i></p>	<p>3.1). 1775: The Invasion of Canada 1). Washington appointed two men—General Montgomery and Colonel Arnold—to lead the Continental Army in Canada.</p>	<p>General Richard Montgomery: a capable but unfortunate leader who was killed during a winter storm during the Siege of Quebec.</p> <p>Colonel Benedict Arnold: an American officer of great distinction. He eventually betrayed the Revolution and joined the British side.</p>
<p><i>Montgomery’s army took a long time to capture St. Jean and Montreal. He did not arrive at Quebec City until early winter.</i></p>	<p>Montgomery: Fort St. Jean & Montreal 1). The Americans under General Montgomery captured Fort St. Jean and Montreal. 2). Governor Carleton escaped from Montreal disguised as a French peasant.</p>	
<p><i>Governor Carleton repeatedly prevented Americans from sending requests for the surrender of Quebec.</i></p> <p><i>Arnold could do nothing without the direct assistance of Montgomery.</i></p>	<p>Arnold Lays Siege to Quebec City 1). According to the American plan, Arnold and Montgomery were supposed to converge (meet) at Quebec City before the onset of winter. 2). Montgomery did not arrive until November. And Arnold’s army ended up taking longer than expected to arrive at Quebec b/c their maps were inaccurate.</p>	
<p><i>By mid-December winter had arrived in Quebec making the American situation grow more hopeless.</i></p>	<p>Winter Grows Colder 1). The Americans decided to attack Quebec during the next snow storm.</p>	
<p><i>In 1776, the American invaders completely withdrew from Canada.</i></p> <p><i>On July 4th, 1776, the Continental Congress issued its Declaration of Independence.</i></p>	<p>Suicidal Night Attack 1). The Americans attacked Quebec City during a snow storm. Montgomery was killed during the fight. Arnold was wounded as his army was ambushed. 2). The Americans retreated and were pursued by the British southward into the Great Lakes area.</p>	<p>Declaration of Independence: a statement of America’s desire to leave the British Empire and seek political independence.</p>

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<p><i>A significant number of Americans wanted to remain loyal to Great Britain.</i></p>	<p>3.2). The Loyalists 1). A significant number of Americans wanted to remain loyal to Great Britain. 2). Loyalists were subjected to all sorts of violent and degrading treatments, i.e. Being tarred and feathered or strung up on so-called "Liberty Trees." 3). Loyalists got their revenge through the actions of paramilitary units like John Butler's Rangers.</p>	<p>Liberty Trees: republicans hanged loyalists on trees to send a message to the enemies of the Revolution.</p> <p>John Butler's Rangers: a frontier fighting force that killed Americans and caused destruction up and down the American frontier.</p>
	<p>The Revolution & the Iroquois Confederacy 1). Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) was perhaps the most influential Iroquois chief at this time.</p>	<p>Thayendanegea: also known as Joseph Brant. He was comfortable among both Iroquois and English alike.</p>
<p><i>The Iroquois did not trust the Americans. Four members of the Iroquois Confederacy actively supported England against the Thirteen Colonies.</i></p>	<p>Iroquois Unity Shattered 1). The Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca agreed to make war against the Thirteen Colonies. 2). The Oneida and Tuscarora remained neutral. 3). The once proud confederacy was now broken. 4). In 1777, Joseph Brant led his men to victory over the Americans at the Battle of Oriskany. 5). In response to the Iroquoian slaughter of Americans at Oriskany, General Washington gave the order for the American Army to utterly destroy the Iroquois Confederacy.</p>	<p>Battle of Oriskany: the Iroquois absolutely butchered the Americans. In response, the Americans launched a series of attacks on the Iroquoian homeland burning crops, orchards, and villages. The Iroquois people themselves were not harmed directly as they retreated before the advancing American armies.</p>
<p><i>British commander Lord Cornwallis landed in South Carolina (1778). He expected to be greeted as a "liberator" by the Loyalists; however, all the Loyalists had already left and he was surrounded by a completely unfriendly republican population.</i></p>	<p>The Revolution: 1778-1781 1). Through a series of clashes the Americans eventually gained the upper-hand over the British invaders. 2). The British were forced to retreat to York. In 1778, France became an ally of America and helped defeat the British at Yorktown. 3). The French-American army/navy defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown (1781).</p>	<p>Lord Cornwallis: commander of Britain's southern army in America.</p> <p>Battle of Yorktown: the last of the major battles to take place during the American Revolution.</p>
<p><i>Britain signed a peace with the Americans but refused to acknowledge American independence.</i></p>	<p>The Treaty of Paris (1783) 1). King George III wanted to continue the war but Westminster brought the war to a close by signing the <i>Treaty of Paris.</i> 2). Canada remained part of the British Empire. The Iroquois Confederacy was forced to move to the western shore of Lake Ontario.</p>	

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<p><i>After their defeat at Yorktown, the British were left in control of only one significant colony (New York).</i></p>	<p>The Great Exodus 1). The majority of "United Empire Loyalists" from New York re-settled in Nova Scotia.</p>	
<p><i>Slaves who fought for Great Britain were promised land and their freedom. However, Britain failed to provide either land or freedom for the majority of African-Americans fleeing slavery in the United States.</i></p>	<p>Slavery, Black Loyalists & Freetown 1). Black Loyalists were confronted with racism and prejudice in Canada. They had fought for freedom but lived in a society where they were not "free" or tolerated. 2). Thus, many Black Loyalists with the assistance of Britain established a new settlement in Sierra Leone, Africa, called Freetown.</p>	<p>Freetown: a Baptist preacher named David George helped organize the Black Loyalist settlement.</p>
<p><i>The arrival of thousands of Loyalists to Quebec and the Maritimes made it necessary to create new colonies to absorb the "Americans."</i></p>	<p>New Colonies 1). New Brunswick was created out of Nova Scotia in 1784. 2). Canada's Governor Haldimand worried that the arrival of 10,000 Americans to the French colony would destabilize Quebec.</p>	<p>Governor Frederick Haldimand: succeeded Carleton as governor of Quebec.</p>
<p><i>The impact of the arrival of tens of thousands of Loyalists on the Canadian identity cannot be over-stated: they established traditions and attitudes that continue to persist right up to the present, i.e. Self-deprecation and a respect for the "rule of law."</i></p>	<p>Loyalist Impact on the Canadian Character 1). The Loyalists brought with them to Canada a conservative world-view and a dislike for violent revolution. They had a preference for political evolution instead. The Loyalists brought with them values that were at their very core "anti-American."</p>	<p>Self-Deprecation: a usually humorous attitude or criticism of oneself; humility; poking fun at oneself or at people who think too much of themselves.</p>
<p><i>The Loyalists in Nova Scotia were given their own colony; however, England refused to give the French their own colony. Instead, Colony of Quebec / Canada would be divided into two provinces—Upper Canada (Loyalist) and Lower Canada (French).</i></p>	<p>3.3). Constitution Act (1791) 1). The French and English were separated geographically by creating two provinces out of the single Colony of Canada. 2). By keeping the two peoples as part of the same Colony Britain left the door open for the eventual assimilation of the French.</p>	<p>Assimilation: the process by which one cultural group is absorbed by another.</p>

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	<p>Constitution Acts's Main Provisions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Quebec divided into Upper and Lower Canada. 2). Both provinces granted a separate elected assembly. 3). Roman Catholics could vote and/or hold public office; but only people who owned property could vote in elections. 	
<p><i>Westminster did not completely trust the American Loyalists or the French; therefore, Carleton's "appointed councils" remained firmly in control of the provinces' affairs.</i></p>	<p>Some Problems with the Constitution Act</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Although each province had an elected assembly these assemblies had no real decision-making power. 2). You cannot have "democracy" when an <i>appointed</i> council has more power than an <i>elected</i> assembly. This was a complete contradiction. 3). The colonial governor was the most powerful person in Quebec. 	
<p><i>English governors in North America after 1791 had comparatively more power than King George III possessed in England.</i></p>	<p>Some More Problems with the Constitution Act</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Governors were virtually absolute rulers in Canada. 2). The governor appointed rich Canadians/Canadiens to important positions on the appointed councils. 	
<p><i>The elected assemblies created by the Constitution Act had no real authority. For government in Canada to be called truly democratic both the governor and the "rich guys" would have to somehow be accountable to the "people."</i></p>	<p>Constitution Act: Final Remarks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The colonial government in Canada was a collection of contradictions: it was democratic in name but in reality was aristocratic, e.g. An appointed council was placed in charge of an elected assembly. 	
<p><i>Upper Canada was carved out of Quebec because English Loyalists wanted their own colony.</i></p>	<p>The Creation of Upper Canada</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). John Graves Simcoe was the first governor of Upper Canada. 2). By 1812 the population of Upper Canada was 75,000. The majority of these people traced their ancestry directly back to the United States. 3). Upper Canada was essentially an <i>American</i> colony within British North America. 	<p>John Graves Simcoe: founded the settlement of Fort York (which eventually was renamed Toronto).</p>
<p><i>Although slavery was legal in the British Empire there also existed a strong anti-slavery movement.</i></p>	<p>Slavery and Canada</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Simcoe passed the Slave Act (1793) which officially abolished the practice of slavery in Canada. 	