

**SECTION 4: GENERAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Ambush:** the act of concealing yourself and lying in wait to attack by surprise. Synonyms: stalk.

**Anglo-Native Alliance:** it just occurred to me that some of you, in between watching all those movies and not reading any books, might not have learned what Anglo-Native means. The word Anglo is derived from Angle (ancient inhabitants of the British Isles). The word Native is a word used by the English to refer to indigenous or First Nations peoples in North America. Putting the two together, i.e. Anglo-Native, etc. implies some sort of cooperation between the two groups is taking place.

**Aristocracy:** a privileged class holding hereditary titles. Synonyms: gentry, nobles, oligarchy

**Bill of Rights (1689):** also known as the English Constitution; a list of laws protecting the rights of individuals from being infringed upon by other individuals or the government. The constitution is considered to be the supreme law of the land and is extremely difficult to change.

**Blockade:** an action usually conducted from the sea that blocks or prevents supplies from reaching the enemy. Synonyms: embargo, siege.

**“Brock's Bluff”:** Brock had some experience and success with bluffing. As a young man, he and another soldier from the same regiment got into a disagreement about which captain from the television show *Star Trek* was the best. Brock of course insisted that Captain Kirk was the most capable commander of the “Starship Enterprise.” His opponent foolishly asserted that Picard was the best. Actually, the conflict was the result of someone’s honor being insulted. Brock's opponent asked him for a duel to solve the problem. Without flinching, Brock agreed to the request; however, he would only fight if the man agreed to fire at one another from no further than the length of a handkerchief. The bluff worked and the man declined to duel and eventually left the regiment. Source: Canada: A People’s History, Page 167.

**Cannonade:** a large number of cannon firing at the enemy at one time. Synonyms: barrage.

**Central Government:** the federal level of government as opposed to the provincial or state level. The more complex society gets the bigger government tends to be. Decision-making in Canada and the United States has been centralized around a single federal government led by either a prime minister or president (with the assistance of other elected representatives) to preserve the unity and cohesiveness of the whole country.

**Cholera Epidemic:** an infectious disease of the gastrointestinal tract caused by the *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium. These bacteria are typically ingested by drinking water contaminated by improper sanitation or by eating improperly cooked fish. Symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, dehydration, and habitually coming late to class. Death is generally due to the dehydration caused by the illness (or by blows to the head when the teacher chucks text books at you). If left untreated cholera generally has a high mortality rate.

**Confederacy:** a union of persons, parties, or states; alliance; league. Synonyms: association, guild, league, order.

**Contingent:** a gathering of persons representative of some larger group, i.e. Each nation sent a contingent of athletes to the Olympics. Synonyms: group. (Why use a fancy word like “contingent” if you could use a simpler one like “group”? Believe it or not but if you build your vocabulary you place yourself into a position to think and operate at a higher level of consciousness.)

**Conventional Tactics:** battles in Europe were highly structured affairs. There were rules of engagement and protocols to be followed. The battles themselves often took place in open spaces agreed upon by the combatants. Frontier warfare was exactly the opposite: there were no rules and the wilderness of North America made it difficult at the best of times for a general to coordinate an organized attack.

**Cyclical View of Time:** a view where time is seen as a series of repetitive cycles in which certain events or phenomena repeat themselves in the same order at the same interval. Europeans had a linear sense of time, e.g. Events took place in a logical, chronological order, etc. Europeans had a strong sense of the inevitable and they were future oriented; whereas, the First Nations tended to think in terms of seasons living more in the moment and the here and now.

**Dearborn Massacre:** the massacre occurred on August 15, 1812, near Fort Dearborn in Michigan Territory (what is now Chicago, Illinois). The massacre followed the evacuation of the fort ordered by the commander of the U.S. forces General William Hull. This event is also known as the Battle of Fort Dearborn, and it was a decisive victory for the British. A procession of 148 soldiers, women and children left Fort Dearborn to retreat to Fort Wayne. About one and a half miles (2 km) south of the fort, a band of Potawatomi and Miami warriors ambushed the garrison, killing more than fifty of the fleeing Americans and capturing the remainder as prisoners to sell to the British as slaves. The British released the slaves promptly after purchase

**Democratization:** the process by which a society gradually adopts democratic institutions like representative parliament, constitution, and responsible government, etc. as well as other related reforms. Synonyms: liberalization.

**Diminutive:** a word implying shortness of stature. Synonyms: small, short.

**Economic Recession:** a significant decline in general economic activity extending over a period of time (resulting in an increase in unemployment levels and corresponding social problems). Synonyms: depression.

**Encroachment:** entry to another's property without right or permission. Synonyms: trespass.

**Flag of the *Patriotes*:** the new flag combined the colors of the tri-color of France (red, white, blue) and the tri-color of Ireland (green, white, orange). The flag represented the common cause for freedom being made by both French and Irish within Quebec.

**Galvanize:** to stimulate to action; to bring together. Synonyms: harden resolve, unite.

**Homies:** an ebonics term (slang) usually used as a favorable reference to someone you know. Synonyms: friend, comrade.

**Homogenous (homogeneous):** all of the same or similar kind or nature; "a close-knit homogeneous group." Synonyms: uniform, standardized.

**If-not-older (French Culture):** while the Franks under Emperor Charlemagne were enjoying a renaissance of literature, art, etc. in the Eighth Century, the ancestors of the English were still hanging from trees, flinging poop at one another, and clubbing each other over the head to see which chief would dominate the rocky and sunless isle.

**Impressment:** forced recruitment of sailors by the British Royal Navy during the late 18th and early 19th century. As the Merchant Marine of the United States began to enjoy a lucrative cargo trade, it hired many British sailors. An estimated 20,000 Britons, including deserters from the Royal Navy, worked on American ships between 1790 and 1815.

**Incidental:** insignificant or irrelevant; minor or casual or subordinate in significance or nature or occurring as a chance concomitant or consequence; not of prime significance. Synonyms: accidental, marginal.

**Indian Wars:** 1774-1890, a series of conflicts between the United States and American Indians. The first wars preceded the American Revolution and the conflict stretched all the way until 1890 when the last Indian nation was defeated.

**Individualism:** an approach to political and social philosophy which emphasizes the importance of individuals in contrast to the social wholes, such as families, classes or societies, to which they belong. Synonyms: liberalism, pluralism.

**Initiative:** victory in war more often than not goes to the side that takes the initiative; that is, the leader who turns weaknesses into strengths by determining when and where battles are fought.

**Insatiable:** impossible to satisfy. Synonyms: unquenchable, unsatisfiable, unending. Speaking of insatiable, the following is something Chiksika (eldest brother of Tecumseh) said to his young brother with respect to the white man: “When a white man kills an Indian in a fair fight it is called honorable, but when an Indian kills a white man in a fair fight it is called murder. When a white army battles Indians and wins it is called a great victory, but if they lose it is called a massacre and bigger armies are raised. If the Indian flees before the advance of such armies, when he tries to return he finds that white men are living where he lived. If he tries to fight off such armies, he is killed and the land is taken anyway. When an Indian is killed it is a great loss which leaves a gap in our people and a sorrow in our heart; when a white is killed, three or four others step up to take his place and there is no end to it. The white man seeks to conquer nature, to bend it to his will and to use it wastefully until it is all gone and then he simply moves on, leaving the waste behind him and looking for new places to take. The whole white race is a monster who is always hungry and what he eats is land” (March 19, 1779). Quotation taken from the excellent book, A Sorrow in Our Hearts written by Allan W. Eckert. As of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Chiksika’s observations still ring true...

**Manifest Destiny:** although the phrase “manifest destiny” did not appear until 1845, Americans as early as the 1790s believed they were preordained by God to conquer all North America and control its neighbors.

**Middle-Class:** people occupying a socio-economic position between those of the lower classes and the wealthy. Some political theorists insist that for a democracy to be healthy and functional there must be a powerful and sizable middle-class because of their collective economic and intellectual power. Synonyms: bourgeoisie

**Militia:** civilians trained as soldiers but not part of the regular army. Synonyms: national guard, reserves.

**Mitigate:** to make less severe or harsh; reduce severity. Synonyms: counter, alleviate, reverse.

**Napoleonic Wars:** a series of global conflicts fought during Napoleon Bonaparte's imperial rule over France (1804-1815). In some respects, they were an extension of the wars sparked by the French Revolution of 1789. The French conquered most of Europe; but the empire collapsed rapidly after their disastrous invasion of Russia (1812). Napoleon's empire eventually suffered complete military defeat. This resulted in the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy in France in 1814 and 1815.

**Normalized:** become normal or return to its normal state. For example, “Let’s hope that relations with this country will normalize soon.” Synonyms: return to normal, stabilize, improve.

**Oligarchy:** taken from the Greek meaning “government by the few”; usually wealthy, upper-class families.

**Paranoia:** a mental state that includes unreasonable suspicions of people and situations. A person who is paranoid may be suspicious, hostile, feel very important, or may become extremely sensitive to rejection by others. Synonyms: madness, demented.

**Playdo-resolve:** typically the phrase is “iron resolve” but that would not have accurately reflected the will power of those involved in the insurrection. Read on and you will see how the word “playdo” is more than accurate. In fact, the rebels make Gumby look like Otto von Bismarck. You should Google both these guys to get the joke I suppose...

**Political Culture:** a shared set of ideals held in common by people within the same country. These ideals are country-specific and influence decision-making processes when it comes to issues related to justice, politics, culture, and the economy.

**Precarious:** dangerously insecure; fraught with danger; affording no ease or reassurance. Synonyms: dangerous, difficult.

**Prerogative Power:** the power to make important decisions for a person or group without having to consult that person or group. Decision-making under this type of process tends to be arbitrary and suits the needs of the person/group making the decision (as opposed to the people who are directly affected by the decision). Synonyms: discretionary power, arbitrary, caprice.

**Propaganda:** false information directed towards a target audience with the intent of bringing about specific changes in their behavior. Antonym: truth.

**Provisional Government:** an emergency or interim government set up when a political void has been created by the collapse of a previous administration or regime. A provisional government holds power until elections can be held or a permanent government can otherwise be established.

**Psychological Warfare:** use of propaganda (misinformation) to destroy enemy morale. This tactic has been used since ancient times. For instance, Genghis Khan planted rumors in the territories he was going to attack about how ferocious his Mongol horsemen were. The horsemen existed but they weren't nearly as mean as they were made out to be. His propaganda was so effective that even I (in the 21st Century) am a little bit scared of them. But then again I'm still scared of vampires...

**Recession:** a prolonged slowdown in economic activity marked by less consumer spending and by higher levels of unemployment. Synonyms: retraction, recede.

**Relationship:** the new Assembly of the United Province of Canada suffered continually from something called political deadlock. Canada East and West had an equal number of representatives. Consequently, when laws were being voted on both the French and English frequently practiced something called "bloc voting." In this type of voting, representatives don't vote based on the rightness or wrongness of a proposed law. Instead, they cast votes based on how other fellow French or English representatives vote. Thus, the voting is based along ethnic lines. So if the French wanted a particular law passed they would all vote for it and the English would all vote against it. This led to political deadlock and decision-making in the province ground to a halt.

**Report on the Affairs of British North America:** commonly known as "Lord Durham's Report" is an important document in the history of Canada and the British Empire. Durham had just been appointed Governor General and given special powers as high commissioner of British North America. He had spoken to merchants in Britain who wanted greater British control over the Canadas, as they felt the French Canadians' presence in Lower Canada undermined their economic interests. The *Report* made several recommendations that were eventually implemented by the British Government in 1847 (namely the union of Upper and Lower Canada and the granting of responsible government).

**Representative Government:** people elect politicians to represent them in Parliament where laws are created and debated.

**Responsible Government:** the government of the day is accountable to the Lower House of parliament. In the context of 1820s Canada, this would make the governor and executive council accountable to the House of Assembly (people's representatives).

**Rule of Caprice:** style of rule employed by monarchs and dictators where the leader creates laws affecting everyone based on their own peculiar prejudices. And in a system such as this laws frequently contradict one another making it difficult for people to know where they stand (or what is legal or illegal). Moreover, rules/laws tend to change with a change in leadership. Synonyms: arbitrary rule.

**Rule of Law:** a system typical of democratic societies where no one (not even the president, prime minister, or monarch) is above the law. People in a society governed by the rule of law have a clear

understanding of what is considered lawful and/or unlawful behavior. Laws are written down in a constitution. Laws do not change with a change in leadership.

**Slough:** to discard. Synonym: throw away, ignore.

**Subtle:** elusive; be difficult to detect or grasp by the mind. Synonym: slight, hidden, unobvious.

**Surrender (Child at the Park):** the British attempts to get the Mohawk to allow the Americans to surrender reminded me instantly of a child and parent at a park. The parent tells the child, “Okay Jimmy five more minutes and then we're going.” Jimmy nods in agreement and five minutes pass in blissful play. Then the parent says, “Time to go.” The kid pleads, “Ahhh, just one more minute?” And the parent gives in repeatedly until after the fifth time they are compelled to physically remove the child from the park. Who says history doesn't repeat itself? People with amnesia, that's who.

**Unabashed:** “open republicanism” in 1840 means a belief that people should have more direct say in their own government. The British were elitists at heart: they did not believe that the uneducated masses could be trusted to make good decisions. They would only use their power to try and take power from the rich. Durham was a little too radical for the liking of his peers (especially with his support for responsible government).

**Victory (Little Brothers):** this both-sides-claiming-victory-thing reminds me of a common childhood situation: a little brother calls his big brother a name and runs away. The big brother chases him around the front yard and then around the car parked on the road, eventually catching the little brother on the front lawn. The big brother pushes his younger sibling on to the ground and pins him down. The big brother dangles spit from his mouth over his prostrate brother warning him to take back the insult or take the spit. The little brother, of course, is compelled to take back his words to avoid being horked on.

However, as soon as the big brother is a safe distance away, and the little brother has wisely mounted his bicycle, the little brother calls the big one an even worse name and then rides down the road to freedom with the older brother in hot pursuit. Now here is the catch (pun unintended): although the little brother got in one more clever insult and, more importantly got away (retreated), he has not really won anything has he? I speak from experience.

All you have done is delayed the inevitable: mom yells out the front door for you to come inside for supper, and, just as you are entering the door, there your brother is waiting. He punches you in the shoulder as hard as he can and there's nothing you can do about it (except, maybe, when he isn't looking you can do something to his supper). Hypothetically speaking, of course... \*cough\* o.O

**York:** established on Lake Ontario in 1793 by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe. Simcoe recognized York (later renamed Toronto) was an ideal site for settlement and defense because of its natural harbor and relative distance from the United States.