

# North America to 1815

Between 1600 and 1760, France and Britain were locked in an ongoing rivalry over Acadia, Newfoundland and Quebec.

The fight was over the rich resources of North America.

- Cod-fishing grounds off Newfoundland and Acadia
- Fur trade along the St. Lawrence River

1756 the Seven Years War broke out.

- British and French empires were in armed conflict in Europe, India, and North America

City of Quebec fell to the British in 1759

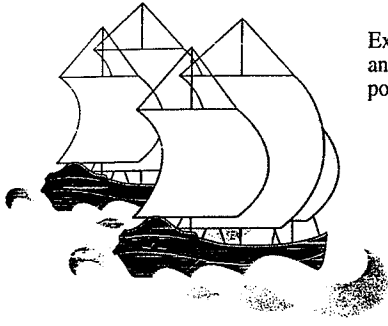
Plains of Abraham: The army of **General James Wolf** defeated the French forces led by **General Louis-Joseph Montcalm**.

French surrendered to the British in September 1760

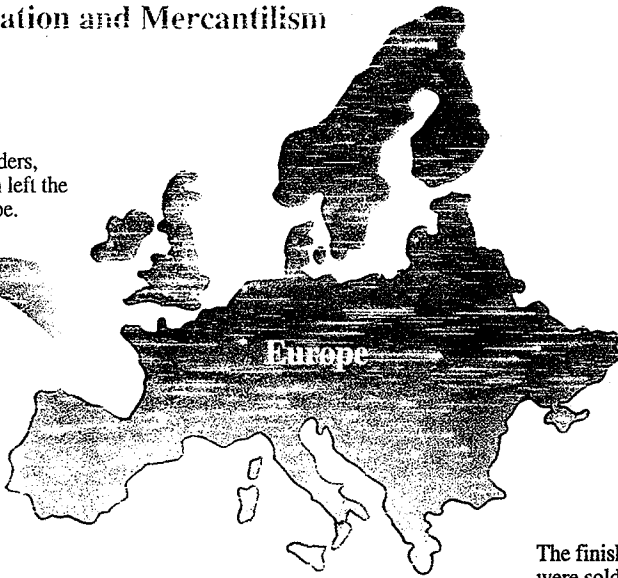
1763 The treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years War

- New France became part of the British Empire

# Exploration and Mercantilism

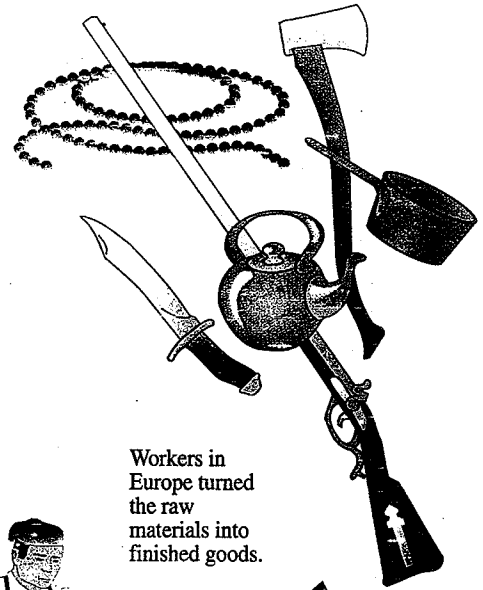
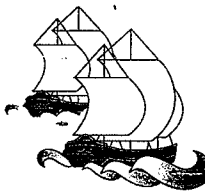
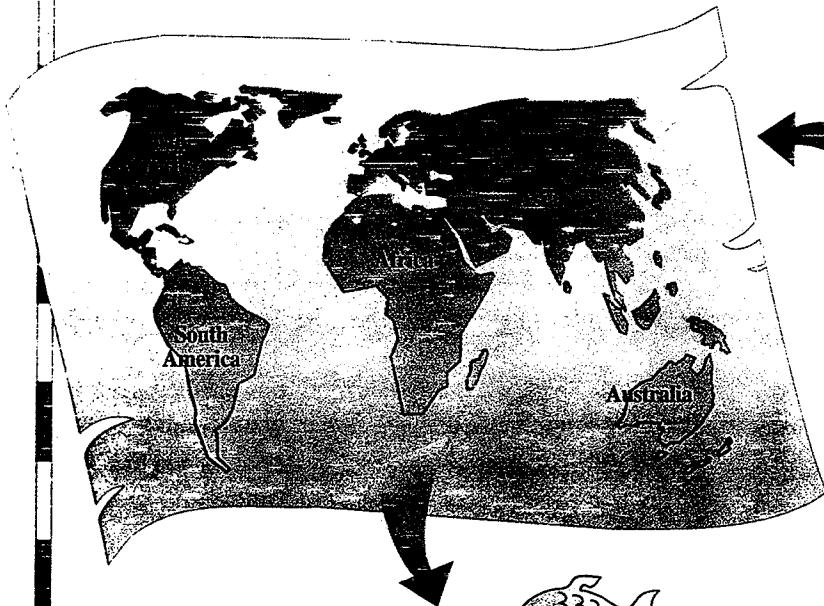


Explorers, traders, and fishermen left the ports of Europe.

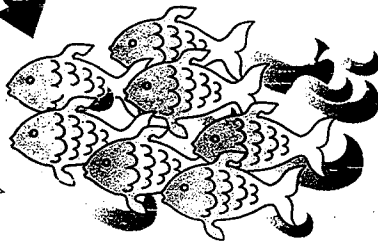


They took finished goods to people who lived in other parts of the world.

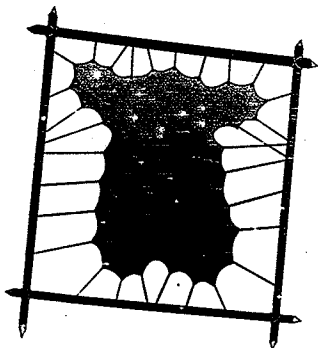
The finished goods were sold all over the world for more than had been paid for raw materials and labour. This allowed countries that manufactured the goods to accumulate wealth in gold and silver.



Workers in Europe turned the raw materials into finished goods.



Raw materials were bought inexpensively from all over the world and sent to workers in Europe.



# The Quebec Act

1750 – several hundred thousand people  
65,000 Europeans

The French thought of themselves as *les Canadiens*  
“The people of Canada”

The French differed in both language and religion to  
their British conquerors

British military rule in Quebec was replaced by a  
civilian government

The proclamation of 1763 created the Quebec  
colony

- Protection for the Canadian way of life
- traditional laws
- Roman Catholic Religion

In Britain and its colonies at this time Roman  
Catholics were not allowed to take part in political  
life.

Enlarged the territorial limits of the colony beyond  
those set out in the Proclamation of 1763.

Lands formerly reserved for Native peoples,  
included the Ohio Valley were now part of Quebec

Control of the valuable fur trade would now go to  
the merchants of Quebec City and Montreal.

There was no provision for an elected Assembly

# The Quebec Act, 1774

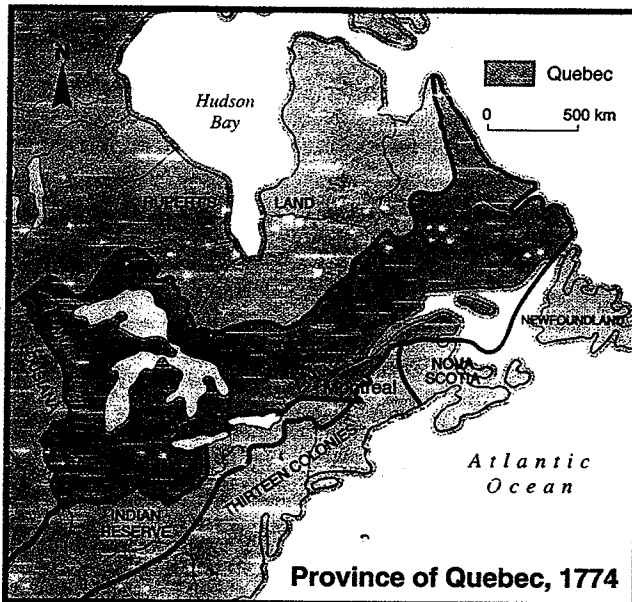
## Introduction

The Quebec Act was passed by the British government in an attempt to keep the loyalty of the *Canadiens*.

## Aim: to allow the French and British ways of doing things (Biculturalism)

The British hoped the Quebec Act would combine the French and British ways of doing things while maintaining the French character of the colony.

This was an example of biculturalism—where two cultures (British and French) exist side by side in the same country. The British government decided that the best way to gain the loyalty of the *Canadiens* was to allow them to maintain the French character of Quebec and preserve the French culture. Quebec was to become both British and French.

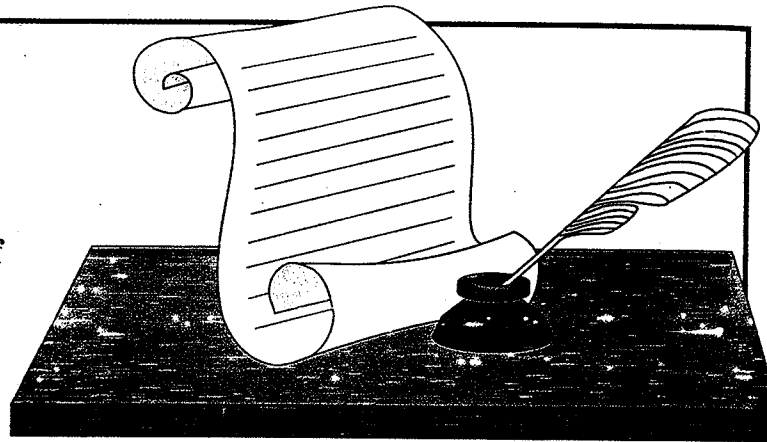


The boundaries of Quebec were enlarged to include the rich fur trading areas between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

## Key Terms

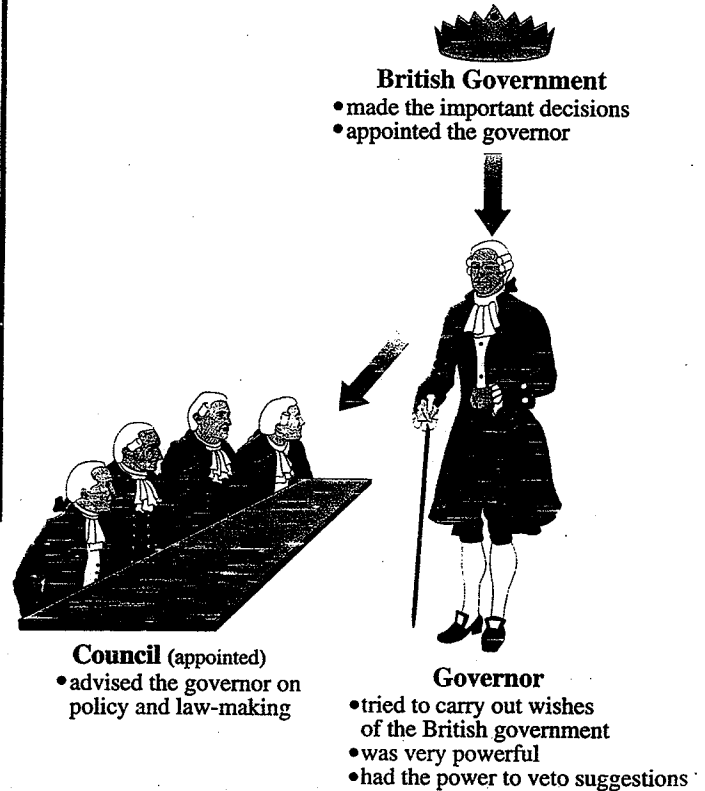
**Language:** The French language was allowed to continue.

**Religion:** The Roman Catholic Church was allowed to continue and to collect tithes (church taxes).



## Government:

- Quebec was to be ruled by an appointed British governor and an appointed council.
- An elected assembly (although promised earlier) was not introduced at this time.
- Roman Catholics could hold government positions.
- French civil law was to continue along with English criminal law.



**Land Holding System:** The seigneurial system was allowed to remain. The governor could also grant land according to the British freehold system.

# American Revolution

Within a year of the Quebec Act, the American Revolution began.

The Intolerable Acts (The Navigation Acts)

- A series of acts put in place by Britain to raise funds for the growing costs of defending the colonies.

A major issue was that Quebec occupied a major part of the continent, limiting the westward expansion of the colonists from the 13 colonies.

Concern over the protection given to the Roman Catholic religion

Failure to provide an elected Assembly for the Quebec colony

“Taxation without representation is tyranny”

1775 the colonists of Massachusetts were the first to take up muskets against the British.

The goal was to take over Quebec because Quebec refused to join their cause.

July 4, 1776 colonial leaders meeting in Philadelphia had issued the **Declaration of Independence**.

The revolution continued for five years after the Declaration of Independence.

The final defeat for the Britain came at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781

Defeated General Cornwallis surrendered to the Americans

The Treaty of Paris was signed by France, United States, and Britain in 1783 formally ending the war.

The American Revolution:

- Created a new nation
- Shrunk Britain's empire in North America
- Quebec would remain a distinctive community in North America
- The united Empire Loyalists were created

## The Sugar Act 1764

### Cause

Britain imposes tax on molasses.

### Effect

People stop buying and selling molasses.

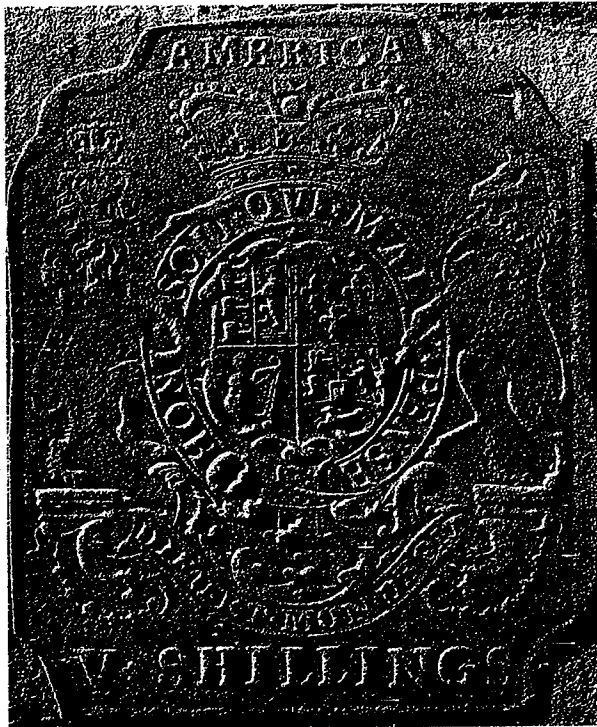
## The Stamp Act 1765

### Cause

Britain orders colonists to buy stamps for all newspapers, legal documents, calendars, and playing cards.

### Effects

- People make speeches and demonstrate against the Stamp Act.
- Tax collectors are attacked.
- Stamps are burned in the streets.
- Some colonists **boycott**, or refuse to buy, all British goods.
- A group called Sons of Liberty is formed to oppose these new British laws.
- The Stamp Act is withdrawn in 1766.



Stamps were impressions made in paper, like seals on a certificate.



American colonists burn British stamps.

## The Townshend Duties 1767

### Cause

Britain places a tax on all tea, glass, paper, lead, silk, and paint bought from Britain.

### Effects

- Colonists stop buying British goods.
- Merchants who sell British goods have their stores vandalized.
- Britain withdraws all taxes, except the one on tea, in 1770.

## The Quartering Act 1768

### Cause

Britain orders colonists to pay for food and housing for the British army in North America.

### Effects

- Colonists are enraged.
- British soldiers are insulted in the streets.
- Street brawls between troops and citizens take place.

## The Boston Massacre 1770

### Cause

A Boston crowd clashes with British redcoats. Insults are shouted and soldiers fire into the crowd.

### Effects

- Blood is shed for the first time and five colonists are killed.
- The British are accused of firing on defenceless citizens.
- Some colonists become more extreme and vocal in their opposition to the British government.

## The Tea Act 1773

### Cause

Britain allows the East India Company to sell tea in the colonies without paying the tax. This tea is cheaper than tea sold by colonial merchants, who have to pay the tax.

### Effects

- Colonists boycott the imported tea.
- In Boston, 30 to 60 men, disguised as Aboriginal people, board ships in the harbour and dump tea into the water. This event is known as the Boston Tea Party.
- Colonists who oppose Britain start to call themselves "**Patriots**" and call pro-British groups "**Tories**."

