

Unit 3 – Notes

The Change of Empire

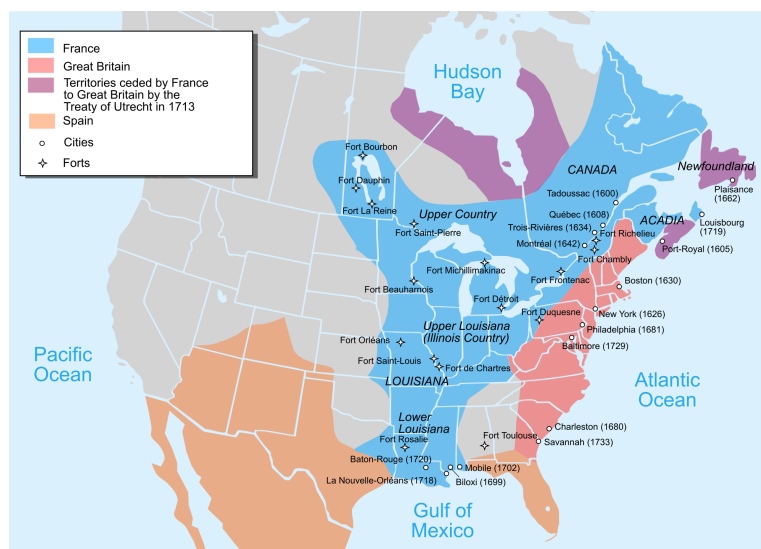
New France's fortunes would change in the early 1700's. From 1663-1713, the colony of New France was allowed to grow and prosper under the Royal Government.

Unfortunately the English colonies to the south of New France were also growing and wanting to expand into the Ohio River Valley which was inhabited mostly by the Amerindian allies of the French, and it was controlled by the French. It was rich in furs for the fur trade and France did not want to lose this. All of this made English expansion very difficult.

The Treaty of Utrecht.

As is often the case, when the mother countries are at war, the colonies are also at war. When the mother countries make peace, the colonies are often affected by the peace. This happens several times during the 1700's to New France. A continued war with England causes many territorial changes.

The first big change came after the **Treaty of Utrecht** was signed in 1713. This treaty ended the war that started over the Spanish Succession (a fight over who will be King of Spain). France was defeated by Great Britain and as a result lost some territory. In particular, France lost parts of New France including Acadia (current day Nova Scotia), Newfoundland, the Hudson Bay area and the Iroquois territories. This allowed the English to have a stronger presence in some key areas of North America and gave England control over several prosperous areas.



France reacted quickly to this loss by:

1. Fortifying Quebec City and Montreal
2. Trying to increase settlements in Louisiana
3. Sending explorers to the Rocky Mountains in the West

4. Building forts along the Richelieu River and the Great Lakes area
5. Build a giant fortress on Ile Royale (Cape Breton today) called Louisbourg
6. Attempt to settle Ile Royale and Ile St Jean (PEI today)

England reacted by:

1. Building forts in the area of Acadia
2. Renaming the area of Acadia as "Nova Scotia"
3. Send British immigrants to Nova Scotia to balance out the population since so many there were French

The Seven Year's War

The peace following the Treaty of Utrecht did not last that long. By 1754 the tension between New France and the 13 Colonies (colonies of England) caused more fighting. Even in Europe France and England were at war once again. This war lasted from 1756-1763. They fought over 3 main points:

1. control over the fur trade west of the Appalachian Mountains.
2. control over the fisheries in the Atlantic and the Gulf of St Lawrence River area
3. control over the Ohio Valley

The military strength was not balanced during this war. The 13 colonies had larger armies and their population was much larger, however their political system was slow to make decisions, unlike the politics in New France, which allowed for quick military based decisions to be made.

In 1758, General Wolfe of England captured the great French Fortress of Louisbourg securing England's control over the greatest portion of the east coast fisheries.

In 1759 General **Wolfe** had made his way into Quebec and put the city under siege. He fought the French troops who were under General **Montcalm** on the **Plains of Abraham**. Wolfe and his English troops were successful and Quebec city surrendered. Both Wolfe and Montcalm were killed in the 20 minute battle

While waiting for the war to end, England set up **a Military Regime**. This is a type of government where the military is in charge and not the elected people.

The Seven Year's War ended and the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763.

By the end of the war, England had complete control over North America. New France was now a British Colony, and France's presence in North America was reduced to three very small islands.



Assimilation of the French Inhabitants.

Once England took control over all of Acadia (today this area is Nova Scotia), they met with a challenge....what to do with the French people who were already living there????

Governor Murray was given the task of assimilating the French people. However this was a very difficult task for him because of the large numbers of French people in the colony. They definitely outnumbered the English soldiers.

They tried to get the Acadians (the French people living in Acadia) to sign an agreement that they would support the King of England. Some agreed to sign this, however most Acadians just wanted to be left alone and chose neutrality.

This was not good enough for the British Governor ordered all Acadians deported.



Consequences of the Treaty of Paris

The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, ended the Seven Year's War. England won.

The terms of the treaty included:

*All territories of New France were transferred to Great Britain

*France was able to keep two small fishing islands south of Newfoundland called St Pierre and Miquelon.

*The Catholic Church would be 'tolerated'.

*The Canadians had a choice....stay and keep your belongings, but live under English rule, or sell your belongings to the British and return to France.

A few key things were NOT in the treaty. These included the language that would be used in the colony (including government), which laws the colony would follow, and who would be in the government.

Socially there were consequences as well. The French Aristocrats (rich) left and returned to France, as did the people who were running the Royal Government in New France. English Aristocrats and English Merchants (business people) moved to the colony. The seigneurs, farmers, craftspeople, (the poorer people) stayed in the colony.

The Royal Proclamation

Late in 1763, the British Government gave the new Colony its first Constitution called the Royal Proclamation. It went into more details than the Treaty of Paris did.

It outlined the territory very clearly, renaming the area around the St Lawrence, "The Province of Quebec"

It outlined that English laws would now be followed and that the taxes collected by seigneurs was no longer allowed.

It outlined that the Royal Government would be replaced by a British political system and that the governor had complete power.

It allowed for the Catholic religion to be followed, but the Church would no longer collect the tithes (\$\$) and if the French inhabitants wanted to be part of the government, they would have to turn against their Catholic church.

It respected the seigneurial system for division of land, but any new land divisions would be arranged the British way: a township system.

What North America looked like after the Royal Proclamation of 1763.



A Very Angry 13 Colonies

Just south of the Province of Quebec is the 13 Colonies. This is another colony 'owned' by England. In 1763 they are very upset with England for 3 key reasons:

1. England won't let them expand into the Ohio area because they don't want another rebellion from the Amerindians.
2. England increases the taxes that the 13 colonies must pay to help pay off England's war debt.
3. England wouldn't let the 13 colonies trade with any other country except England.

So, the 13 Colonies decides to go against everything England is saying. The King knows that a war against the 13 Colonies is unavoidable. He also knows that if the French Canadians in the Province of Quebec join with the 13 Colonies, the King and England may

lose everything. He decides in 1774 to give the Province of Quebec it's 2nd constitution called **The Quebec Act**.

The Quebec Act

The Quebec Act is the 2nd Constitution given to the province of Quebec by England. This Act was an attempt to “bribe” the French people to remain loyal to the King of England in case the 13 Colonies revolted.

In the Quebec Act:

1. The province of Quebec was made larger extending to where Labrador is all the way to the just south of the Great Lake area.
2. Brought back French Civil law which allows the Seigneurs to once again collect taxes from the people who live on their land.
3. Threw out the Test Act. This meant that Frenchmen from the Province of Quebec no longer had to stop being Catholic to be in the Government. They could now simply pledge their loyalty to the King of England.

The 13 Colonies Fight for Independence from England

After all the taxes imposed on the 13 Colonies in addition to the benefits the French colony of Quebec received from England, the 13 Colonies decide to cut ties with the King of England. In 1776 they put forth their Declaration of Independence.

England of course fought them. A few battles early on were fought on Quebec land, but most of the War of Independence was fought in the 13 Colonies.

Finally in 1783, the King of England accepts his loss and recognizes that the 13 Colonies are now a country on their own – The United States of America.

In the Treaty of Versailles, which outlined what the USA gained, and what England lost, the US received the Ohio/Mississippi River area. This is something they had wanted for a long time.



The American Independence affects Quebec.

Besides losing a huge chunk of its territory, the 13 Colonies war for Independence had a big effect on the province of Quebec's population.

Many people who wanted to remain Loyal to the King of England moved north into Quebec. These were English speaking **Loyalists**. Some of them settled in the area known as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but a large number of them settled around the Great Lake area. (today we call this area Ontario)