

# CHAPTER 1

1840-1896

*Development of  
Canadian federalism*

# PART 4

**1850-1867**

**Toward a Canadian federation**

# 3 CAUSES OF CANADIAN FEDERATION



# **3 CAUSES OF CANADIAN FEDERATION**

**CAUSE #1:  
INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS**

What **political problems** arose in  
United Canada in the late 1850's?

What **possible solution**  
was considered?



**British North America,  
1840**

In 1860, Britain had 5 colonies in eastern North America:

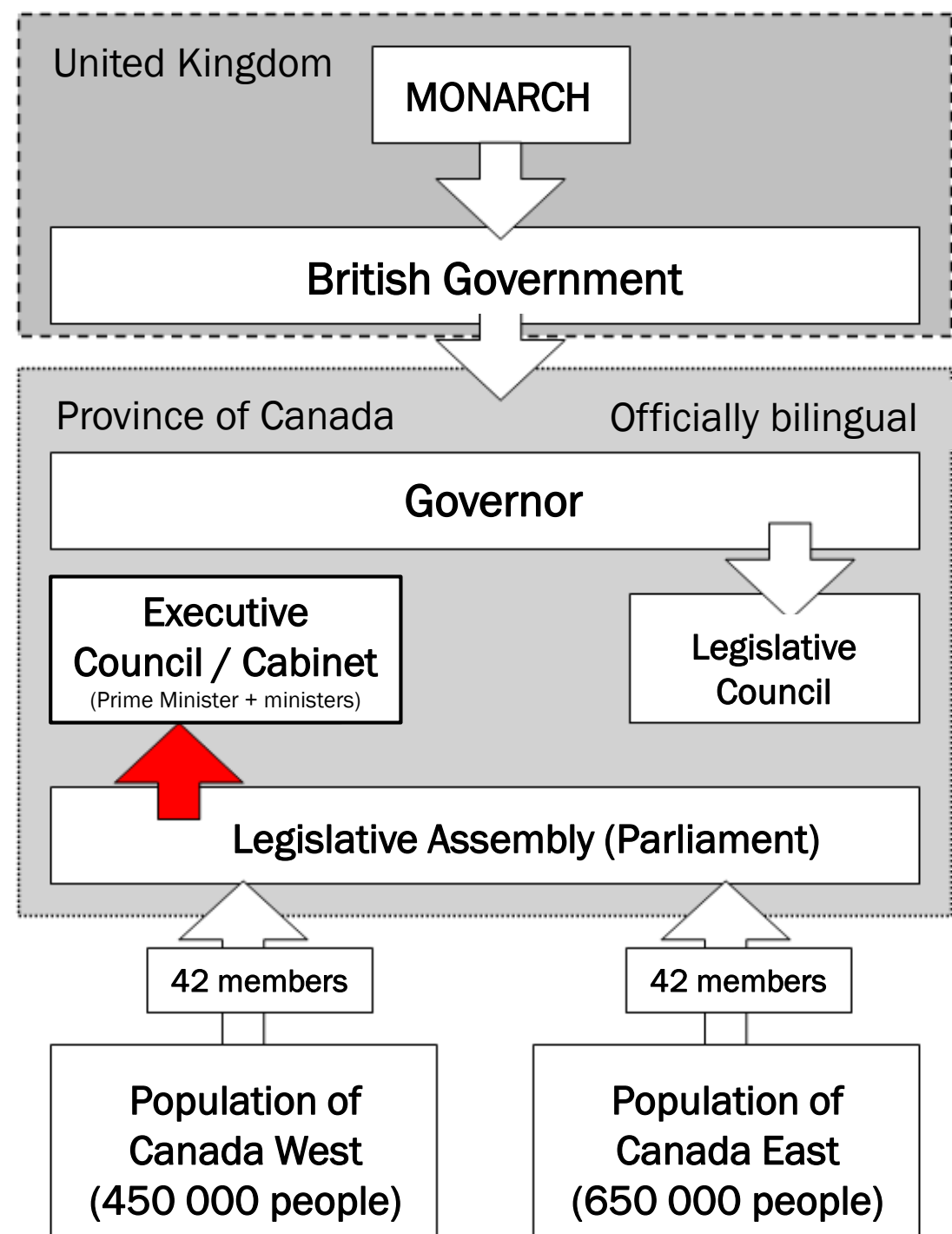
- Province of Canada
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- PEI
- Newfoundland

Rupert's Land belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company.

# 5 British colonies in North America (1860)

- The 5 colonies were fairly **isolated** from one another.
- They depended on **fishing, logging, and ship-building**.
- They had a similar type of **responsible government** that managed their own internal affairs (each had a governor, a Legislative Council, and an elected Assembly).

# Responsible government 1848





# Political instability (1854-1864)

## Majority government:

A government formed by the party that had **more than 50%** of the elected members in the Legislative Assembly.

## Minority government:

- A government formed by the party that had **less than 50%** of the elected members in the Legislative Assembly.
- It was able to govern through support from members of other parties.
- Such a government can be dissolved if it introduces important legislation that is not approved by the majority of Assembly members.

# Political instability (1854-1864)



fig 1. majority government



fig 2. minority government



fig 3. coalition government

# Political instability (1854-1864)

- There was **division** between radical and moderate Reformers. This situation led to the **creation of new political parties.**
- As a result, United Canada suffered from **unstable governments.**
- No government could keep a majority in the Assembly.
- Between 1854 and 1864, United Canada had **10 different minority governments.**
- There was a **political deadlock** (no one could win) **in the government of United Canada.**



**1.10** EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES UNDER THE *ACT OF UNION*

PERIOD	FORMER UPPER CANADA		FORMER LOWER CANADA	
BEFORE 1851	Conservatives (Tories)	Reformers	Reformers	Conservatives (Tories)
FROM 1851 ON	Conservative Party	Clear Grits	<i>Parti rouge</i>	Conservative Party ( <i>Parti bleu</i> )



# Parti rouge

- ▶ Radical party from Canada East
- ▶ Leader: Antoine-Aimé Dorion

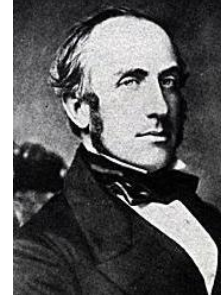
## Platform:

- ▶ Voting for all men
- ▶ Return Canada East to being a French-speaking province
- ▶ Abolition of tithes (church taxes)
- ▶ Take over control of the school system from the Roman Catholic Church (ANTICLERICALISM).



# Clear Grits

- ▶ Radical party from Canada West
- ▶ Leader: George Brown



## Platform:

- ▶ Annexation of the territories controlled by the HBC
- ▶ Election of the governor and members of the Legislative Council
- ▶ Non-denominational school system
- ▶ Reduce the influence of francophones and Roman Catholics in government
- ▶ “Rep by Pop”.

# Les bleus

(Liberal-Conservative Party)

- ▶ Moderates and Tories working together
- ▶ Leaders:
  - John A. Macdonald (Can. West)
  - Georges-Étienne Cartier (Can. East)

## Platform:

- ▶ Opposed the radical parties
- ▶ Develop the colony
- ▶ Forge commercial and political ties within the Province of Canada.



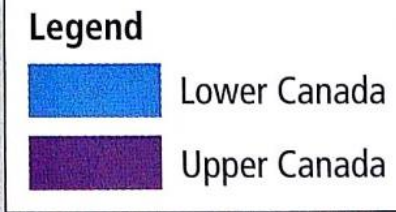
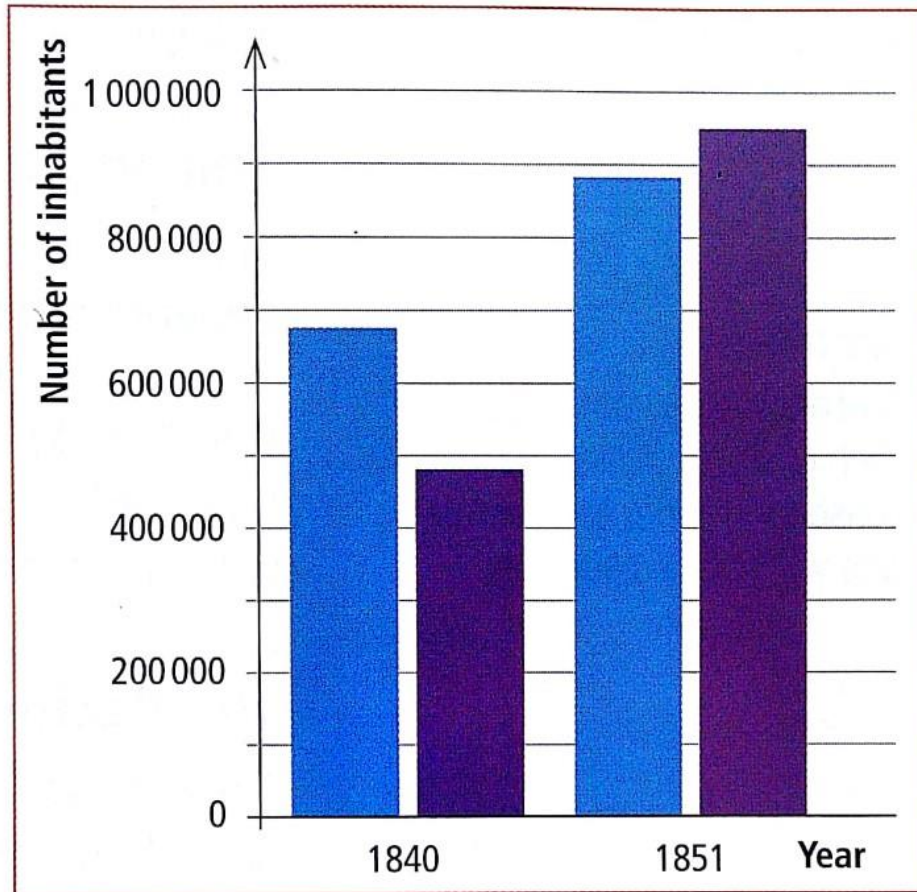
# *Did you know?*

*Some Assembly members used questionable tactics in attempts to overthrow opposing political parties. One tactic was to send members on a loooooong carriage ride so that they would miss the vote in the Legislative Assembly, causing the government party to lose the vote and be forced to resign!*



# Proportional representation (Rep by pop)

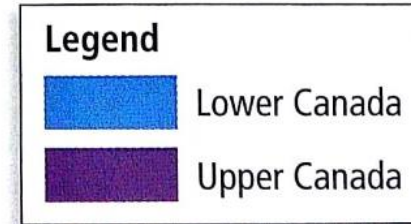
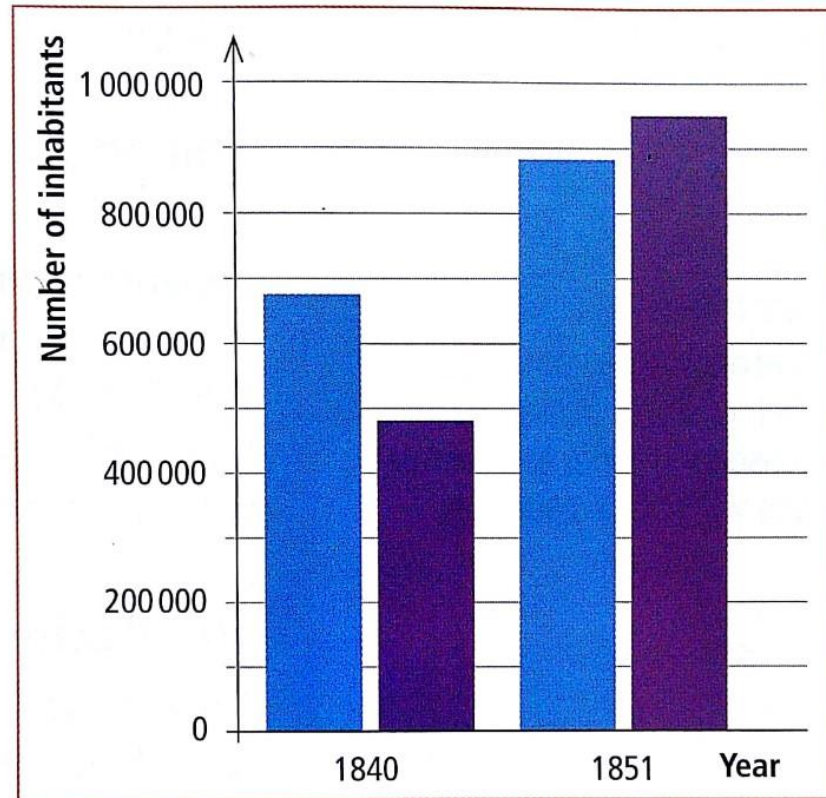
**16** Change in the population of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, 1840–1851



Data from: *Censuses of Lower Canada and Upper Canada*, Statistics Canada, and Maurice Saint-Yves, *Atlas de géographie historique du Canada*, 1982.



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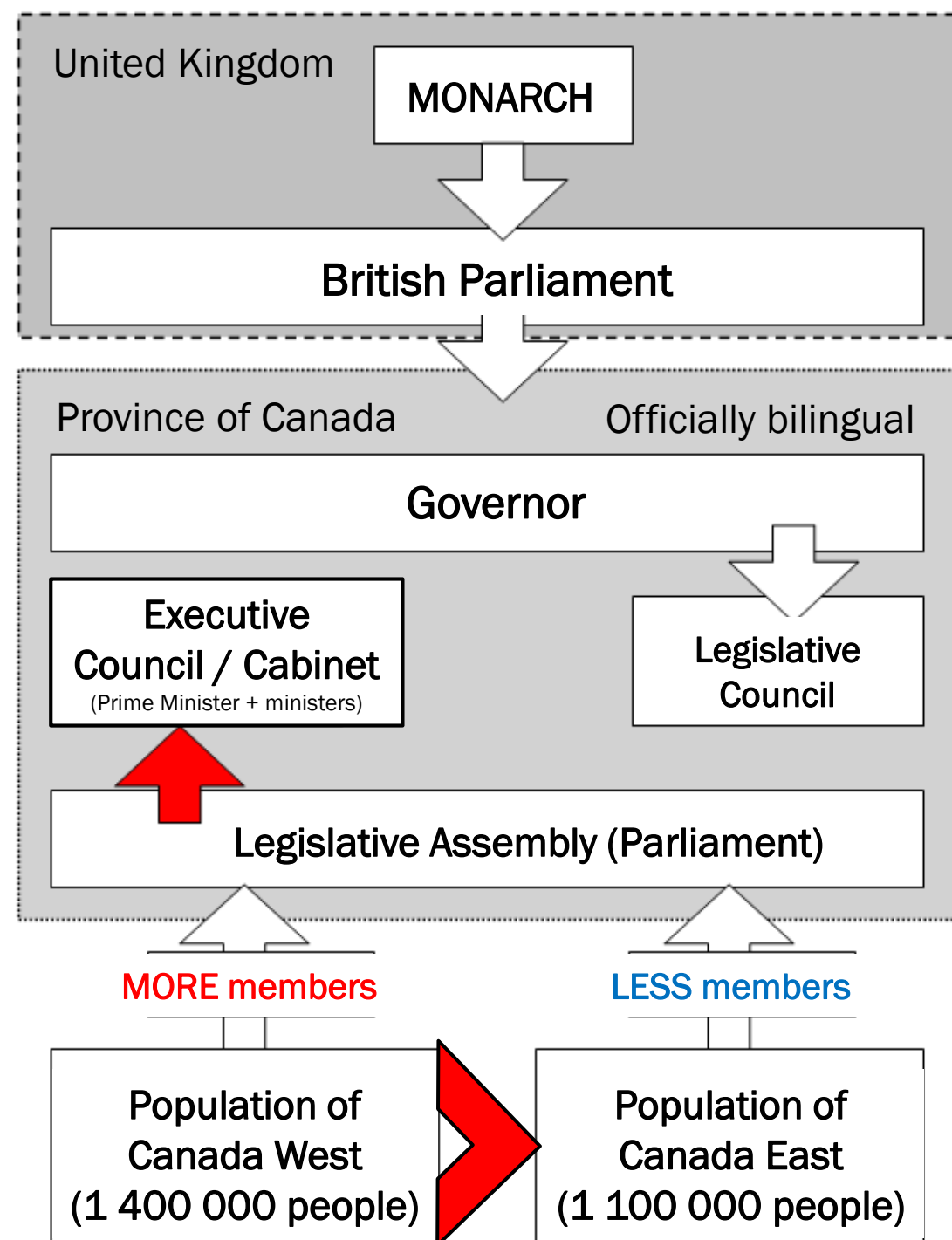
**PROBLEM:** Since there was a **change in the distribution of the population** of United Canada, the principle of **equal representation** in the Assembly (42 members from the East / 42 members from the West) was now **unfavourable for Canada West!**



# The solution proposed by the Clear Grits in 1864:

## **Rep by pop** **(proportional representation)**

- Because George Brown feared "French domination", that is the strong political influence of the French-speaking population.
- Many French Canadians opposed "rep by pop" because it would render them the minority in the Legislative Assembly.



## 17 A colony divided

In 1856, the leader of the Clear Grit Party of Upper Canada summarized the political situation in the Province in Canada.

“ We have two countries, two languages, two religions, two habits of thought and action, and the question is can you possibly carry on the government of both with one Legislature and one executive. That is the question to be solved. ”

George Brown, 1856.

➤ According to George Brown, what caused the political crisis within the Province of Canada?

IO Determine causes and consequences

# What could be a solution to these internal political problems?



**A federal union of all 5 British colonies!**

# CAUSES OF CANADIAN FEDERATION

CAUSE #2:  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

**What were the causes  
of the economic problems  
experienced in the  
Canadian colonies?**

# 5 economic problems (1860s)

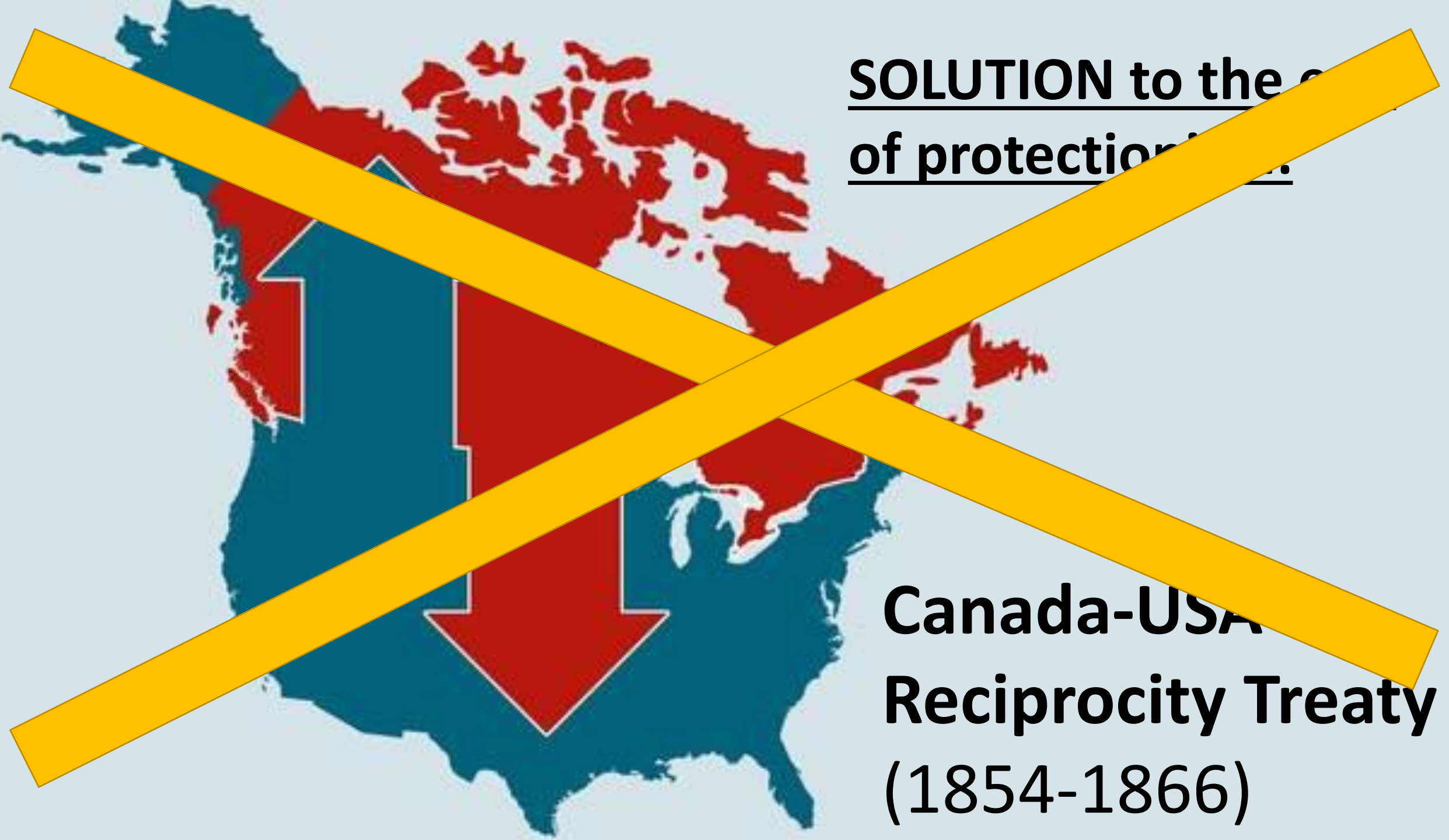
## Trade:

- 1) In 1865, the **American government decided not to renew the Reciprocity Treaty** (rise of protectionist measures).
  - For the second time, United Canada lost its main export market and had to seek out new economic partners to ensure its growth.



SOLUTION to the c  
of protection

**Canada-USA**  
**Reciprocity Treaty**  
**(1854-1866)**

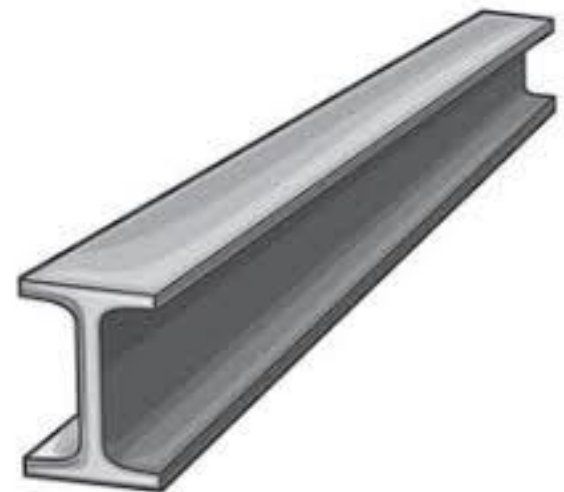


# 5 economic problems (1860s)

## Trade:

**2) Iron was gradually replacing wood** (construction of machinery, ships, bridges, and buildings).

- As a result, Canadian timber and wooden sailing ships were harder to sell.





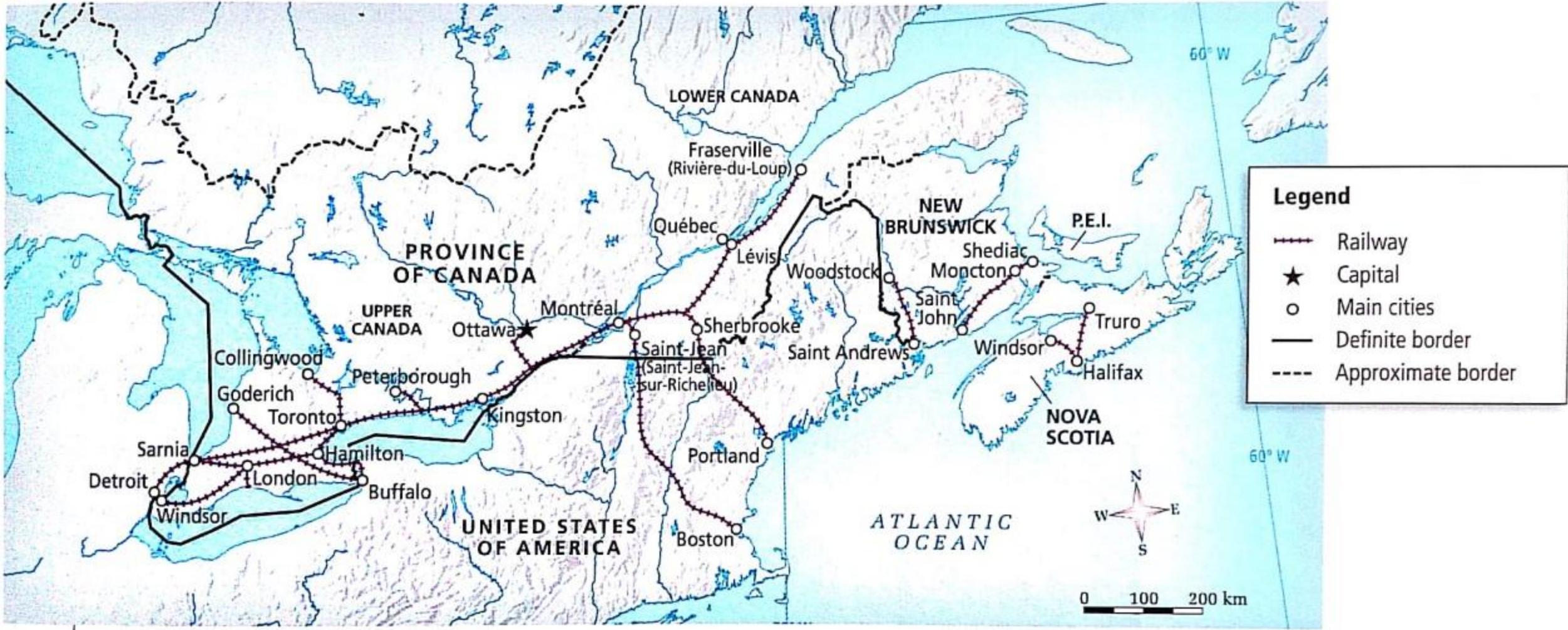
# 5 economic problems (1860s)

## Debts:

- 3) The colonial governments had **big debts** because **railway construction was extremely expensive** and railways were not profitable due to **low traffic**.



**19** The rail network, circa 1860



# 5 economic problems (1860s)

## Agriculture:

4) **Good farmland** had become **rare** in United Canada.

- All the best lands in southern United Canada were occupied
- There were **poor harvests** (1864-1866)
- As a result, many farmers **migrated to the USA** (especially to New England).



# 5 economic problems (1860s)

## Isolation:

- 5) The five British colonies in North America were **fairly isolated from one another** (trade and communications).



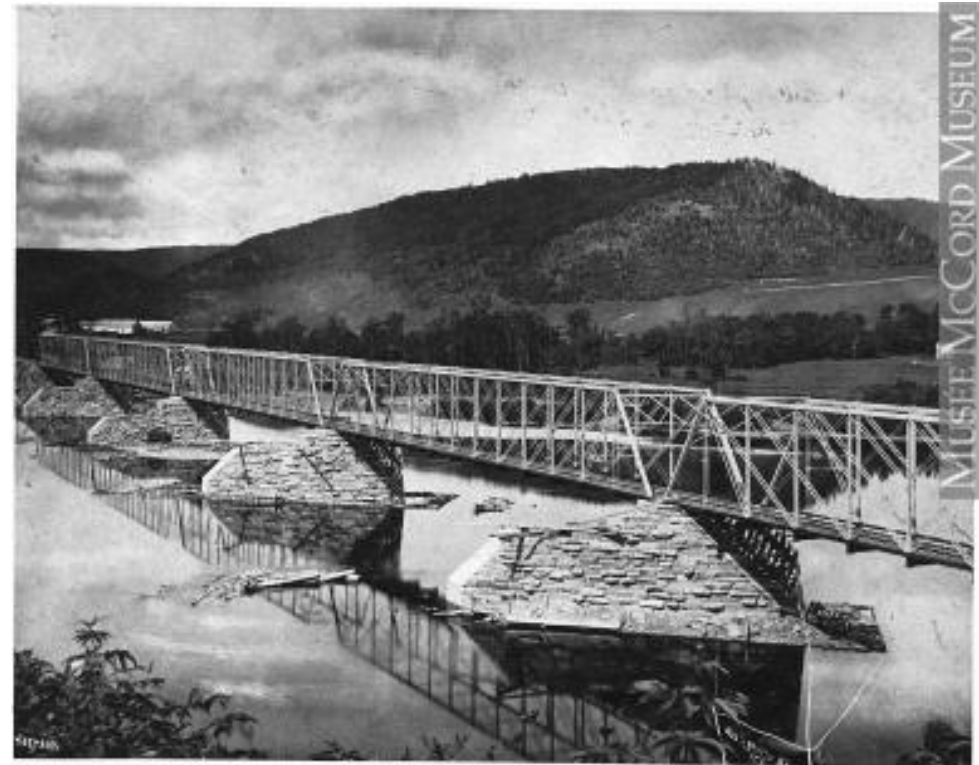
# 3 possible solutions (1860s)



- 1) The 5 British North American colonies could form an **economic trade union**
  - It would solve the problem posed by the non-renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty.
  - A union of the colonies could remove tariffs and trade barriers between them and promote trade (a large protected domestic/home market for their products).

# 3 possible solutions (1860s)

- 2) The construction of an **Intercolonial Railway** between United-Canada and the Maritimes (extending the Grand Trunk Railway to the Port of Halifax)
  - ▶ Would improve trade and communications (colonies would not be isolated from one another).
  - ▶ Would require enormous investments (\$\$\$\$\$). The colonies could finance this project only by pooling their resources.



# 3 possible solutions (1860s)

3) Open up new lands for farmers in Western Canada.



# CAUSES OF CANADIAN FEDERATION

CAUSE #3:  
FEARS OF AMERICAN EXPANSION



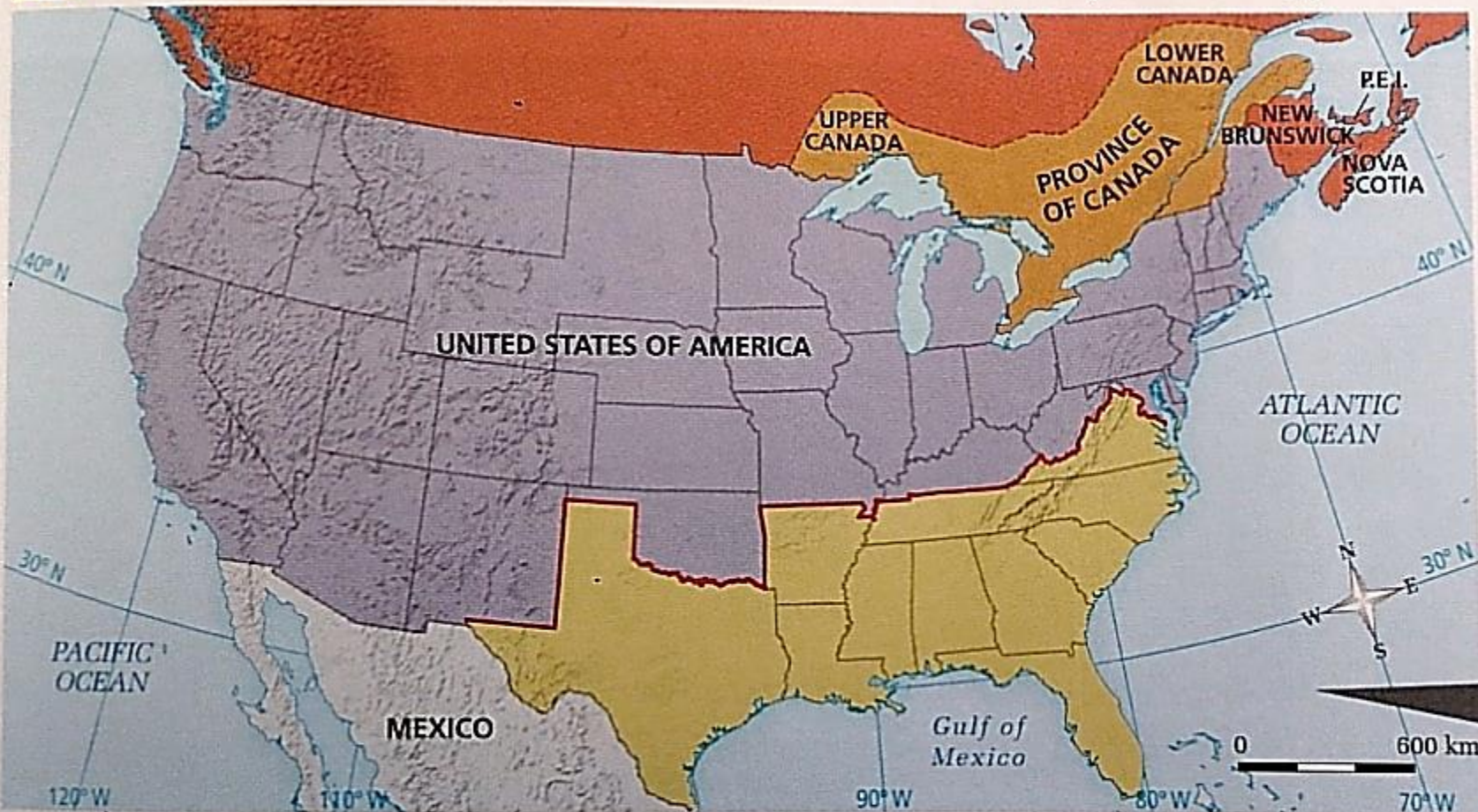
**Why did many Canadians  
fear an American invasion?**



# American Civil War (1861-1865)



## 20 The United States during the American Civil War (1861–1865)



### Legend

- Boundary of Northern and Southern territories
- Union States (Northern States and territories)
- Confederate States (Southern States)
- Province of Canada
- Other British colonies and possessions

The Southern States have a humid subtropical climate. Cotton growing was very common in the coastal plains of several of these states.

➤ Why did the Northern States threaten the Province of Canada during the American Civil War?

IO Determine causes and consequences

# American Civil War (1861-1865)

- The Northern States = industrialized, anti-slavery.
- The Southern States = cotton growing, slave labour.
- The Northern States wanted to end slavery and establish conditions favourable to industrial development.
- Abraham Lincoln (president of the USA, 1860-1865), spoke out in favour of the abolition of slavery.
- 11 Southern States opted for **secession** from the Northern States.
- This separation triggered a **CIVIL WAR** between the Southern State (Confederate States) and the Northern States (Union States).





# American Civil War (1861-1865)

- The United Kingdom supported the Southern States to protect their own trade interests
  - For example, Southern agents were allowed into the Province of Canada so they could lead attacks from the British colony.
- In retaliation against the United Kingdom's disloyalty, **the Northern States considered annexing the British Province of Canada to the United States** (invading Canada and making it part of the USA)
  - This caused fear among Canadians.
- Ultimately, the Northern States won the Civil War.

# Manifest Destiny

- American politicians talked of “**Manifest Destiny**”.
- They believed that the USA was meant to control all of North America.
- **Britain was especially concerned that the Americans would seize all the empty lands in western Canada.**



# “MANIFEST DESTINY”

*American Progress*,  
(1872) by **John Gast**

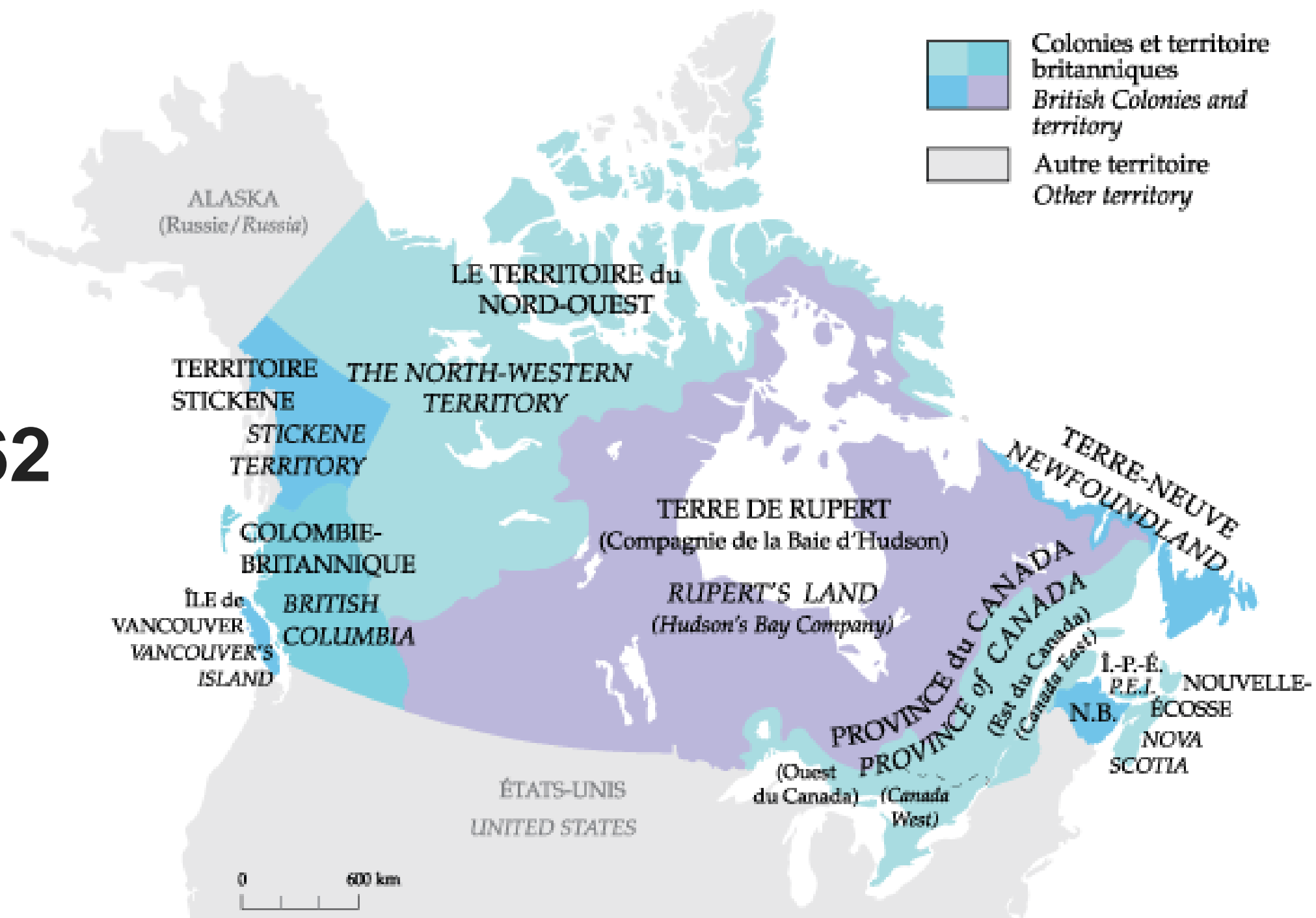
An allegorical representation of the modernization of the new west. **Columbia**, a personification of the United States, is shown leading civilization westward with the American settlers. She is shown bringing light from the East into the West, stringing telegraph wire, holding a school textbook that will instill knowledge, and highlights different stages of economic activity and evolving forms of transportation.

Source: *Wikipedia*





# 1862



# Fenian raids (1866-1871)

- Ireland suffered through a Great Famine (1846-51) when blight ravaged potato crops across Europe (massive death toll from starvation and disease).
- The average consumption of potatoes for adult males was 14 pounds a day (a staple of the Irish diet)!!! So Ireland was very affected.
- As a result, hundreds of thousands of Irish citizens left Ireland to start a new life in North America.
- Many blamed the British government for the widespread poverty, thus supporting the **movement for Irish independence.**

## ***An Evicted Family* by Erskine Nicol (1853)**



Many Irish families were evicted from their farms during the Great Famine (1845-1852).

Widespread crop failures not only made paying rent extremely difficult, but it is estimated that a million Irish citizens died of starvation and epidemic disease during this time.



Glasgow

Carlisle

Belfast

Liverpool

Manchester

**GREAT BRITAIN**

Oxford

Cambridge

Bristol

LONDON

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

North Sea

English Channel

NETHERLANDS

BELGIUM

# Fenian raids (1866-1871)

- During the American Civil War, large numbers of Irish Americans enlisted to fight.
- After the war was over in 1865, some Irish-American veterans applied their military training and experience to fight for Irish independence.
- Crossing the Atlantic to fight in Ireland was logistically impossible, but British colonies in North America were an alternative target.
- **Fenians would use the captured territory in Canada to trade it with the British in exchange for independence of Ireland...**



**A MASS MEETING**

**—OF—**

**FENIANS!**

**IRISHMEN, AND**

**ALL FRIENDS OF LIBERTY!**



From Erin's soil the Saxon foe  
In shame shall be forever driven;  
From Erin's sons who bear the woe,  
The tyrant's chain shall soon be riven:  
And Erin's emerald isle shall be  
The God of Freedom in the sea.

**FREEDOM TO IRELAND.**

Then up and arm at Erin's call,  
Ye FENIAN sons of Irish sires;  
On every hill and mountain tall,  
Arise and light your signal fires,  
And swear to win with heart and hand  
The Freedom of your Native land.

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY CURRIER AND IVES, 157 NASSAU ST.

➤ ***Freedom to  
Ireland by  
Currier & Ives  
(circa 1866)***

A Fenian poster.

➤ ***Fenian Raid  
Volunteers  
(1865)***







**Fenian Raids, 1866 - 1871**

**Raids des Fenians, 1866-1871**

# THE INVASION OF CANADA



From "The Invasion of Canada" by Kate Beaton. (The US president depicted is Andrew Johnson, who assumed office following Lincoln's assassination).

# Fenian raids (1866-1871)

- The raids **did not capture territory.**
- But the threat made many Canadians uneasy.
- It did not help to know that **Britain was unwilling to spend money defending her North American colonies.**



# Possible solution

If the 5 British North American colonies united, it would be easier to defend the border with the United States.

VIDEO

