Colony to Confederacy
Targets
Questions to Ponder

• Compare and contrast the impact of Jacksonian Democracy on US and CAN.
• Compare and contrast Republicanism and Responsible Government
• Compare and contrast US and CAN independence movements from Britain.
• Compare and contrast US federalism and CAN confederation.
• Who had the greater impact on formation of CAN government, UK or US?
Origins

• Quebec Act (1774)

• **Upper** (British) and **Lower** (French) Canada (1791) divided at Ottawa River w/separate government
  – Aristocratic cliques rule through legislative assembly
  – Preservation of Anglican Church; Self-sufficient econ
Reforms

• Coincide with Jacksonian Democracy (1820s-1830s)
  – (Upper) Land redistribution & secularization of church
  – (Lower) Fought for right to preserve French culture; 2x population ruled by UK minority → more representation
  – Conservative revolutionary reforms; agrarian reforms
Transition to Republican Values

- **Upper** – Mackenzie – wants elected legislature & executive council → Yonge Street Rebellion → failed

- **Lower** – Papineau – calls for revenue bills to originate in representative assemblies → troops put down rebellion with no reform
Lord Durham’s Report (1839)

- Friction between Legislative Assembly and appointed Leg. Councils
- Lower Canada – Backwards people
- Solutions:
  - Reunite CAN w/common assembly and rep by pop.
  - Responsible gov. based on UK Cabinet system
  - Separate jurisdiction over imperial and local matters
Results

- **Act of Union** (1840) – United legislative system
  - Weak system, but expanded electorate for Leg. Assembly
  - Gov. appoints members of Leg. Council

- **Responsible Gov.** (1848) – Parliamentary leg.
  - LA appoints LC → Cabinet
Confederation

- **George Brown and the Clear Grits** – English, Canada West republicanism – universal suffrage, free trade, secret ballot, representation by population

- **John Macdonald** – Liberal-Conservative – united moderate English/Ontarian conservatives → win election of 1857

- **George Cartier** – Parti Bleus – Quebecois, Moderate conservative; provincial power, but willing to have federal system

- **Great Coalition** (1864) – Brown and Mac federation
Conflict & US Impact

- **Maritimes** – Don’t want to join union because of rep. issue & want to trade w/ NEng

- **Trent Affair** (1861) – US Confederates hijacked by Union en route to UK to gain recognition
  - 14k British troops occupy BNA → who pays for BNA defense?

- **Militia Bill** (1862) – CAN raises militia → voted down by Fr. CAN → UK want CAN to pay for their own defense; CAN → NO
• **St. Alban’s Raid** (1864) – CSA raiders rob VT banks → return to CAN & not punished →
  
  – US ends **Reciprocity & Rush-Bagot** (1817) →
  
  – Armed ships to Great Lakes; generals given order to pursue raiders into CAN →
  
  – Further question of who defends CAN vs. US?

• **Fenian Scare** (1866) – Disorganized Irish-Americans attack New Brunswick → CANs assumed ties to Irish ind. Movements from UK → Unity would aid defense →

![Confederate raiders photographed after their capture in Canada.](image)
Road to Independence

- **Charlottetown Conference** (1864) – General consensus on federal union
- **Quebec Conference** (1864) – Wrote Constitution →
  - Retain ties w/UK + federal gov & bicameral leg.
  - Conservatism dominant – industrialization & expansion, NOT Enlightenment
  - Macdonald gets his strong Parliament/central gov
  - Cartier gets his provincial gov w/property, religion, education control
  - Brown gets his “rep by pop” in Commons
  - Intercontinental RR – Needed to satisfy Maritimes and balance power w/ CAN West (US cancellation of Reciprocity helps)
London Conference

• **Goal:** Draw up leg. for CAN Confederation → 
  **British North America Act** signed 3/29/1867 → 

• **Dominion of Canada** born 7/1/1867
  
  – Four Provinces – Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia → Manitoba (’70), BC (’71), PEI (’73)

  – Macdonald is first PM
Growing Pains (1869)

- CAN buys NWT from Hudson Bay Co. & grows 6x
  - Louis Riel – Bloodless coup of Metis (half FRA/NAm) during power transition to stop land surveying by CAN→
  - Created BoR & tried to unite colony→
  - Compromise pending when Riel executes Thos. Scott→
  - Riel faced CAN troops and was executed→
  - Impact: CAN gov leads Western development, NOT private interests like US.
Federal Government

- **To Central Gov** – trade, commerce, defense, levy tax, appoint provincial lieutenant-governors; declare provincial laws unconstitutional

- **To Provinces** – Property and civil rights, language, religion, natural resources

- **Bicameral Leg.** – **Commons** – rep by pop; **Senate** – appointed by federal gov for life (conservative check on Commons)

- **Executive** – Modeled on UK Cabinet & appointed by Maj. Party Leader

- **Judicial** – All judges above County appointed by Central Gov
  - Criminal law in fed courts; Civil law determined by Central Gov

- **Revenue** – Customs/Taxes filtered through Central Gov → 80c per capita to each province
Constitutional Monarchy

- Power limited by Constitution
- In the event CAN could not resolve a dispute on its own, Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) in UK did and commonly championed provincial rights.
- Prorogue Power – Only monarch can completely disband Par and call for new elections
Britain vs. US Influence

- **US** – Federalism, Senate, rep by pop
- **UK** – Not republican, no separation of powers (cabinet comes from leg. branch), weaker Senate like Lords, crown heads gov, responsible par system