

# POLITICAL FACTORS

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Social Studies 10 October 29, 2013

## Respond:

- Based on what we learned in yesterday's lesson, what economic and political situations led to the idea of confederation?

# Building a Nation (pg. 103)

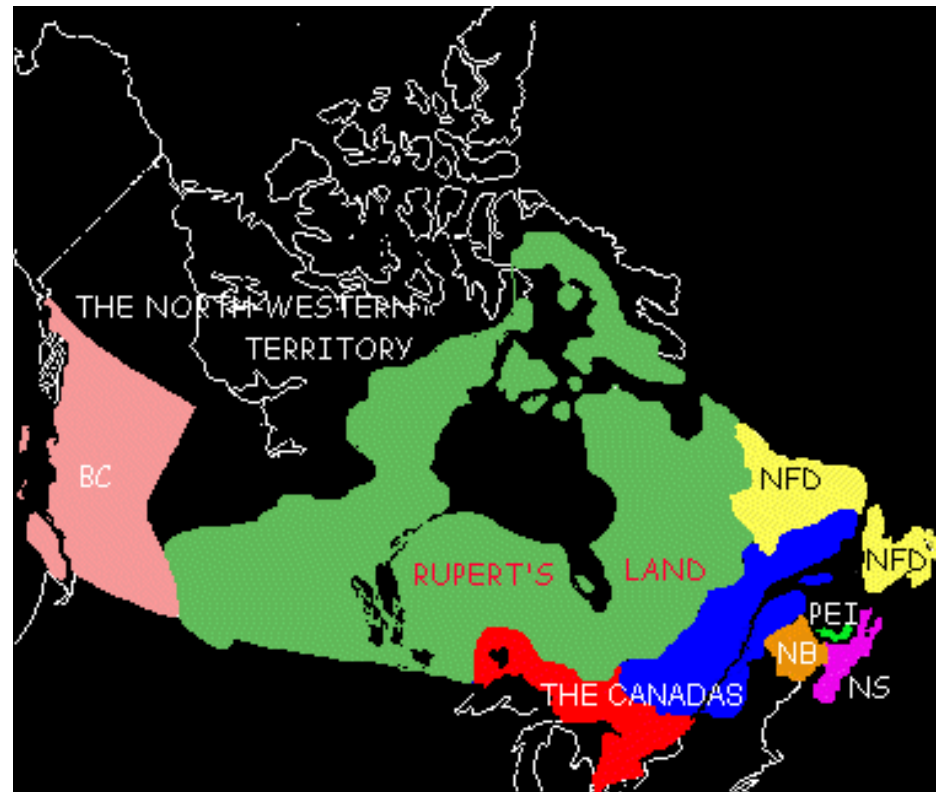
- Read the text under this headline and summarize the 3 main issues colonists have with the idea of Confederation.
- 1. loss of independence
- 2. no real relationship/attachment with other colonies
- 3. Confederation started at the top (not from the people)

## Inquiry Question:

- How might Confederation solve political problems for the colonies?

# The West & The American Threat

- the possibility of confederation opened up the possibility of **expansion** to the west.
- “Rupert’s land” and British Columbia (a colony in 1857) are both rich in resources.
- What sort of resources? Why would these be important?



# The USA is also thinking about expansion...

- Manifest Destiny (see text)
- It meant the USA was destined, by God, to control all of North America
- It looked like they were on their way...



# 54/40 or Fight!

- In James Polk's election campaign (1844), his platform cry was "54/40 or Fight!"
- His goal? To take over all of the Oregon Territory for the United States (shared between Brits/US)
- 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel established in 1846, but the worry remains



# The Civil War

- Britain had aided the South during the Civil War:
  - Warships
  - Money
  - Confederates attack North via Canada
- Worry of retaliation...
- The army of the northern states totaled more than the entire population of in the colonies.



# The Promise of Better Government: pg. 106

The new responsible government is inefficient

No party discipline (unlike today). Government full of independent voters with no one to answer to.

Governments often toppled.

Hope that confederation might bring change.

# Party Politics:

- A political party attracts those with similar ideas and goals.
- In Canada, English and French interest groups develop
- Parties develop platforms which describe the changes they want to make and how they'll achieve their goals
- 4 parties: Parti Bleu, Parti Rouge, Clear Grits, Tories

# Representation by Population: “Rep by pop”

- As a result of the Act of Union, Canada East and Canada West are granted equal representation (seats) in government.
- It sounds fair, **but** Canada East has a greater population (fear of French Catholics dominating govt.)
- Results in political deadlock (each blocking the other side’s agenda)
- But by 1861, Canada West has almost 300,000 more than the East.

# “Rep by pop”

- George Brown (leader of the Clear Grits) begins to advocate for representation by population.
- Greater population = greater representation (seats in govt.)
- Why would Canada West like this?
- What issues might Canada East take with “rep by pop”?

# Double Majority

- Another issue with government is double majority.
- In order for a bill to become a law, a majority in both Canada East and West had to vote for it.
- Very difficult to attain (different value systems)

# Activity:

- Do question # 4 on page 108
- Then, choose from # 1, 2, 3, and 5.
- When you are finished both, begin filling in information on your timeline.