
UNIT 1 A SETTLERS SOCIETY AND STAPLES ECONOMY

Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 The Land
- 1.3 Discovery of Canada
 - 1.3.1 The Aboriginals
 - 1.3.2 Arrival of Early European Settlers
- 1.4 Rivalry between French and English Settlers
 - 1.4.1 British Settlers Colony
- 1.5 Birth of New Country: Canada
 - 1.5.1 Westward Expansion
 - 1.5.2 The Plural Society
- 1.6 The Economy
 - 1.6.1 Agriculture
 - 1.6.2 Industry and Trade
- 1.7 Summary
- 1.8 Exercises

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere and second largest in the world. Today it is a constitutional monarchy, a federal state and parliamentary democracy with two **official** languages, two systems of law with **10** provinces and **3** territories, each with its own capital city. This geographical and political shape of Canada has developed during the course of thousands of years. The present process of development of Canadian entity is traced back to about **1000** years when Europeans started coming and settling **here**. It is because of that it came to be known as settlers colony. The first settlers were French and the English who established their colonies, with English emerging victors to control the **large** areas. Both in **terms** of geography and population, diversity is the keynote of Canada. Its land includes fertile plains suitable for agriculture, vast mountain ranges, lakes and rivers and vast forests. Canada has been a self governing colony since 1867. It rose to the status of an independent state after its participation in the World War I and achieved **jure** independence with the Statute of Westminster in 1931. Established by two historically opposed people, enriched by various cultures, languages and religions and marked by a geography itself highly diversified, Canada today is one of the most respected liberal democracies in the world. Let us have a look at its development to this position and the evolution of its socio-economic structure.

1.2 THE LAND

Canada, situated in the North American continent is the second largest country in the world occupying a land mass of 9970610 square kilometers. To the South, Canada shares a **8892** kilometers boundary with the United States of America. To the North, the arctic

islands come within 800 kilometers of the North Pole. Canada's neighbour across the Arctic Ocean is Russia. Because of the harsh northern climate, only 12 per cent of the land is suitable for agriculture. Thus, most of the population live within a few hundred kilometers of the southern border, where the climate is milder in a long thin band stretching between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. It has been estimated that Canada has one seventh of the world's fresh water. In addition to the Great Lakes, Canada has many large rivers and lakes. Forest covers about half of Canada's total land area.

Canada is divided into seven regions, each with a very different landscape and climate. These are The Pacific Coast, The Cordillera, The Prairies, The Canadian Shield, The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Lowlands, The Atlantic Provinces – Appalachian Region and The Arctic. Within these regions are Canada's ten provinces and three **territories**. The provinces are New Foundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The three territories are the Northwest territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

1.3 DISCOVERY OF CANADA

The earliest discovery of Canada, as the new world according to History of Canada and Canadians was made by Norse seafarers known as Vikings. There are no written historical records of their arrival and settlement. The vague accounts of their exploits are drawn from stories handed down by word of mouth through generations. In A.D. 1000 Leif Ericson became the first European to land in North America. According to sagas, this was the first of many Norse Voyages to the eastern shores of the continent. A colony was established in what the Vikings described as Vinland, identified in 1963 as being on the northernmost tip of New Foundland. According to recorded history, discovery of North America is linked to Christopher Columbus's arrival in 1492. In that year Columbus landed here looking for a way to China. He and many others thought that there must be a way to reach China by sailing west, instead of around Africa. Long before Europeans discovered North America, the land was inhabited by the people now called Aboriginals or Indians, also by some, first nations.

1.3.1 The Aboriginals

There are many theories to explain how the Aboriginals as First nations arrived in North America. Most anthropologists believe that they migrated over the Bering Sea from Siberia 10,000 to 30,000 years ago. It is believed that they used a land bridge to cross from Siberia into Alaska, which had formed during the ice age. Aboriginal peoples travelled across the continent and developed different customs and languages depending on where they settled. Christopher Columbus misnamed them "Indians" in 1492 when he thought he had arrived in India,

Thus, when the European explorers and settlers arrived, Canada was populated by a diverse range of aboriginal peoples who, depending on the environment, lived nomadic or settled life styles, were hunters, **fishermen** or farmers, were warlike or peaceful. They shared – and continue to share – a deep and spiritual relationship with the land and the life it supports. Each First Nation culture had distinctive spiritual beliefs and ceremonies, many of which have been carried down through the generations by elders in an oral tradition. They were trading every thing from copper tools and pottery. Aboriginal people were eager to trade for **European** goods. They did not have iron-making technology, so needed to trade for

them. The things Europeans wanted most was furs. Aboriginal peoples became partners in the fur trade and in exploration of Canada. Presently about 3% of Canadians belong to one or more of the three aboriginal groups recognised by the Constitution Act 1982: North American Indian, **Metis** and Inuit. Of this per **centage**, about 69% are North American Indian, 26% **Metis** and 5% Inuit. You will know about them more in a separate unit.

1.3.2 Arrival of Early European Settlers

As informed above, in 1492 Christopher Columbus landed in North America, looking for a way to China. Thereafter in 1497 an Italian named John Cabot sailed west of Bristol, England, interact on finding a new trade route to the Orient for his patron, King Henry VII of England. This voyage led to the discovery of the eastern shores of Canada. Cabot was as confident as Columbus had been that a new seaway was now open to Asia. On a second voyage, the following year, Cabot explored the Coast of North America, touching at various points – not – too clearly charted – from **Baffin** Island to Maryland. The Cabot voyages gave England a claim by right of discovery of an indefinite area of eastern North America.

In 1524 King Frances I of France sent a Florentine navigator, Giovanni da Verrazono, on a voyage of reconnaissance overseas. **Verrazono** explored the eastern coastline of North America from North Carolina to New Foundland, giving France too some claim to the continent by right of discovery. In 1534 Jacques Cortier also set sail from France hoping to find the Northwest passage. This was an **official** exploring expedition and its immediate result was a report for the French king about the lands he had seen and the people he had met. Next year **Cartier** returned as leader of a new expedition and reached villages near the present site of the cities of Quebec and Montreal. In 1541 **Cartier** led his third expedition to the St. Lawrence. This time **Cartier** was to be followed by Jean Francis de la **Roberval** and made an effort to find a permanent colony but failed. France itself turned its back to the Canadian experiment for almost 60 years. It was in 1603 that another French, Samuel de Champlain, who perhaps was the first to realise the potential of trade in North America, made his trip to this land. He **returned** several years later to establish a permanent settlement. **He** wanted to bring many more people to settle in Canada. The king of France gave his permission to do so, but in return Champlain was told to develop the fur trade. The French established their colony in 1663, in what is now the province of Quebec and called it New France.

It was not long before the English also saw how much money could be made in the fur trade. In fact England came to realise that the easiest riches of the New World were to be found in fur rather than in gold. Thus it was quick to follow up its claim to the back-door route to the fur country. The king of England gave Prince Rupert and his partners (known as the Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson Bay) a charter which gave the company a monopoly. On May 6, 1670 **Hudon's** Bay company was formed. It was given all the land whose rivers drained into **the** Hudson Bay, which came to be known as Rupert's land.

Thus seeking a new route to the rich markets of the Orient, the French and English explorers plied the waters of North America. They constructed a number of posts – The French mostly along the St. Lawrence River, the Great **Lakes** and the Mississippi River, The English around Hudson Bay and along the Atlantic coast. Although explorers **such** as Cabot, **Cartier** and **Champlain** never found a route to China and India, they found something just as valuable – rich fishing grounds and teeming populations of beaver, fox and bear, all of which were valued for their furs.

In the process of controlling fur trade in the early 1600s began the permanent French and English settlements and increased throughout the century. These settlements, to begin with, were called New France and New England. These were, initially, **dependent** on the fur trade politically and militarily **dependent on** their mother countries. Inevitably, North America became the focal point for the bitter rivalry between England and France.

1.4 RIVALRY BETWEEN FRENCH AND ENGLISH SETTLERS

While the English colonies were **growing** rapidly along the Atlantic seaboard, French were extending deep into the heart of North America. It was also the time when France and England were competing and fighting for colonies elsewhere in the world. Soon this struggle became active in North America also. A military manifestation of this struggle came in the shape of Queen Ann's war in 1702. This led to the capture of Port Royal by the English in 1710. The treaty of Utrecht reestablished peace in 1713. The treaty required France to surrender the Hudson Bay Territory, New Foundland, and Acadia. France was permitted to keep Cape Breton Island as well her inland colonies. To protect its territories and also the entrance to the St. Lawrence River, France **erected** the powerful Fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. In 1745, the Army of New Englanders attacked this fortress of Louisbourg and captured the same. The **fortress** was returned to France, by the Treaty of Aix-la Chapelle signed in 1748. But to counter-balance the threat from Louisbourg, England set up an Atlantic bastion of its own. In 1760, the British finally conquered the French Colony known as "New France." Also in the seven year's war (1756-1762) in Europe and the battle on the plains of Abraham in 1759, the British had defeated the French. As a result, the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763 and the British became the new masters of New France. This French colony became the English colony of Quebec. The title to Nova Scotia – another former French colony – was also formally renounced by the Treaty of Paris, although it had come under the British rule much earlier.

1.4.1 British Settlers Colony

With the fall of the Quebec city, the North American colonies of the region became a colony under Britain. The king of Britain appointed a Governor General to rule Canada on his behalf. He was assisted by a council and an assembly. As far as French-speaking inhabitants were concerned, their aim now was to retain their traditions, languages and culture. Britain passed the Quebec Act (1774), which granted official recognition to French civil laws and guaranteed religious and **linguistic** freedoms.

With the attainment of independence by the United States of America in 1776, large **number** of English-speaking colonists called Loyalists, because they wished to remain faithful to the British Empire, sought refuge in Canada. This migration was encouraged by the royal authority as it had expected that it would minimise the **concentration** of the French-speaking population in Quebec. But the English-speaking **population** flocked to a particular region in Quebec. Ultimately Quebec in 1791 was divided into English speaking upper Canada (Ontario) and French speaking lower Canada (Quebec). Both were granted their own representative governing institutions. Even this system did not remedy the situation. In Lower Canada the British dominated the Council whereas the French-were a majority in the Assembly. This resulted in an uneasy deadlock between the two chambers and the irresponsive Executive and representative Assembly. The racial and religious controversy – French versus English – became unmanageable. In **Upper** Canada too, things were not

running smooth. Rebellions in 1837 and 1838 prompted the British to join the two colonies, forming the United Province of Canada. In 1848 the joint colony was granted responsible government except in matters of foreign affairs. Canada, in due course, gained further measure of autonomy but remained part of the British Empire. Initially, the British adopted the "assimilation policy", namely to eliminate anything French (language, culture, civil law, bureaucracy), convert French Catholicism to English Protestant persuasion, and encourage massive British migration to Canada. This policy met with a strong resistance from the French. At the same time, the American Revolution was in high gear. American revolutionists sought French collaboration to overthrow the British. Faced with these circumstances, the British changed the policy to "inclusion policy", that is to allow the existence of French culture, language and so forth. This system worked about two decades. Thereafter new problems emerged which finally necessitated the union of all the North American colonies.

1.5 BIRTH OF NEW COUNTRY: CANADA

Britain's North American colonies – Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and New Found Land – were growing independently. However, the changes that took place in 1860s in the American and European countries affected the British North American colonies also. This led to a process of State-building in Canada, as elsewhere. The most important change that took place, according to Gareth Stevenson, was the emergence of an external threat to the security of British North America. The threat, of course, came from the United States – Britain relations. This exposed Canada to the threat of an American invasion in the event of war. A section of politicians felt a union of the British colonies was the only way to fend off eventual annexation. Consequently in September 1864, representatives of the British North American colonies met at Charlotte town in Prince Edward Island and agreed in principle to work for the union of the province. Five weeks later, at Quebec, they drew up a detailed scheme of government known as the Quebec Resolution. This led to the beginning of the process for the formation of a Dominion of Canada through a constitution that came to be known as British North America Act 1867 (BNA Act). Thus on July 1, 1867 came into being the Dominion of Canada consisting of four provinces – Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It was a federal system and a parliamentary democracy called the confederation of Canada. As the government of Canada did not want the Americans to claim the land in the West, they asked for the rights to Rupert's Land. Hudson Bay Company surrendered its rights in exchange for some land and money. In 1870, the Queen granted this land to Canada for future settlement. In 1867 Canada was granted the Dominion status. It was only in 1931 that Canada became a totally free country.

1.5.1 Westward Expansion

Soon after Confederation, Canada expanded into the Northwest. Rupert's Land – an area extending South and West for thousands of kilometers from Hudson Bay – was purchased by Canada from the Hudson's Bay Company, which had been granted the vast territory by King Charles of England in 1670.

The Westward expansion did not happen without stress. In 1869, Louis Rief led an uprising of the Metis in an attempt to defend their ancestral rights to the land: A compromise was reached in 1870 and a new province, Manitoba, was carved from the Rupert's Land.

British Columbia, already a Crown colony since 1858, decided to join the Dominion in 1871 on the promise of a rail link with the rest of the country; Prince Edward Island followed suit in 1873. In 1898, the northern territory of Yukon was officially established to ensure the Canadian jurisdiction over that area during the Klondike gold rush. In 1905, two new provinces were carved from Rupert's Land: Alberta and Saskatchewan; the residual land became the Northwest Territories. Newfoundland preferred to remain a British colony until 1949, when it became Canada's 10th province. Canada, as such, is now made up of ten constituent units called the provinces and three territories. It is an independent liberal democracy, a multicultural society and a federal polity.

1.5.2 The Plural Society

The above mentioned evaluation of the Canadian state and society makes it clear that cultural diversity has characterised Canada since its earliest history. There were only a few areas of Canada where the settlement patterns over the centuries were able to establish and maintain a cohesive and stable population drawn from a single group. While earlier, diversity consisted primarily of aboriginals, Anglophones and Francophones, during last century, the diversity had grown beyond initial expectations both from migration and natural increases. The overtaking of the founding peoples came in three waves of migration: one 1840 to 1913 from Western, Northern and Eastern Europe, settling mostly West of Quebec; the second from 1946 to 1975 from Southern Europe settling mostly in Ontario; and the third from 1970 to the present in which a majority of migrants hail from the Caribbean Islands, Latin America, Eastern Asia and Southern Asia and settling mostly in Ontario.

In view of the above, Canada has declared itself a bi-lingual and multi-cultural society. Canada has two official languages: English, the mother tongue of about 59% of Canadians; and French, the first language of 23% of the population. About 18% have either more than one mother tongue or a mother tongue other than English or French. The Official Language Act makes French and English the official languages of Canada and provides for special measures aimed at enhancing the vitality and supporting the development of English and French minority communities. The majority of Francophones not only live in Quebec but also in every province. New Brunswick's large Acadian population prompted it to become officially bilingual.

According to Canadian Statistics more than four fifths of Canadians are Christians, with Catholics accounting for about 47% and Protestants about 36%. Other religions include Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. Some 12.5%, more than any single denomination except Roman Catholic have no religious affiliation at all. Canada is a Christian majority nation but it is not a Christian country. Canada's policy of multiculturalism not only allows various religions, languages and cultures to exist but provides assistance and support for their preservation and development. You will read more about this in a separate unit.

1.6 THE ECONOMY

Today Canada is one of the seven most industrialised countries (G 7). According to International Trade Canada is fully integrated into the global system and is the eight largest trading nation among the industrialised market economies. This industrial and trade economy, has evolved from early fur trade and agriculture economy. Traditionally Canada

is known worldwide as a rich source of raw materials and primary products such as wheat, oil, lumber and minerals. It is only in recent years that the economy has moved more towards manufacturing sector. Sector wise composition as per 2003 figures is agriculture 2.2%, industry 29.2% and services 68.6%. The labour force, consists of services 74%, manufacturing 15%, construction 5%, agriculture 3% and others 3%.

1.6.1 Agriculture

The mineral industry, forest products and agriculture have been a vital force in the Canadian economy for centuries and even today remain major contributors of Canada's trade in the international market. Farmers constitute about 2 per cent of Canada's population and about 3.5 per cent of country's workforce is engaged in Agriculture. About 15 per cent of the total labour force is employed in food processing, food services and related industries in the agri-food system. Together, they generate about 8 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product. Canada is best known for its excellent grain, oilseeds, vegetables, meat and dairy products. Agricultural exports, led by wheat, barley, pork and horticulture products, however, are less than 10% of all trade. Forests cover about half of Canada's total land area. Forest product exports including pulp and paper represent 15% of Canada's total export trade. Canada is the world's leading producer of newsprint, accounting for 40% of global output; almost 75% of Canada's total newsprint production is exported to the United States. Commercial fisheries provide an annual catch of about 1.4 million metric tons of which about 70% are exported.

1.6.2 Industry and Trade

Since World War II, the impressive growth of the manufacturing, mining and service sectors has transformed the nation from a largely rural economy into one primarily industrial and urban. Over the past 40 years resource exports have become a less important part of Canada's trade mix, representing about 20 per cent of the Canadian exports now, compared with 40 per cent in the early 1960s. Yet Canada ranks first in the world in mineral exports and third in mineral production after the U.S. and the states of former Soviet Union. It is the world's largest producer of zinc, potash, uranium and nickel; the second-largest producer of asbestos, silver, titanium, gold, lead, copper, iron and platinum. Every region has significant mineral resources. Fewer than 5 per cent of Canadian workers are now employed in primary industries, compared to 13 per cent in 1963. Industry is now the leading segment of the Canadian economy, employing one-third of the work force.

Today Canada ranks seventh in the world in gross domestic product. It also ranks seventh in the total volume of trade, after the United States, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan and Italy. Canada is a major producer of hydro-electricity, oil and gas, unlike most of its industrial partners. It also manufactures motor-vehicles and parts, machinery and equipments, other diversified manufacturing, etc.

Canada's largest trade partner is the United States with more than \$1.4 billion in trade per day. The largest component of the U.S. Canadian trade is the automotive sector. The U.S. is Canada's largest foreign investor counting about 72% of total foreign direct investment in Canada. U.S. investment is primarily in Canada's mining and smelting industries, petroleum, chemicals, the manufacture of machinery and transportation equipment and finance. Canada is the third-largest foreign investor in the United States. The Canadian investment in the United States is concentrated in manufacturing, wholesale trade, real

estate, finance and insurance and other service. Canada's trade with the U.S. increased by about 50% between 1989 – when the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) came into effect and 1994, when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) superseded it. Canada and the U.S. each serve as the largest market for the other's goods.

The European Union (EU) countries taken together constitute Canada's second-largest trading and investment partner. After the United States and Japan, seven of Canada's top export destinations are in Europe. Canada's economic ties with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region are becoming stronger and more diverse. As is known, this region contains many of the fastest growing economies in the world.

India also is an important trading partner for Canada. Bilateral trade between India and Canada almost tripled in the 1990s to reach \$2.2 billion in 2003. India remains one of Canada's priority markets and an emerging source of foreign direct investment. Exports to India grew from \$ 674 million in 2002 to \$ 733 million in 2003, an increase of 8.7%. Significant increases were recorded in paper, aircraft, fertilizer, iron and steel and textiles (sports wear). Canada's main exports to India include telecom equipments, peas, pulses, potash and wood pulp. Indian exports to Canada increased from \$ 1.3 billion in 2002 to \$ 1.4 billion in 2003. Exports to Canada are predominantly apparel, yarns and fabric, precious stones, spices, leather items and frozen seafood.

1.7 SUMMARY

The evolution of Canada can be traced back to about 1000 years when the Europeans started arriving and settling there, making it an essentially settler's colony. The earlier settlers were French and British. Before the arrival of Europeans the land was inhabited by the population, which is now known as aboriginals. Subsequently there took place an intense rivalry between the English and the French to wrest control over the colonies leading to the victory of England in 1763. The region was divided in 1791 into upper and lower Canada. Both were granted their own representative governing institutions. They were united into one Canada in 1840. It was the British North America Act of 1867 (BNA) that saw the formation of the present confederation of Canada. The cultural diversity has naturally made Canada into a plural society. Economically too, Canada has evolved into one of the top industrialised countries of the world and its trade relations with various countries have become stronger and diverse in nature. Canada, undoubtedly, is one of the most respected liberal democracies in the world today.

1.8 EXERCISES

- 1) Briefly trace the evolution of Canada as an entity.
- 2) Discuss the process of state building/confederation of the State of Canada.
- 3) 'From a largely rural economy, Canada has evolved into an industrial and urban nation'. What are the factors that helped Canada in achieving this status?