

F. Canada and the Anglosphere

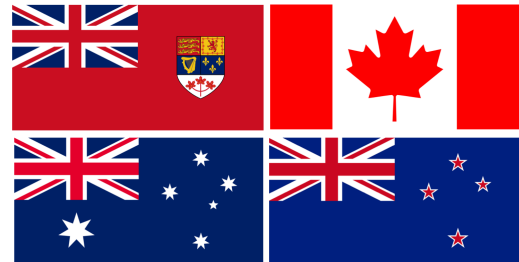
1. Although it was Cabot sailing for England who first discovered *North America* during the Age of Discovery (**1497**), it was France that would create the first permanent settlement in what would become Canada. Samuel de Champlain was the French colonizer who established Quebec in **1608** (just after England settled Jamestown in Virginia in **1607**).
2. French Canada expanded rapidly down past the Great Lakes all the way to Louisiana (named after Louis XIV of France) while the thirteen colonies that would eventually form the United States grew on the east coast.
3. These colonial enterprises eventually collided in the Ohio river valley, leading to a war between these two long-time enemy members of the Europe of Nations.
4. After three inconsequential wars, the **Seven Years' War (1756-63)**, known in the United States as the "French & Indian War" settled the contest. England defeated France and took over Canada.
5. French Canadians chose not to join Americans in their revolution, preferring to stay in the British Empire, whose commercial system and protection of rights was better than that of the French absolute monarchy. So Canada and the United States had started separately, and because of the American Revolution they continued to go their separate ways. (Included in the growing population of Canada was a large contingent of "Empire Loyalists," who left America because they did not support the revolution.)
6. Since Canada did *not* have a revolution in its history, the question arises: how did it become an independent country? The answer is: gradually, as a reward for good behavior.
7. The biggest step in the process of Canadian independence was the creation of the "Dominion of Canada" on July 1st, 1867, by an act of the British parliament. (The term "dominion" is an apt one in the sense that it is clearly not merely a set of colonies, but on the other hand not completely an independent country either.)
8. Canada's semi-independent status is illustrated by the fact that when **World War I (1914-19)** began in Europe, and Britain declared war on Germany, Canada was *required* to participate.
9. Again, as a reward for loyalty, a further grant of independence was made in **1931** with the Statute of Westminster, a new law giving Canada a greater degree of self-governance, including the power to choose whether or not to go to war.
10. Canada exercised this power in **World War II (1939-45)** after Britain again declared war on Germany. This time, Canada waited one week to symbolically assert its independence, but the end result could hardly be in doubt: *Canada* declared war on Germany as well.

G. Post-Imperial Culture

1. Once the *World Wars* were over, Canadians settled in to a new pattern of existence. The British Empire was rapidly becoming a thing of the past. India, controlled by Britain for

nearly a hundred years, was granted its independence, as was a huge swath of Africa and the Middle East. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—the main pieces of British cultures outside of Britain—had already become largely independent by the Statute of Westminster, but their populations were also becoming more independent.

2. The main cultural trend in the cultural block of the “Anglosphere,” as elsewhere in the world, was a repudiation of imperialism, a good example of which was that Canada joined NATO in **1949** to help resist the imperial drive of communist Russia after the war.
3. Another symbol of Canada’s post-imperial culture was the embrace of *internationalism* as an important way to prevent wars. (Internationalism, widely adopted in the Western world after World War I, holds that continual diplomacy between nations is the key to avoiding wars.) Canada promoted the idea of a United Nations peace-keeping force as an alternative or adjunct to the United States as a sole police power.
4. Gradually shifting away from British imperial culture, Canadian chose to adopt a new flag, the “Maple Leaf,” in **1965**, which substituted a purely Canadian symbol for one which contains the “Union Jack” of Great Britain.
5. The main challenge for *Post-Imperial* Canada has been how to incorporate its French and English cultures into one. This became a very serious problem when the French people of Quebec considered secession from Canada, and there was even a terrorist crisis in **1970** because of the most committed French advocates of independence, known as the Front for the Liberation of Quebec.
6. Official *bilingualism* is a policy adopted by the Canadian government to try to combine its two main European roots into one combined society.
7. Canada also upholds a new post-imperial ideal known as “multiculturalism,” which asserts that all cultures are inherently valuable, and thus Canada has become a country with a large immigrant population from around the world, especially Asia, where the goal is to celebrate “diversity” within a British framework, but one that is deliberately self-effacing and inclusive.
8. If we mark the *World Wars* on our timelines as two tick-marks, and add the modern cultures of America (as the world police power) and the Europe Union (acting as a new combined culture according to the idea of *supranationalism*) then our complete diagram of Western civilization can be labeled as seen on the next page.



In 1965, Canada adopted a *post-imperial* flag (top right) to symbolize its new culture instead of its prior symbol (top left). Australia (bottom left) and New Zealand have both had post-imperial flag debates, but they chose not to change their flags.

