## HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: The History of Canada

### Factors Influencing the Development of Canada

| early peoples | • Asians who crossed the land bridge during the last Ice Age settled first  
• Inuit (Eskimos) remained in the Canadian Arctic and Alaska  
• First Nations moved south into British Columbia and east toward the Atlantic |
| colonization by France and Britain | • both British and French settled  
• Britain defeated France in French and Indian War (1754-1763)  
• French settlers remained and conflict continued between the English and French  
• (1791) est. of Upper Canada (Ontario, English) and Lower Canada (Quebec, French) |
| establishing the Dominion of Canada | • early 19th century development of major cities (Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto)  
• British North American Act (1867) est. Dominion of Canada (confederation of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick); self-governing part of British Empire with Ottawa, Ontario as capital; other provinces in West and North added by 20th century |
| settlement of the West | • transcontinental railroad (Montreal to Vancouver) completed in 1885  
• deposits of ore (gold, copper, zinc, silver) found and promoted development of western towns and more railroads  
• various European immigrant groups settled Canada’s vast open lands |
| urban and industrial growth | • as population grew and natural resources developed, various urban and industrial centers emerged, most within 100 miles of the border with the U. S.  
• this growth helped Canada develop into a major economic power in the 20th century  
• (1931) Canada recognized as independent nation by Great Britain |
**HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: The Government of Canada**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>parliamentary government</th>
<th>parliament</th>
<th>prime minister</th>
<th>justice system</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>government established in Constitution (1867)</td>
<td>Canadian Parliament handles all legislative matters (lawmaking)</td>
<td>the majority political party’s leader in Parliament becomes the Prime Minister</td>
<td>Supreme Court (1875)</td>
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<td>system in which legislative and executive functions combined in a legislature called parliament</td>
<td>consists of an appointed Senate and an elected House of Commons</td>
<td>each province also has its own legislature and premier (prime minister)</td>
<td>Federal Court of Appeals (2003)</td>
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<td>central federal government with smaller provincial and territorial governments</td>
<td></td>
<td>federal government administer the territories</td>
<td>Federal Court is the Canadian trial courts</td>
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<td>although independent, Canada’s symbolic head of state remains the British monarch</td>
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<td>Tax Courts (1983)</td>
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<td>The Governor General, David Johnston, is the British Crown’s representative in Canada</td>
<td>105 Senators (upper house) appointed by Governor General upon advice of PM</td>
<td>PM Stephen Harper</td>
<td>provincial/territorial courts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>308 members of House of Commons (lower house) elected by district by Canadian populace</td>
<td>PM assisted by various Ministers (the Cabinet)</td>
<td>9 Supreme Court justices app’t. by Gov. Gen. (Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin)</td>
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<td>term lasts until PM resigns, no confidence vote in Parliament, or majority party’s defeat in election</td>
<td>all judges have mandatory retirement (age 70-75 depending on the court)</td>
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<td>approx. 750 court locations</td>
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### HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: The Canadian Economy

| primary industries | • Key Industries: farming, logging, mining, and fishing  
|                    | • HUGE fishing industry due to access to Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans  
|                    | • overfishing has lead to development of fish farms (esp. salmon)  
|                    | • leader in production of paper products, especially newsprint (paper made from wood pulp)  
|                    | • Other Major Exports: food (despite only 5% arable land) and minerals (uranium, zinc, gold, and silver) |
| manufacturing      | • 17% manufacturing jobs  
|                    | • 25% of GDP (gross domestic product--total value of goods/services produced within the country...domestically)  
|                    | • Major Products: automobiles, steel, household appliances, electronics, high-tech and mining equipment  
|                    | • most manufacturing in Quebec and Ontario |
| service industries | • more than 70% of GPD comes from the service sector  
|                    | • include finance, utilities, trade, transportation, tourism, communications, insurance, and real estate  
|                    | • tourism--fastest growing industry in Canada, 3% of workforce (same percentage of workers as those in agriculture) |
| NAFTA              | • North American Free Trade Agreement (1994): made trade with United States and Mexico easier (fewer trade restrictions, lowered tariffs and other trade barriers)  
|                    | • approx. 85% of Canada's exports go to the United States  
|                    | • 75% of Canada’s imports come from the U. S. |
# HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: Canadian Life & Culture

## Diversity
- First settlers were **Inuit** and **First Nations** (see more [here](#) and [here](#)).
- English and French settlers
- **Métis**—people of mixed French and native heritage (see more [here](#)).
- More recent immigration from Europe and Asia.

## Language and Religion
- Officially bilingual (English and French).
- Quebec—only province with majority French-speakers.
- Mostly Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians.
- Increasing populations of Jews, Muslims, and other religious groups.

## Population
- Harsh environment and inaccessibility influence settlement patterns.
- 2010 population: approx. 34 million (compared with 310 million in the U.S.).
- Most densely populated areas are port cities (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver) and in the farming regions (Winnipeg, Calgary); 4/5 of population live in urban areas.
- 80% of population lives in 10% of the land.
- 75% of the 6.5 million French Canadians live in Montreal.
- Over 300,000 self-identified **Métis** across Canada.
- 2,300 reserves (600 occupied)—public land set aside for native peoples (Inuit, First Nations).
- Growing Asian-Canadian population living on the West Coast (British Columbia).

## Sports and Recreation
- Popular sports: skating, ice hockey, fishing, skiing, golf, and hunting.
- Professional sports: Canadian football, pro ice hockey.
- Lacrosse—originated with native peoples of Canada centuries ago.

## The Arts
- **Inuit carvings**
- Pacific Northwest totems (First Nations).
- **Group of Seven**—early 20th century Canadian landscape artists.
- **Stratford Festival** in Ontario—world-renowned celebration of Shakespeare’s work.
First Nations

Elders and Indian soldiers in the uniform of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, c. 1916-1917

Chipewyan band today, Northwest Territory
The Inuit

An Inuit girl shows her Canadian pride on Canada Day in the small hamlet of Resolute Bay, Nunavut.

Inuit of the Canadian Arctic
The Métis

Métis family in Canada, c. 1930

Métis dance students, Ontario (2008)
“Group of Seven” paintings