



# The History of Canadian History: A Very Very Short History

*Learn the History, Better Understand the Present, Shape the Future*

Professor Heidi Bohaker

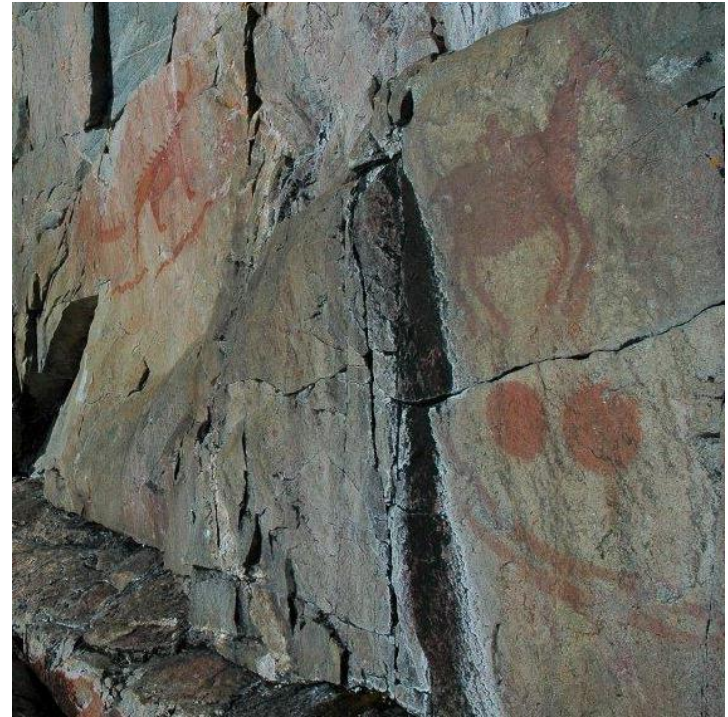
# All Human Societies Are Keep Records of Their Histories:

## 2 Historic North American Indigenous Examples

### Lakota Winter Count



### Anishinaabe Pictographs



Sources: Plains Winter Count, Akta Lakota Musuem & Cultural Centre:

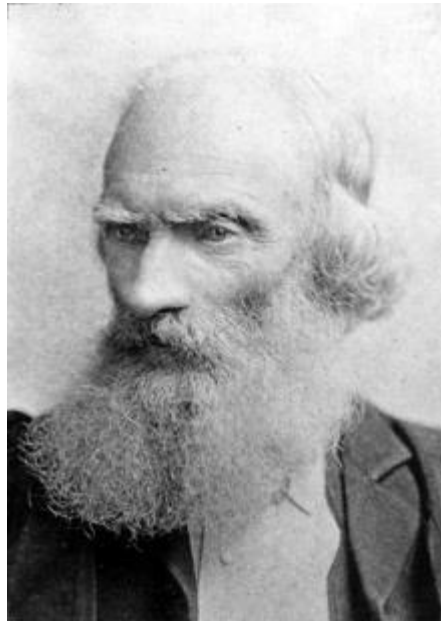
<http://aktalakota.stjo.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=8993>. Agawa Canyon Pictographs: Lake

Superior Provincial Park: <http://lakesuperiorpark.ca/index.php/activities/23-pictographs>.

# About History & Historiography

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- ▶ The Idea of History: What does it mean?
- ▶ History as an Academic Discipline within Universities
- ▶ History at the University of Toronto



Daniel Wilson  
1816-1892



George M. Wrong  
1860-1948





# Notes for Above Slide

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- ▶ The word history is also connected to these ideas of transmitting narratives about the past to future generations.
- ▶ The word history came into English from Latin, and originally from Ancient Greek
- ▶ History as an academic or scholarly discipline that involved the construction of historical narratives from examination of primary sources also has old roots.
- ▶ Examples of people working as historians in this way can be found in Ancient Greece, Ancient and Medieval China, and in Early, Classical and Early Modern Islam.
  
- ▶ Universities as Medieval Europe's professional schools
  - ▶ University of Bologna 1088
  - ▶ University of Oxford 1096
  - ▶ Cambridge 1209
  - ▶ University of St. Andrews, 1413
- ▶ Teaching of history in European universities 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> c
- ▶ 19<sup>th</sup> C: emphasis on development of epic national narratives , focus on “great men”
- ▶ 20<sup>th</sup> C: shift to more complex analysis, shift to idea of history as a social science in the 1960s, use of computers to do quantitative analysis of census, birth, marriage records.
- ▶ New methods and sub disciplines: social history, idea of categories of analysis (race, class, gender), cultural histories
  - ▶ Daniel Wilson: Professor of History and English Literature (at U of T in 1853)
  - ▶ George Wrong, followed Wilson, appointment first 1<sup>st</sup> chair for new Department of History, Professor Canadian History, founder *Canadian Historical Review*



# Canadian History in a Nutshell

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## ▶ FROM COLONY TO NATION

- ▶ developing a narrative that explained the origins of Canada – how did “we” get “here” from “there?” When did Canada “start?”
- ▶ Where is the revolutionary moment?
  - ▶ Not in Canada: No big revolutionary moment (i.e. the US, American Revolution).
  - ▶ Or even in UK (Battle of Hastings, 1066).
- ▶ Gradual development and maturation of settler colonies to Confederation, and then development and expansion of Dominion.
- ▶ Two big periodizations: Pre/Post Confederation (1867)



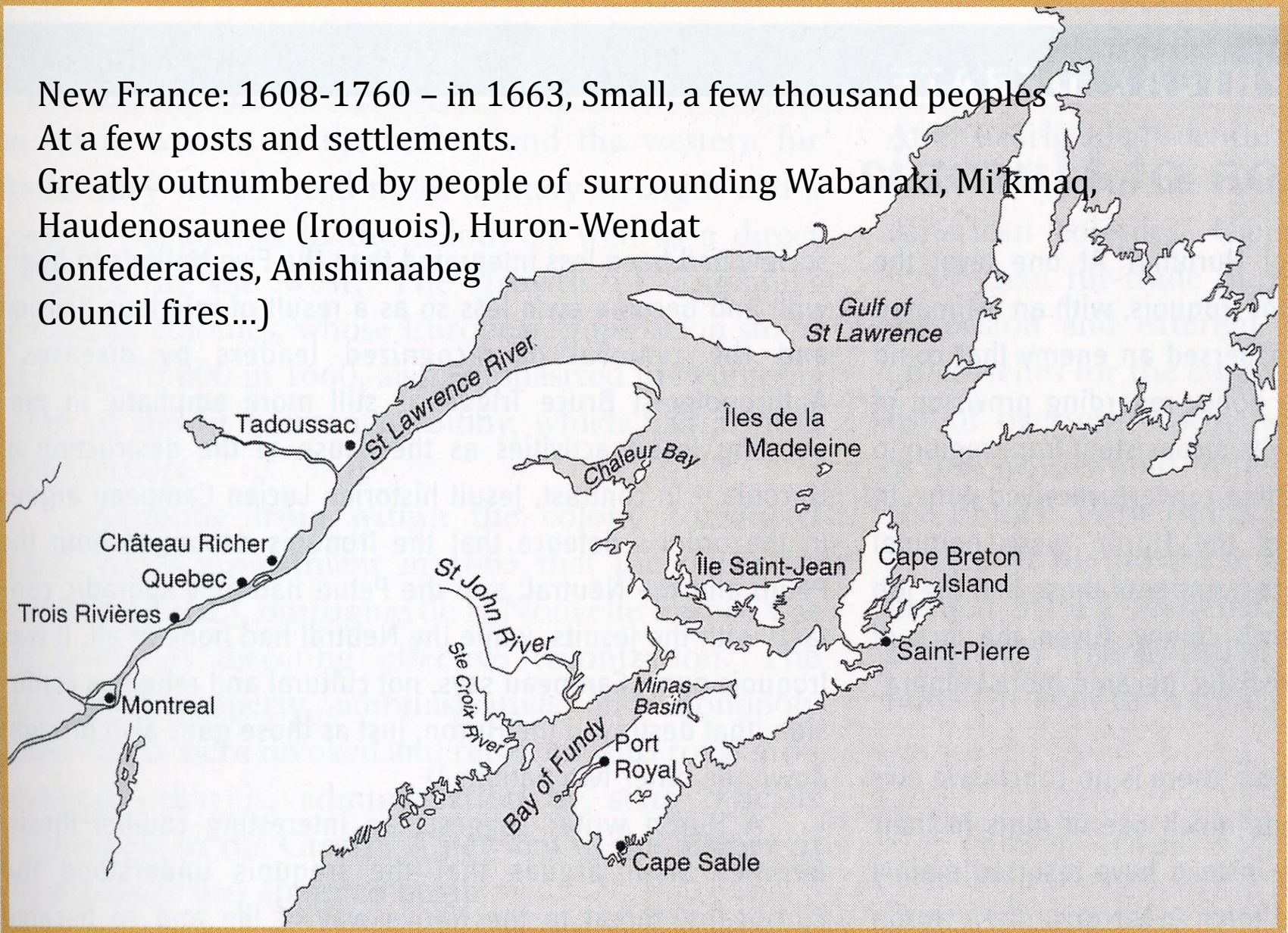
# From Colony to Nation, Broad Periodization

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- ▶ New France: 1608-1760
- ▶ British North America: 1760-1867
- ▶ Canada in the British Empire: 1867-1945
- ▶ Modern Canada: 1945-Present (Post WWII Canada)



New France: 1608-1760 – in 1663, Small, a few thousand peoples  
At a few posts and settlements.  
Greatly outnumbered by people of surrounding Wabanaki, Mi'kmaq,  
Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Huron-Wendat  
Confederacies, Anishinaabeg  
Council fires...)



**MAP 5.1** New France in 1663.

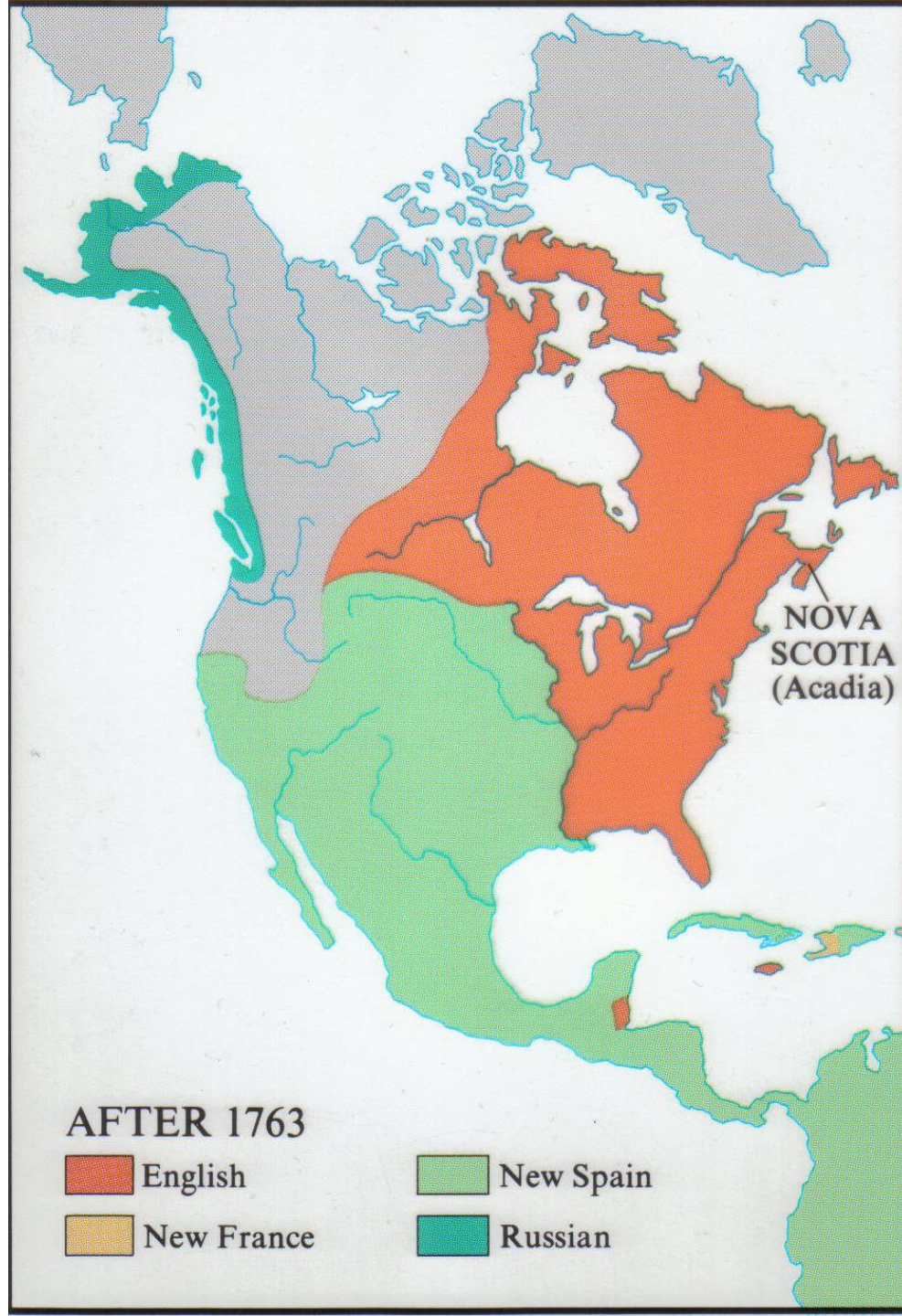


# Imperial Claims

1713







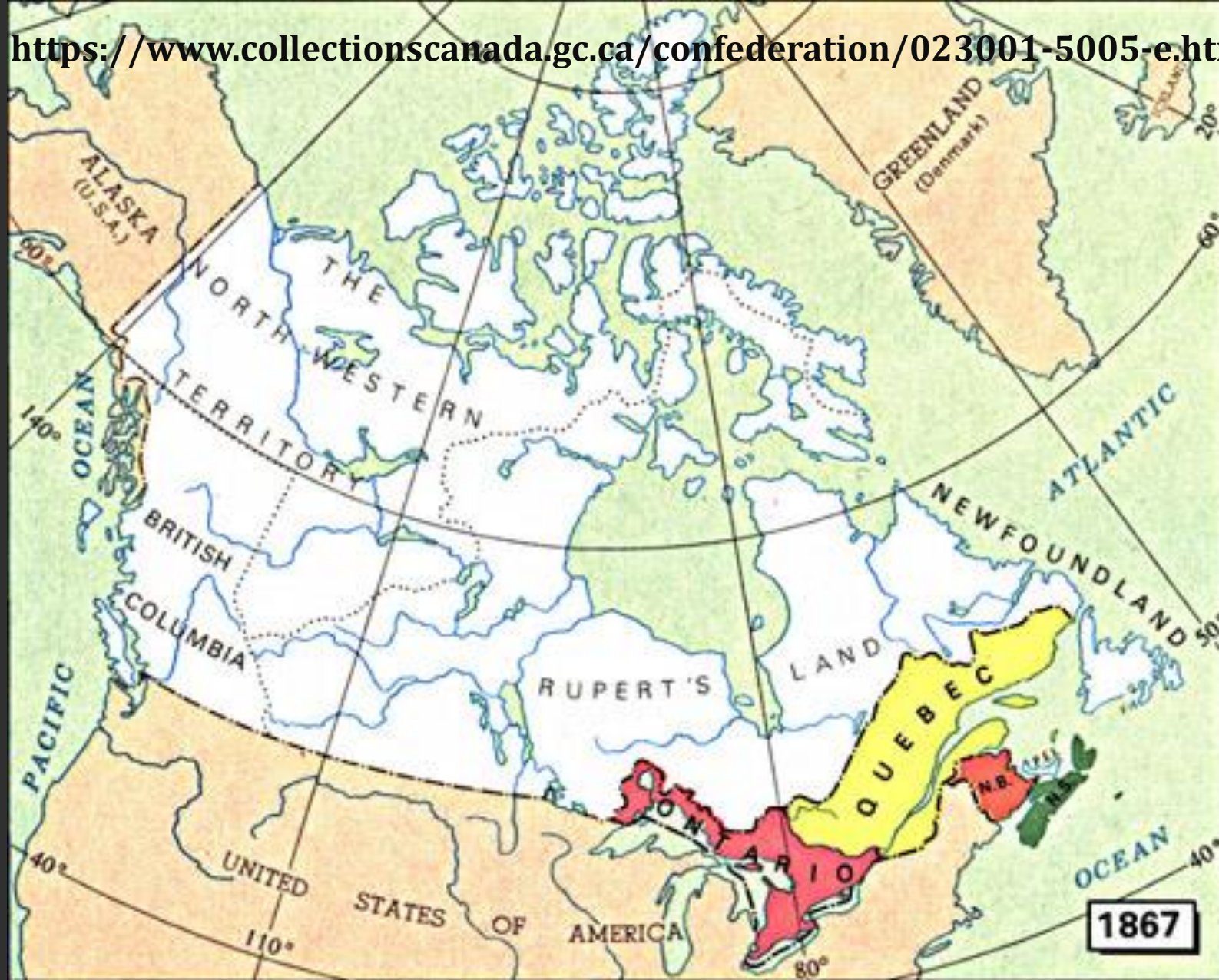
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After the Seven Years' War, 1756-1763, British empire takes over France's claims to North America.

American Revolution in 1776 creates both the United States and ultimately Canada. Canada formed of British colonies NOT part of the American Revolution.

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New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada are united in a federal state, the Dominion of Canada, by the British North America Act (July 1, 1867). The province of Canada is divided into Ontario and Quebec. The United States of America proclaims the purchase of Alaska from Russia (June 20).

# From Colony to Nation, Periodization

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- ▶ New France: 1608-1760
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## *Journeys'* periodizations – a variation on a theme:

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### PRE-CONFEDERATION

- ▶ The First Peoples (before part 1)
- ▶ Early European Settlement to 1760
- ▶ The Canadas, 1760-1864
- ▶ Beyond the Canadas, to 1864

### POST CONFEDERATION

- ▶ Building the New Dominion, 1867-1914
- ▶ The Impact of Two World Wars and the Great Depression, 1914-1945
- ▶ Modern Canada, 1945 to the Present (to 2016)



The “main narrative” of from a colony to a nation has remained unchanged – for better or for worse.

## Extensions & Sidebars: What Gets Included?

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- ▶ Extending back “The First Peoples” to 1500
  - ▶ Common in settler societies. Is this inclusive or appropriating?
- ▶ Going wider: including histories of all the geographies that now make up present-day Canada
- ▶ Going beyond the histories of ruling elites/politics, but not changing the fundamental narrative
  - ▶ Women’s history
  - ▶ Histories of Immigration and immigrants
  - ▶ Indigenous histories
  - ▶ Inclusion through sidebars/biography “blurbs” w/n textbooks



# Critical thinking in history

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1. Continuity and change
2. Analysis of source
3. Cause and effect
4. Interpretation/cultural context
5. Judgement







THAT'S ALL!

*SEE YOU MONDAY...*

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