

Corn Laws

"In 1846, the British government repealed the Corn Laws, which were part of the Navigation Acts and gave preferential treatment to British colonies."

Laws which protected agriculture in the British Empire by limiting the import of grain from other countries.

Tariff

"Canadian grain came into Britain with lower tariffs than grain from other countries."

A duty, or charge, that must be paid on an imported item.

Economic depression

"The end of the Corn Laws drove the colonies into an economic depression."

A period of low economic activity marked by high unemployment.

Rebellion Losses Bill

"During the Rebellions of 1837, many people suffered property damage. In 1849, the newly elected and reformist government presented the Rebellion Losses Bill

A bill promising compensation to people of Canada East who suffered property damage during the Rebellions of 1837.

Federation

"First, the colonies felt that if they were joined together in a federation, they would lose their independence."

A union of provinces, each of which keeps certain powers but gives up other powers to a central, national government.

Annex

"The vast western territories, which were held by the Hudson's Bay Company, could be annexed to Canada, and therefore denied to the United States."

To take over a territory and add it to the territory of another country.

Manifest Destiny

"After all, American politicians made speeches about Manifest Destiny, which claimed that the destiny of the United States was to own all of North America."

An American idea that it was the fate of the United States to control all of North America.

American Civil War

"The American Civil War, which began in 1861, heightened the threat."

Also called the War Between the States, it began in 1861 and ended in 1865. The industrialized North fought the agricultural South. A divisive issue was slavery, which the South supported.

Coalition

“The government of Canada was always made up of a number of parties – a coalition. If even one party left the coalition, the government would fall.”

In politics, when one or more political parties or interest groups work together to achieve a common goal.

Corruption

“The Grits attacked corruption in government, wanted more democracy, and defended English-Canadian interests.”

In politics, taking bribes or using one’s influence to gain an unfair advantage.

Representation by population

“This is an important feature of democratic government, but... not popular in Canada East, where representation by population meant fewer seats for French Canadians.”

A form of proportional representation in government; areas with higher populations have more elected officials in government.