

# RUPERT'S LAND

CANADA PURCHASES RUPERT'S LAND  
FROM THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY  
1869

# CHANGES: RED RIVER SETTLEMENT 1860-1870

- Rapidly rising population in Canada West - pushes Canadians west in search for land for agriculture
- Fur trade started to decline - HBC was losing interest in Rupert's land
- Canada became a nation (1867)

# POINTS OF VIEW

- In the fall of 1869, there were several different groups involved in the Canadian government's proposed takeover of Rupert's Land:
  - Prime Minister Macdonald
  - The British Government
  - The Hudson's Bay Company
  - Settlers
  - Metis

# PRIME MINISTER SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

- The settlement of the north West was necessary to fulfill his dream of a Canada that stretched from “sea to sea”
- Possible American takeover of the land was a concern
- Believed that everyone would want to be a part of the Dominion of Canada

# THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

- Ready to “wash their hands” of Canada - too expensive to govern and protect
- After Canada’s Confederation - believed that it was now Canada’s responsibility to govern the area

# HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

- Didn't want to be involved with the issues/conflicts of the Red River Settlement
- Lost interest in land because of decline in fur trade  
- needed to diversify their business - wanted to drop its administrative duties associated with the land

# SETTLERS

- Prejudiced against Metis for being French, Catholic, and of bicultural heritage - viewed as inferior
- Believed joining in political union with Canada would put an end to the traditional Metis strip farms

# Settlers:

- New settlers=mostly Protestant and members of the Orange Order—violently anti-French and anti-Catholic.
- Dr. John Schultz
  - never completed medical degree
  - no interest in practicing medicine
  - opened a general store and took over the only newspaper in the settlement—the NorWester
  - formed the Canadian Party with his supporters.

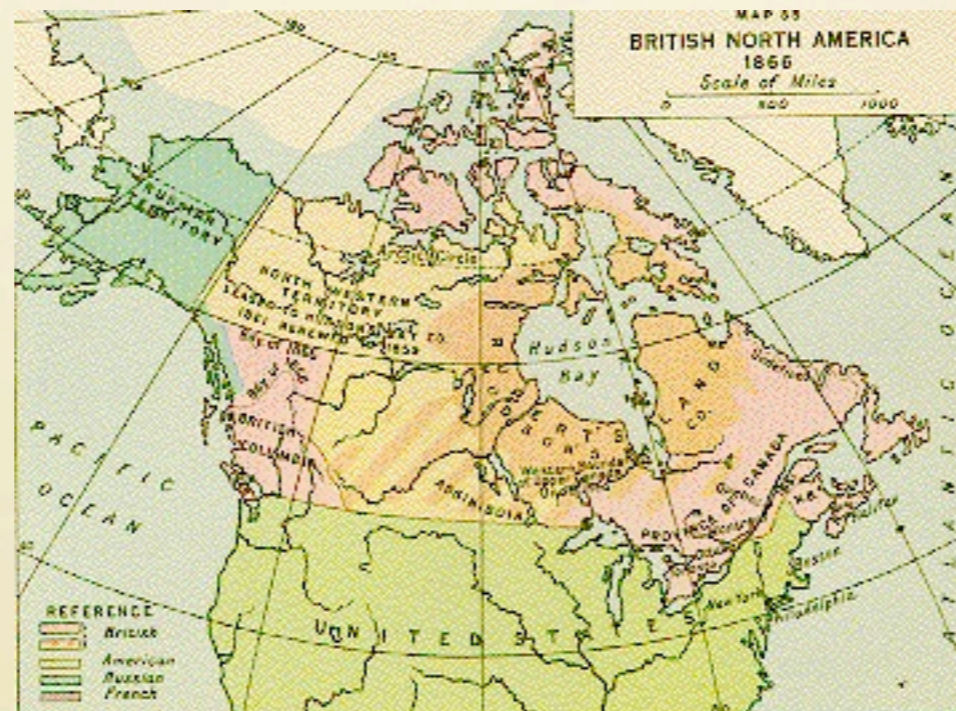


# METIS

- Concerned that English-speaking settlers would take over their land
- Believed that if a person cleared land and farmed, he or she had a right to it
- Wanted their culture - especially religious and language rights - to be respected

# AMERICA VS CANADA

- The Americans had just paid Russia \$7.2 million for Alaska in 1867 and were looking to expand their Republic further - having their eyes on Rupert's Land



# AMERICA VS CANADA

- Canada saw Rupert's Land as a natural extension of their new nation
- The HBC was prepared to sell to the Americans who were willing to pay top dollar - but the British Government made it clear that they wanted it sold to Canada



# NEGOTIATIONS FOR RUPERT'S LAND

- 1867-1868 Canadian government and HBC began negotiations to transfer control of Rupert's Land
- The HBC did not consult the people who lived in the Red River Settlement nor the Metis
- Before a deal was made the Canadian government sent surveyors to begin laying out the grids of townships - assumed that the settlers and Metis did not own their land

# CANADA PURCHASES RUPERT'S LAND

- November 1869 an agreement was reached: Canada received the title for Rupert's Land from the HBC in exchange for \$1.5 million, 2.8 million hectares of prairie farmland, and the right to continue the fur trade

# THE RESULT

- The result is Canada purchasing Rupert's Land from the HBC
- Because the parties involved had differing views, not everyone could win.
- If they can't all win, why then would it be important to look at this issue from various points of view?
- Who's point of view was ultimately the winner? Why them and not the others?

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Can you predict some problems that may have resulted because of the differences in the points of view of all of the parties involved?