

now Canadian territory has lain on the periphery of a vast settlement area, the shifting centres of which are and have been to the south and have inevitably attracted and, to a lesser extent, continue to attract peoples from the periphery. The major migration from each country has been to the other.

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

SETTLEMENT AND IMMIGRATION

Occupation of what is now Canadian territory had an uncertain start in the oldest British colony and the youngest province of Canada—Newfoundland—which was claimed by Britain in 1583. Permanent settlement, however, was long deferred. The foundations of Canadian population were laid by people French in origin and language, who today constitute over 30 p.c. of the population. They are unique in that they have been an indigenous, self-perpetuating society for more than 200 years. Their immigrant basis is estimated to have been no more than 10,000 settlers who arrived during the 150 years preceding the British conquest (1763). At that time the French population numbered about 65,000 from whom the present population of 4,628,378 (Census 1956), not to mention those who emigrated to the United States, is largely descended.

Most important in point of numbers and second in point of time, among the sources of Canada's population, have been immigrants of British Isles origin coming either directly from overseas or entering from the United States after one or more generations of settlement there.

The cession of Acadia (1713) to Great Britain was followed in 1749 by the establishment of Halifax as a military base, and the first British effort at colonization. Along with people from England came some 2,500 migrants from Germany who settled at Lunenburg. The way for larger settlement, however, was not finally cleared until the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, the final capture of Louisburg in 1758 and the fall of Quebec in 1759. Soon after, thousands of new settlers came chiefly from the New England States, the first of the interregional movements which have been characteristic of the population relations of Canada and the United States.

On the eve of the Revolution of the Thirteen Colonies (1776), the population of what is now Canada was about 110,000 to which was soon added over 40,000 persons—disbanded troops, refugees and Loyalists who sought new lands and homes in the remaining British colonies to the north. Nova Scotia gained 22,000 and Cape Breton 400, New Brunswick, established as a separate colony in 1784, received 14,000, Prince Edward Island 600, Lower Canada 3,000 and Upper Canada 10,000. From 1783 to 1812 migration into the British colonies continued with the 'late Loyalists' gradually shading off into a migration of pioneer American farmers who came in the traditional search for new and better lands. Among these were German Mennonites from Pennsylvania who settled on the Grand River in what is now Waterloo County in Ontario. Another successful settlement was that of Colonel Thomas Talbot who had been given a grant of land on Lake Erie in 1803. Actual settlement there began in 1809 with an influx of farmers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the Maritime Colonies and from the British Isles. Talbot Road was long one of the great roads through the province which attracted other settlers in quest of land.

Until 1815 migration from the British Isles remained small and was made up mainly of Scottish Highlanders many of whom came in groups such as the one led by Lord Selkirk which settled on Prince Edward Island in 1803. And between 1802 and 1828 some 25,000 Highlanders settled on Cape Breton Island which remains Highland Scottish to this day.