

posts as far west as Fort St. James on Stuart Lake in north-central British Columbia, northwest of present-day Prince George.

The French were not the only ones interested in the fur trade. So also were the Dutch in New Amsterdam (New York) and in Fort Orange (Albany), and, after the cession of the Dutch colony to the English in 1664, still more formidable competition came from English traders. The Indians were the essential middlemen of the trade and both the French and the English vied for their loyalties.

The rivalry between the French and English in North America began early, and continued to affect the Indians for a long time. It seriously affected Indian life in the St. Lawrence Valley, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and other Great Lakes areas, and reverberated westward from there; it also affected Indians in Hudson Bay in the late 17th century, in Newfoundland, and in Acadia, during a whole series of wars.

2.2.2 The French-English conflict

The French-English rivalry in Canada reflected the great European conflicts which began in 1689 and ended only with Napoleon's defeat in 1815. The year 1710 saw the fall of the peninsula of Nova Scotia to the English, confirmed in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. The French however still retained Île Royale (Cape Breton) and Île St-Jean (Prince Edward Island). They effectively occupied what is now New Brunswick and built Fort Beauséjour on the Chignecto isthmus to defend it. More important, they built Louisbourg at the southeast corner of Cape Breton Island, to defend the St. Lawrence approaches, and to act as an exchange point between New France, the French West Indies and France.

Louisbourg fell to the English in 1745, but was restored to France in the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1748, that closed the War of the Austrian Succession. Halifax was then built



The King's Bastion Barracks, Fortress of Louisbourg, NS. Built between 1720 and 1745, the Fortress was captured by New England militia in 1745, restored to the French in 1748, recaptured by General Wolfe's forces in 1758 and destroyed in 1760. It is now being restored as a National Historic Site. (*Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development*)