

(Lower) Canada East:

- Population (1860): 1,111,566
- Urban Centers: Quebec
- Key figures: Confederation was supported by dominant political group, the Conservatives under George-Étienne Cartier, Hector Langevin and Alexander T. Galt and opposed by A.A. Dorion's Parti Rouge.
- Write brief summary of key points emerging from your research. Try to focus on to find strengths and problems of the colony. Focus on the condition of trade, defense/armed forces, political system, economy, key political figures and their role in political system. You can make point form notes.
- Political instability by political cliques that controlled government power in both Canada West and Canada East
- Canada East resided a majority of French-speaking population
- Internal division between two clearly defined classes in the society: English merchants and French Canadians
- In addition to its internal political struggles, Canada East was also more susceptible to attacks/invasions of outside forces, e.g. the United States
- Section 41 of the *Act of Union* decreed that English was to be the only official language of the country. This was the first time that England had prohibited French in a constitutional text and greatly angered the French Canadians.

“We believed in co-operation between Canada West and Canada East, that we should all be granted equal rights. Since majority of our people are French Canadians, we found that we might not benefit from the implementation of a political union and economy equally as the business class English Canadian. We observed that several clauses of the constitution humiliated the French Canadians. For example, Canada East, which had a larger population than Canada West, was given the same number of elected representatives. We think that if the representation were to be fair, the number of representatives should be proportional to the population of each group. We want a confederation that grants both groups equality and fairness.”