

The Forces That Keep Canada Together vs. The Forces That Would Take It Apart



[FOUNDERS]

Canada has many cultures. The oldest are those of the native peoples—the Indians and the Inuit. There are two founding peoples—the French, who first came in the early seventeenth century, and the British, who began to come in the eighteenth. They were later joined by Germans, Ukrainians, Italians, Poles, Chinese, Americans, Japanese, Portuguese, East and West Indians, Netherlanders, Icelanders and others. The differences have often been divisive, but they can—when bigotry fades and appreciation sets in—be both enriching and unifying.

[REVOLUTIONS AND REBELLIONS]

Canada had no revolution and no major civil

war. The War of Independence gave the United States an immediate emotional identity, and the Civil War gave the country a resolution and a reconciliation.

[GREAT DISTANCES]

There is a natural emphasis in Canada on the individuality of provinces and regions. A relatively few people are stretched from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and very often they live in isolated places. Saskatoon is not even very close to Regina, and Winnipeg, as they say, is \$135 from anywhere. The magnificent distances have been overcome, deliberately to some degree, by the construction and maintenance of such institutions as two national railroads, radio and television networks and Hockey Night in Canada.

