



and south, the French followed the St. Lawrence River westward to reach the Great Lakes and from there to inland plains and the Mississippi Valley.

Throughout the seventeenth century the French settled the banks of the St. Lawrence and to a lesser extent the "Acadia" of Canada's eastern coast, while the English established larger and more flourishing settlements in their New England colonies and Virginia. The North American phase of the eighteenth century struggle between English and French culminated in the fall of Quebec in 1759 and the surrender of Canada to the British Crown.

The Declaration of Independence by the American colonies in 1776 led to the creation of the United States of America. Many American colonists, who remained loyal to the British Crown, made their way north to settle Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and present-day southern Ontario and to lay the base of English-speaking Canada.

It was nearly 100 years before the political geography of Canada roughly approached its present form. Invasions of Canada ended with the War of 1812-14 between Britain and the United States. In 1846, the boundary between the United States and the