

AFTERMATH OF THE REBELLIONS OF 1837-38

- Many citizens of Britain and critics of the British government blamed Britain for causing the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada
 - Britain should have provided responsible government and democracy in the colonial government system
 - Don't forget...this was one of the causes of the American Revolution and Britain doesn't want to risk losing more colonies!

- Britain sent **Lord Durham** to the colonies to assume 2 roles: become the Governor General of both colonies and figure out why the rebellions happened and the solutions necessary so they won't happen again



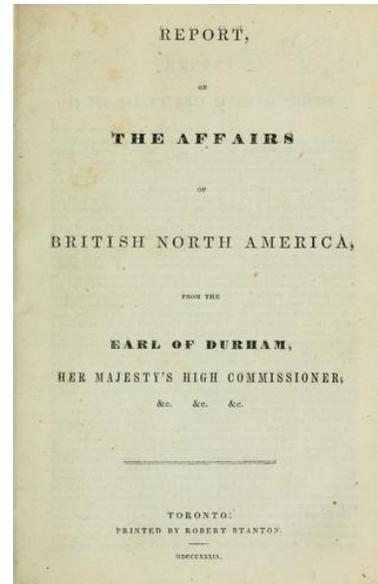
- His first solution = unite all 6 colonies into one nation
 - a) Political benefit: impossible for oligarchies to control government
 - b) Economic benefit: a larger number of taxpayers could provide money to pay for large scale projects such as a railway, roads, canals
- This proposal was not popular amongst any of the 6 colonies; uniting together would mean someone else's problem would now become your problem too

- **Robert Baldwin**, a reformer from Upper Canada, proposed a different solution = *responsible government*
- Lord Durham liked his proposal for 3 reasons:
 - a) it was as similar style of government to Britain
 - b) the colonial governments would only be responsible for local issues...so Britain wouldn't lose any power
 - c) all 6 colonies wanted it



- But not so fast...it can't be that easy! Durham was prepared to recommend responsible government be given to 5 colonies...but NOT for Lower Canada
 - Durham was afraid the French Canadian majority in the population would block British wishes in government and he simply didn't have a high opinion of French Canadians

- Durham was forced to resign 5 months into his position because of his lenient treatment of rebels in Upper and Lower Canada
- He returned to England and wrote his findings into a report entitled the **Lord Durham Report**



	Summary of Ideas
Causes of Rebellion in Lower Canada	-differences between French and English ways of life -French economic system is causing problems; needs to be replaced with the British economic system
Cause of Rebellion in Upper Canada	-clergy reserves are causing land ownership problems; it is unfair to give land only to the Anglican Church
Solution #1: Union of the Canadas	-unite Upper and Lower Canada into the Province of Canada (regions will be renamed Canada West and Canada East) -the French will be a minority, can be more easily assimilated, and the British will have the majority of power in government
Solution #2: Responsible government	-BNA is at risk of American annexation, so Britain should award responsible government to keep the colonies loyal -only given responsible government over local affairs (big issues will still be controlled and decided by Britain)