Grade 7 Socials

Chapter 6: Major Themes

* This chapter was about change in BNA in the 1800s and how decision making power moved from the hands of the elite to the ordinary people.
* 3 ways people tried to make change

i) using the media to spread the word about need for change. Ex. Public Ledger/Joseph Howe

1. threatening to harm or kill others unless they got the changes they want ex. The rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada

iii) becoming active in politics and pressuring the government for change. Ex. Joseph Howe also ran for politcs

* Representative government was the first form of structured government – know your chart and the different parts and their roles and who was empowered/disempowered.

See chart on next page!!

**Representative Government**

Monarch (King or Queen)

* Government of Great Britain makes all final decisions

🢃 appoints

Governor

* Puts Britain’s wishes first
* Can veto (say no) any bill
* Decides when to hold elections

🢃 appoints

Executive Council

* Advises the governor on which bills should become laws ( a bill is an idea for a law)

Legislative Council

* Advises the governor
* Decides which bills become laws

🡹 sends bills 🢄

🡹 sends bills to

Legislative assembly

* Suggests bills
* Raises $$$ through taxes

Voters: males that were 21 and over and property owners/rented for one year

elects 🢄

\*\* the elected people had no real voice!! The elite had all the power!

* The Push for Change
* Representative government gave power to the elite.
* People who were poor, or who were a minority, and just everyday people found it hard to find voice in this form of government.
* People wanted REFORM!!!
* There was a push for Responsible Government- in this system , the government would have elected officials who would make the decisions.
* Church officials (like Bishop Fleming) and newspaper owners (Joseph Howe) were involved in the debate for and against responsible government.
* Some people wanted change and started REBELLIONS!!
* Know the issues that lead to the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada
  + Upper Canada Issues : rebellion lead by William Lyon Mackenzie and in present day Ontario

a) they were concerned how gov’t money was being spent. The colony went into debt building things (canals) that helped only the merchants. Colonist paid taxes to cover the cost!

b) members of the elite usually got the biggest and best pieces of land. They didn’t use it for farming but help on to it to sell. Immigrants had to therefore move farther away from towns to find land.

c) many farm families were facing starvation.

* Lower Canada Issues : rebellion lead by Papineau and the Parti Patriote and in present day Quebec.

a) they were worried about the effects recent British immigration would have on their colony.

b) farmer were worried new settlers would take all the remaining land and none would be left for the farmer’s children.

c) they were worried abut losing their language and culture.

d) there had been poor harvest and starvation. There were also diseases such as cholera and it was felt the gov’t wasn’t helping the people.

* Both rebellions failed because the rebels were either not well trained, didn`t have many weapons, and militias or British soldiers easily defeated them. Over 1600 rebels between the two areas were arrested.
  + Lord Durham
* After the rebellions Britain sent Lord Durham to investigate and write a report. He came up with two recommendations:

a) Join the colonies of Upper Canada and Lower Canada into one colony called the Province of Canada. This would give the English speaking people better control over the French and eventually the French culture would go away.

b) Give the province of Canada responsible government. He felt people should have a say in their government and that the poor should have access to education.

F. Responsible Government: Know chart!! See next page

**Responsible Government**

Monarch (King or Queen)

* Government of Great Britain makes all final decisions but takes the advice of the governor

🢃 appoints

Governor

* Considers the wishes of Britain and the colony

🢃 appoints

Executive Council

* Chosen from the party with the most votes
* Leader of this party becomes the premier
* Each member is in charge of a certain area (ex health)

Legislative Council

* Advises the governor

On laws

🡹 sends bills 🢄

🡹sends members to

Legislative assembly

* Includes all political parties
* Propose bills and passes laws
* Raises money through taxes.

Voters: males that were 21 and over and property owners/rented for one year

\*\*elections every 4 years at least