

Chapter 1 Notes  
**Colonial Government and  
the Need for Reform**

- REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT** is one in which the people of the area or region get to elect representatives who make laws on their behalf.
- RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT** is one which is responsible to please a majority of the people who elected them, or they can be voted out of government.
- Democratic Governments are both representative and responsible.
- Constitutional Act of 1791 - this act divided Upper and Lower Canada and gave the colony a government that included an appointed Governor (from Britain), Legislative Assembly (elected by the people), and two appointed councils (Legislative and Executive - appointed by Governor).

**Upper Canada (English)**

- Legislative Assembly wanted the government to spend money to benefit the ordinary people (build schools and roads, and land reform)
- Appointed Councils (wealthy businessmen of Family Compact) wanted to spend money on things that would benefit themselves (to improve business - canals).
- This government was a limited democracy - it looked like the common people had a 'say', but they didn't.

**Lower Canada (French)**

- Governed by the same group as Upper Canada, but had very different common people.
- French-Canadians found British rule without democracy difficult to accept.
- Not the problems of land reform that Upper Canada had.
- Problems included
  - the French people being treated like a minority group but were in fact a majority  
(French speaking = 420 000 / English speaking = 80 000)
  - the French speaking people felt that the Church had sided with the English so as not to lose out on money and support from Britain
  - the French speaking people felt like they were being attacked through the attempt to join the two colonies and make English the official language