

# The Atlantic Northeast and French Canada

## Outline

1. The Atlantic Northeast
2. French Canada and Overarching Themes

## Atlantic Northeast

### *Defining the Region*

- What's the unique characteristic?
  - Less explicit than other unique characteristics
  - Character, rurality, not French, relatively limited resources on land, relatively rich adjacent ocean, very early settlement
  - Region defined by bordering regions, but has own character

## Atlantic Northeast

### *Defining the Region*

- The “New England Question”
  - What's the author doing on p. 104?
  - Do you agree with the argument?

# Atlantic Northeast

## *Economic Struggles*

- “Suffered longer and more continually from economic handicaps than any other on the continent”
- Why?

# Atlantic Northeast

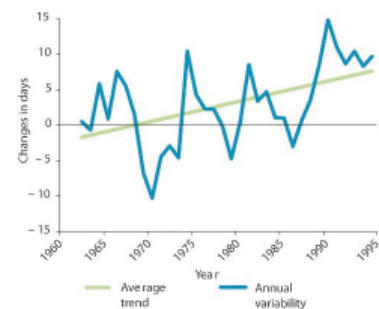
## *Economic Struggles*

- physical geography disadvantages
- soils are poor
- growing season is short and cool

# Atlantic Northeast

- growing season
  - the time period each year when dominant crops can be grown
  - climate and crop selection
  - days between first and last frost
- extremely important statistic for agriculture

# Atlantic Northeast



# Atlantic Northeast

## *Economic Struggles*

- physical geography (site) disadvantages
  - soils are poor
  - growing season is short and cool
  - mineral resources are scarce
  - second-growth timber grows slowly

# Atlantic Northeast

## *Economic Struggles*

- physical geography (site) advantages-turned-disadvantages
  - fish stock
  - water power resources not sufficient

# Atlantic Northeast

## *Economic Struggles*

- primary economic opportunities stink
- have not been able to develop secondary, tertiary, or quaternary economies

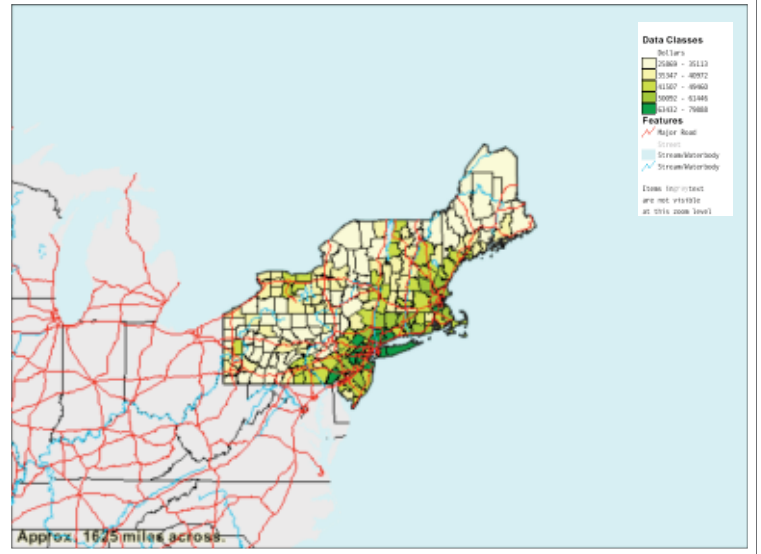
# Atlantic Northeast

## *Economic Struggles*

- lower income per capita
  - Canadian portion is 20 percent below average per capita income
- lower goods output per capita
- lower average investment of new capital
- Canadian portion receives tons of federal aid
  - forty percent of Newfoundland's income!

# Atlantic Northeast

## *Economic Struggles*



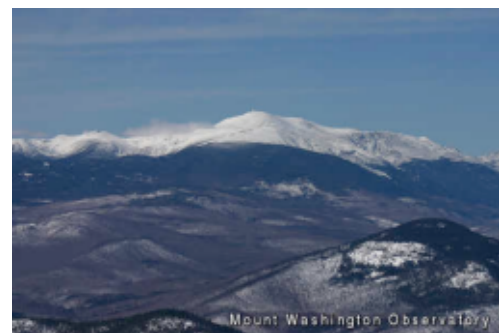
# Atlantic Northeast

## *More about: climate*

- continental climate on the interior
  - west-east weather patterns
- maritime influences pronounced on coasts
  - Nova Scotia and New York have the same mean January temperature

# Atlantic Northeast

## *More about: climate*



# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: climate*



mountwashington.org

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: agriculture*

- growing season too short + nearby Megalopolis
- dairying! (Vermont cows)
- potatoes used to be very important
  - dropped by more than 50 percent
  - Aroostook Valley hit hardest
    - still the leading potato-growing county in nation

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: agriculture*

- intensive agriculture
  - a little bit going on
  - the apple is Canada's leading fruit crop
    - partly due to this region!
    - wild blueberries also important
      - 6,000 jobs in Nova Scotia

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: timber*

- continent's "pioneer logging region"
  - virgin forests were cleared for lumber, fuel loooooonnnng time ago
- most existing forest is of second-growth nature

## Atlantic Northeast

*More about: timber*

- lumber versus pulpwood
- pulpwood is mainly used for paper
- pulpwood dominates in this region
  - less valuable
  - better trees are used for lumber

## Atlantic Northeast

*More about: timber*

- ownership issues
  - consolidated ownership in many areas
    - 75 percent of land owned by 20
    - results in many development battles

## Atlantic Northeast

*More about: mining*

- building stone was (will be?) important
  - close to Megalopolis
  - architecture has changed
- petroleum and natural gas = looking good
  - offshore, expensive and difficult to get
  - as oil gets more expensive...

## Atlantic Northeast

*More about: fishing*

- much of the culture, European settlement of region revolves around fishing
  - original settlers came for cod
    - salted, pickled, or dried for export to Europe, tropics
  - small towns oriented towards sea
    - Newfoundland's "outports"
    - "longest town in the world"

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: fishing*

- “A Continuing Decline”
  - decline from 1940s - 1970s
  - US + Canada extended jurisdiction in 1970s --> revival

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: fishing*

- drastic decline
  - serious decline in fish pops in 1990s
    - important cod the most serious
    - problem caused by overfishing
      - too-efficient offshore dragging technology
    - indefinite moratorium on cod fishing!

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: fishing*

- drastic decline
  - other groundfish fishing also banned
    - haddock, flounder

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: fishing*

- “economic catastrophe”
  - 50,000 out of work in Canada
    - 25 percent unemployment in Newfoundland
    - outports have 75% unemp.
  - several thousand Americans out of work
  - setting of *A Perfect Storm*

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: fishing*

- bilateral cooperation
- if one country fishes, the other might as well
- both must not fish
- “tragedy of the commons” occurs if this fails

# Atlantic Northeast

How does a government deal with this situation?

# Atlantic Northeast

Focus on the advantages of the region for the future!

**TOURISM!**

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: tourism*

- site advantages
- pretty scenery
- important cultural elements
- big situational advantage
- rich megalopolans right next door to the South



# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: tourism*

- tourism has been important since World War II
  - mostly in American portion of region
- last 3 decades has seen great upsurge in second home ownership
- less significant in Canada
  - PEI is exception
  - Japanese + *Anne of Green Gables*

# Atlantic Northeast

*More about: tourism*

The case of Sandwich, New Hampshire...

# Atlantic Northeast

*urban life*

- region is rural in character
- but 2/3 of population lives in cities
  - secondary, tertiary activities dominate the economy
    - as usual
- usual pattern of urban growth, rural stagnation

# Atlantic Northeast

*urban life*

- secondary economy
  - most important factories located outside of cities
    - pulp processing and fisheries
- why outside of cities?

# French Canada



<http://www.hickerphoto.com/data/media/25/quebec-FZ6T0103.jpg>

# French Canada

*defining the region*

- unique characteristic = French-Canadianness
- borders defined by entirely cultural reasons
- “...Other factors, environmental and economic, contribute to regional unity, but it is the manifestations of French-Canadian culture that are the distinctive shapers of the total geography of this region”

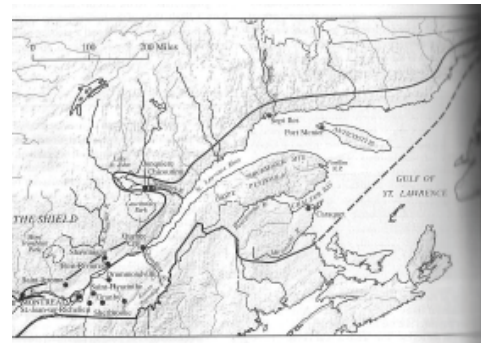
# French Canada

*defining the region*

- only principally cultural region in the book
- borderlands of the United States
  - Anglo way of life dominates
- native areas in Southwest, Arctic
- population is too small
- other characteristics dominate

# French Canada

*defining the region*



# French Canada

*defining the region*

- 90 percent of the population of Québec
- 35 percent of the population of New Brunswick
- 25 percent of the population of Canada!

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- French-Canadianness is not just in the people
  - architecture
  - urban structure
  - rural land ownership patterns
  - signage and public lettering

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- architecture
  - catholic churches!
    - used to be very catholic place
      - 85 percent say they are followers - French + Catholic go hand in hand
      - 20 percent common-law marriages, ~50 percent babies born out of wedlock
    - architecture displays cultural lag
  - especially prominent in rural landscape
  - usually larger than any other structures in area
  - solid and massive in style

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- urban structure
  - Québec (City) is the only walled city in the study area
    - why?
  - has area with European-style narrow streets and “European charm”

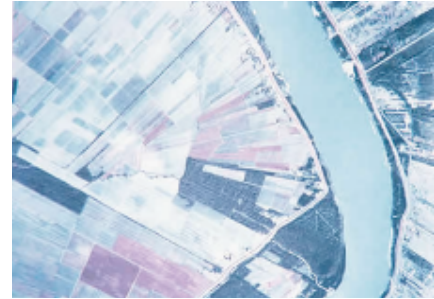
# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- rural land ownership patterns - long lots!

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*



Alan A. Lew, 2004

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- rural land ownership patterns - long lots!
- land apportioned with front on river or road
  - river better b/c transport easier
  - bulk of land was in rectangular area behind river or road
  - inheritance continued this pattern
- can be seen from airplane very easily

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- rural land ownership patterns - long lots!
  - sometimes too narrow to farm economically
  - farmsteads tend to cluster on the same side of the road

# French Canada

*cultural expression on the landscape*

- signage and public lettering
- laws passed in 1977 to require French exclusively or primarily
  - rest of Canada is bilingual
- even on commercial establishments
- lawmakers did not want newcomers to have a choice of languages



<http://www.ski-epic.com>



flickr



Poutine = French Fries + Cheese Curds + Gravy

flickr

# French Canada

*history*

- Special status of Québec has existed since founding of Canada
- British North American Act of 1867 guaranteed
  - equality of language
  - religious liberty
  - jurisdiction over education

# French Canada

*history*

- concerns after WWII about *true* equality of language
- business was all English, forced *francophones* to learn language of *allophones* (English)
- led to *revolution tranquille*

# French Canada

*history*

- FLQ terrorist group
  - *Front de Libération du Québec*
  - bombing, kidnapping, and murder for independence
- 1970s
  - language law that restricted English in government, business, and education
  - made Québec a unilingual province

# French Canada

*history*

- 1980
  - first referendum on Quebec independence
  - lost 60-40 majority
- 1995
  - another referendum
  - lost by only 1 percent!

# French Canada

*effect of movement*

- What happens to business during drive for independence, strict cultural rules
  - it leaves (300 significant ones)
  - Bank of Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railways
- What happens to minority?
  - it leaves
  - 400,000 people left since 1960

# French Canada

*effect of movement*

- why is this *really* relevant in the past month?

# French Canada

*effect of movement*



# French Canada

*economy*

- primary economy
  - still 400,000 (of 7,000,000) farmers in Québec
  - emphasis on dairy production, avg. # of cows is small
  - also, lots of hay and oats

# French Canada

## *economy*

- primary economy
  - mining
    - asbestos
      - not anymore!

# French Canada

## *economy*

- secondary economy
  - sawmills, pulp mills
    - formerly
      - trees chopped in winter
      - placed on river
      - floated to sawmills at thaw
    - now
      - truck and train (all year long)

# French Canada

## *economy*

- secondary economy
  - wind energy could be big

# French Canada

## *economic disadvantage*

- imposition of French culture has made Montreal decline
  - used to be #1 city, now that's Toronto by far
  - 20 percent unemployment
  - 25 percent below poverty line
  - 20 percent office vacancy
- massive budget deficits (city and province)
  - 1976 Olympics



# French Canada

*economic disadvantage*

- massive urban renewal projects in Montréal
- famously successful
- covered city most known
  - 1000 stores, 100 restaurants, etc.