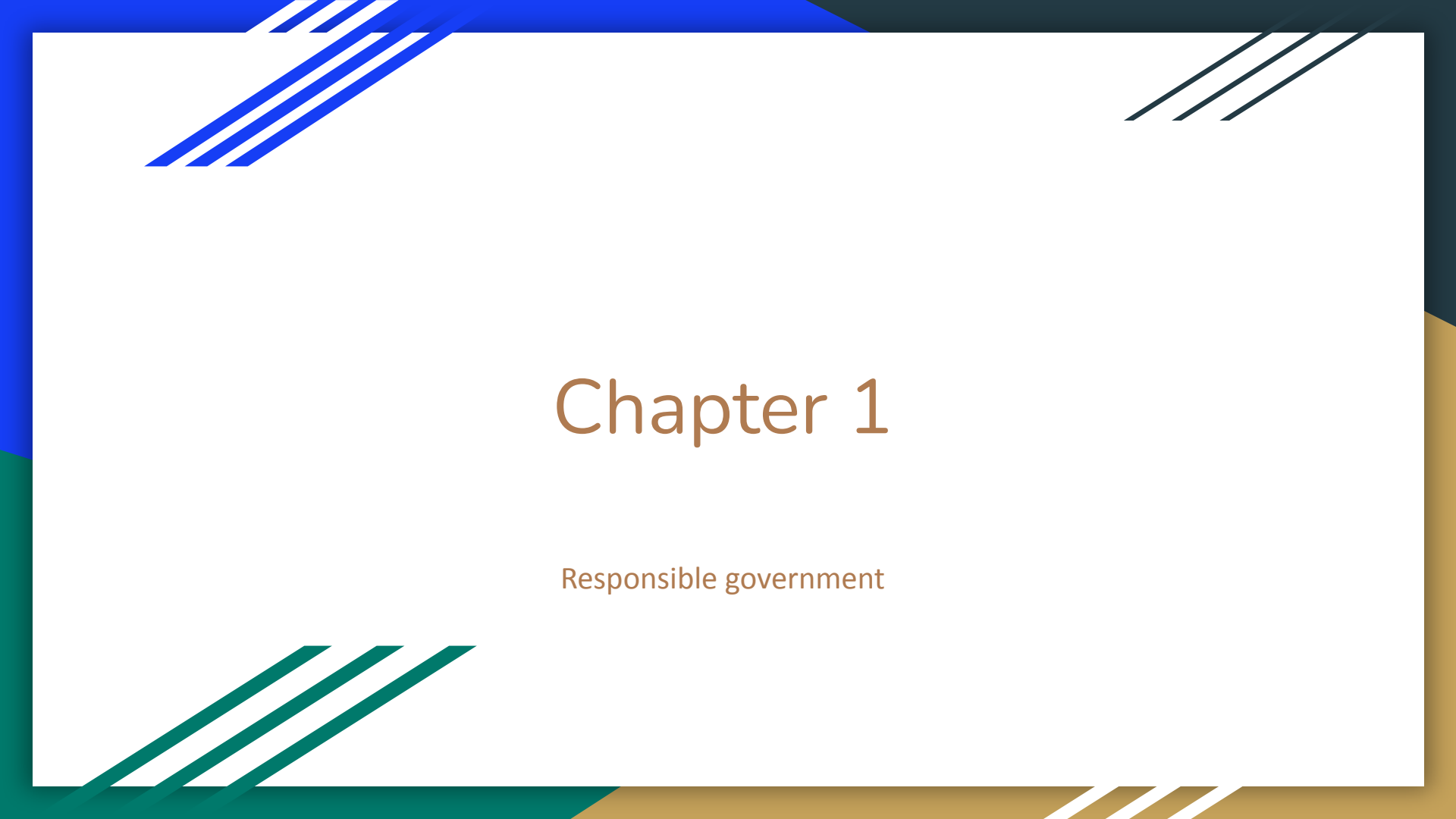




Chapter 1

Responsible government



Big question for today:
How was responsible
government established?





What does responsible
government mean?





Alliance of Reformers

The alliances within the government did not unfold how London expected

- Instead of forming alliances based on ethnicity, **Assembly members formed alliances based on political views**

Starting in 1840, **La Fontaine** (Leader of the Lower Canada Reformers) and Robert **Baldwin** (Leader of the Upper Canada Reformers) began talking about joining forces to demand responsible government

- Lafontaine felt **all Canadians should work together**. In order to develop the colony, the Assembly members would need more decision making power which required **responsible government**. This way, Executive Council members would be appointed from elected representatives and accountable to the Legislative assembly



1.6 Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine (1807-1864). A lawyer and *Patriote* Assembly member, he opposed the call to arms during the Rebellions of 1837-1838. This led Upper Canada Reformers to label him moderate, which made it easier to form an alliance with them after the *Act of Union*.



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



The leaders of the Baldwin–LaFontaine alliance

Robert Baldwin (1804–1858) was a passionate defender of the principle of responsible government. He always took a position in defence of French Canadian rights, which made him unpopular with some English Canadians.



Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine (1807–1864) was first elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada in 1830. During the *Patriote* rebellions, LaFontaine supported Papineau's ideas and the *Patriotes'* struggles, but he did not condone armed rebellion. After the *Act of Union* was adopted, he worked to establish responsible government and defended the rights of French Canadians.

Alliances of Reformers

Negotiations Between Lafontaine and Baldwin resulted in a **political alliance between Reformers from Upper and Lower Canada based on compromise**

- French Canadian members accepted the **economic development** proposed by the English
- The English **accepted French Canadians' cultural identity and participation in politics and renounced their assimilation**

The Reformers dominated the Legislative Assembly from 1842-1851

Who were the reformers? What was their common goal?



1.7 POLITICAL ALLIANCES IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN 1841

UPPER CANADA	LOWER CANADA
Anglophone Reformers	Francophone Reformers
Anglophone Conservatives (Tories)	Anglophone Conservatives (Tories)

8 Political groups in the Province of Canada, 1841

	Reformers	Conservatives (Tories)
Composition	Lower Canada: French Canadian members and a few English Canadian members Upper Canada: English Canadian members	Lower Canada and Upper Canada: English Canadian members and two French Canadian members
Positions and demands	• They were supported by the professional bourgeoisie. • They demanded the establishment of responsible government. • The Reformers of Lower Canada wanted to protect the rights of French Canadians.	• They were supported by the British business class. • They did not seek political change, because they had influence over the institutions with appointed members (governor and councils).

The Abolition of British Protectionism

In London, the members of the British Parliament were debating the United Kingdom's economic policies with its North American colonies.

They had been applying protectionism placed higher taxes on resources from countries that were not part of the British Empire. This favoured the purchase of resources from colonies. They felt that this was no longer benefiting them.

9 The Port of Dartmouth, in the United Kingdom, 19th century



End of preferential tariffs

In 1846 the government in the UK **ended preferential tariffs** that had encouraged the mother country to purchase resources from its colonies.

- This meant colonies were now left to **compete with foreign competition**
- They were also given greater economic and political autonomy

Suddenly, merchants in Canada were not guaranteed sales from the UK. They were unhappy.



Establishing responsible government (1848)

In 1848, London appointed Lord Elgin to oversee the establishment of responsible government

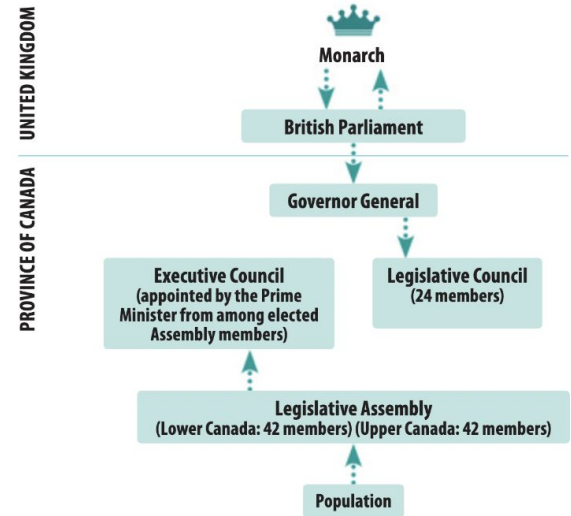
- In 1848 Elgin granted Lafontaine and Baldwin the **right to choose members of the Executive council**, transferring a lot of power from the governor to the leaders of the majority party.
- The **governor was no longer attached to a political party and could not intervene in the executive council; his powers were restricted to defence and external relations**

Members of Executive council had to **introduce bills that were supported by the majority of Legislative Assembly members**: The Executive council was responsible to the members of the Legislative Assembly

Members of the Legislative council were appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the Executive Council.

With these changes, the **Province of Canada had become a true parliamentary democracy, BUT it was still not fully democratic**

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA AFTER THE CREATION OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN 1848



What type of change is this?
Territorial? Cultural? Social? Political?

What changed and what stayed the same?

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA AFTER THE ACT OF UNION



UNITED KINGDOM

Monarch

British Parliament

PROVINCE OF CANADA

Governor

power

Executive Council

Legislative Council

Legislative Assembly

42 members

Population of
Upper Canada
450 000

42 members

Population of
Lower Canada
650 000

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA AFTER THE CREATION OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN 1848



UNITED KINGDOM



Monarch

British Parliament

PROVINCE OF CANADA

Governor General

Executive Council
(appointed by the Prime
Minister from among elected
Assembly members)

Legislative Council
(24 members)

Legislative Assembly
(Lower Canada: 42 members) (Upper Canada: 42 members)

Population

Rebellion Losses Bill

In **1849**, the Reform government succeeded in passing some of the laws they had demanded for a long time

- Recognizing French as an official language
- Pardon for the patriots who took part in the Rebellions of 1837-38
- **Baldwin-Lafontaine government passed legislation to provide compensation to Canadians whose property had been damaged by the Rebellions (Rebellion losses bill). This bill compensated individuals in Lower Canada whose property was damaged during the rebellions**

DID YOU KNOW

The term "*Canadien*" was replaced by the term "French Canadian"? In New France, French colonists and their descendants referred to themselves as "*Canadiens*" to distinguish themselves from Indigenous people and the French who were simply staying temporarily in the colony. After the Conquest, the term "*Canadiens*" was used to differentiate francophones from newly arrived British settlers. Following the rebellions and the union of the two Canadas, *Canadiens* and English settlers shared the same territory, and slowly the distinction shifted to "French Canadians" and "English Canadians."



The governor opposed the
rebellion losses bill, is there
anything he can do about it?
Why or why not?



Rebellion Losses Bill

This bill angered Conservative members and English-speaking merchants from Montreal, they tried to fight back against the bill. Why should they pay for the property of those who fought during the rebellions?

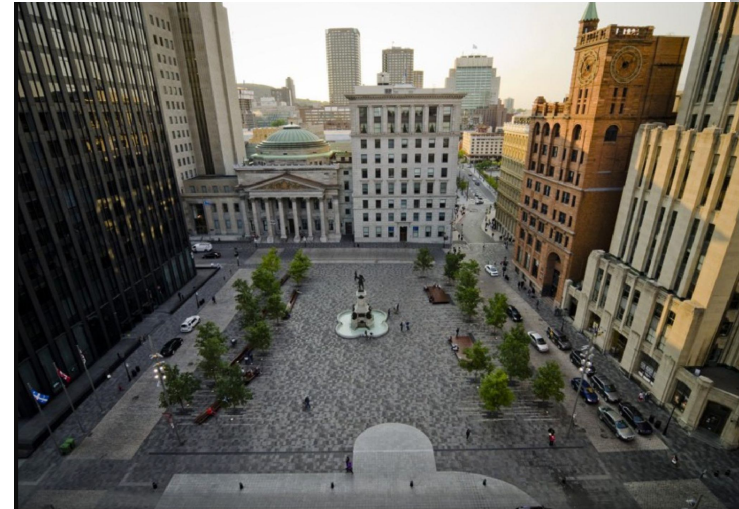
- **Due to responsible government, Lord Elgin signed the bill into law even though he opposed it.**

As a result, an angry mob gathered at Place d'Armes in Montreal and then continued to **Parliament where they burned the building**

- After this, the seat of Parliament was moved alternating every four years between Toronto and Quebec city



Burning of Parliament in Montréal, instigated by Conservatives (Tories) in 1849.







Why is responsible
government more democratic
than the previous government?

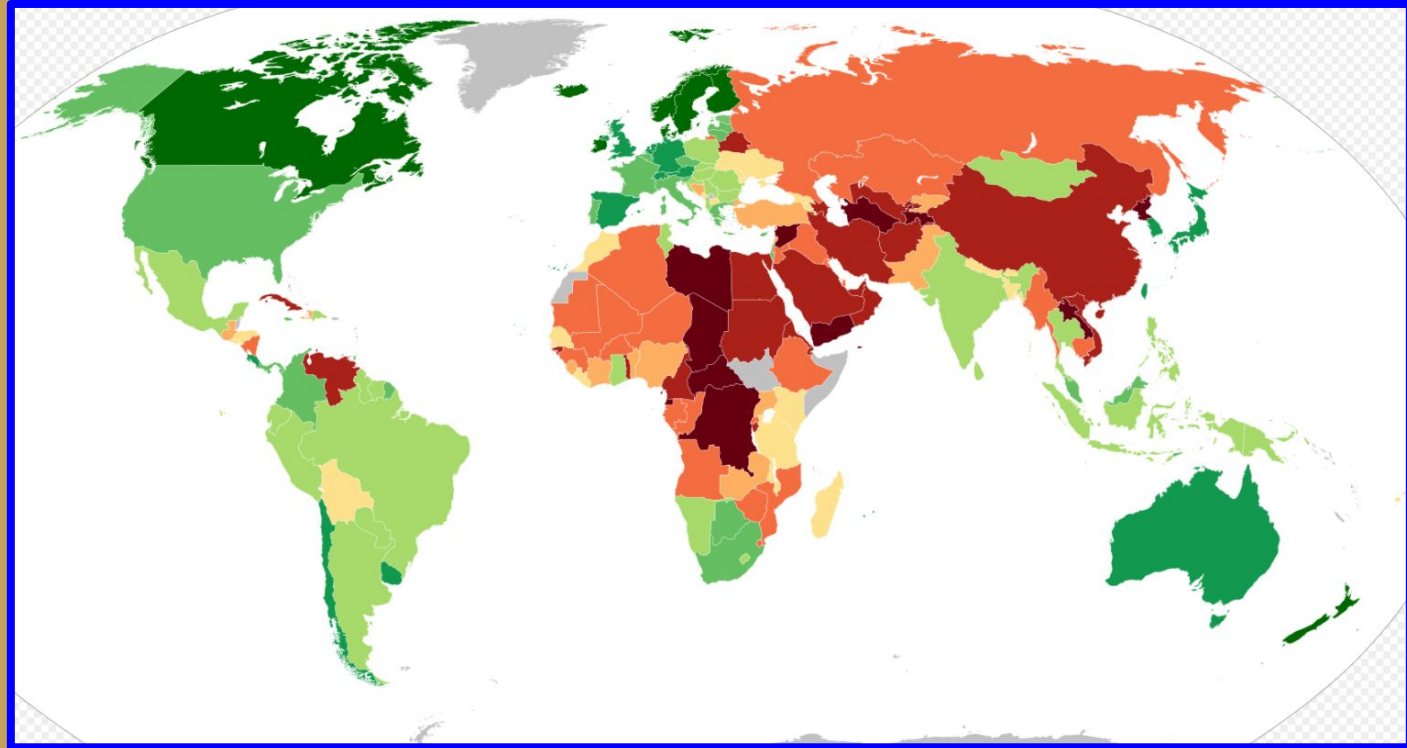


What do you think is going on in this map?

Observe:

Looking at this map,
What do you notice about it?

What are some similarities or differences throughout it?
What do the colors mean?
What countries have similar colors?



Discover the Context of the Image and Activate Prior Knowledge

The Context of the Image Revealed:

█ Most democratic (closest to 10) █ Least democratic (closest to 0) Democracy's *de facto* status in the world as of 2020, according to [Democracy Index](#) by *The Economist*^[11]

JackintheBox - Own work

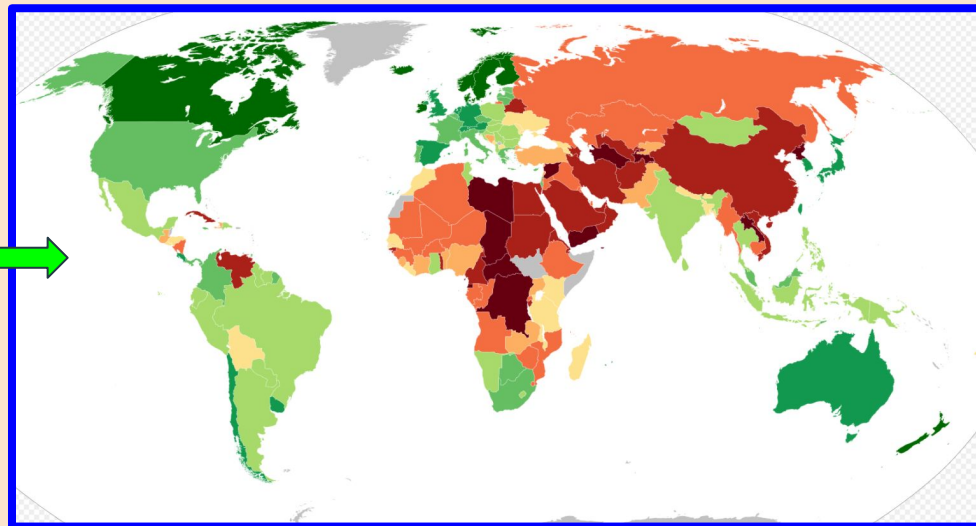
Map showing countries/territories by Democracy Index score according to [2020 report](#) Full democracies 9.01–10 8.01–9.00 No data Flawed democracies 7.01–8.00 Hybrid regimes 6.01–7.00 5.01–6.00 4.01–5.00 Authoritarian regimes 3.01–4.00 2.01–3.00 0–2.00

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File: Democracy Index 2020.svg

Created: 4 February 2021

Does anything
surprise you about
this map?



A **democracy** means *rule by the people*. The name is used for different forms of [government](#), where the people can take part in the decisions that affect the way their [community](#) is run. In modern times, there are different ways this can be done:

1. The people meet to decide about new [laws](#), and changes to existing ones. This is usually called **direct democracy**.
2. The people elect their leaders. These leaders take this decision about laws. This is commonly called **representative democracy**. The process of choosing is called [election](#). Elections are either held periodically, or when an officeholder dies.
3. Sometimes people can propose new laws or changes to existing laws. Usually, this is done using a [referendum](#), which needs a certain number of supporters.
4. The people who make the decisions are chosen more or less at random. This is common, for example when choosing a [jury](#) for a [trial](#). This method is known as sortition or [allotment](#). In a trial, the jury will have to decide the question whether the person is guilty or not. In Europe, trials with a jury are only used for serious crimes, such as [murder](#), [hostage](#) taking or [arson](#).

To become a stable democracy, a state usually undergoes a process of [democratic consolidation](#).

A democracy is the opposite of a [dictatorship](#), a type of government in which the power is centralized on the hands of a single person who rules the nation, lacks [political pluralism](#), the people have no participation in the local politics and little to no [freedom of expression](#).

Does this image show characteristics of democracy?



What are some ways in which this image shows or does not show democracy?

Does this image show characteristics of democracy?



What are some ways in which this image shows or does not show democracy?

Does this image show characteristics of democracy?



What are some ways in which this image shows or does not show democracy?

What does this image show about democracy in the world?

