

CHAPTER 1
Regionalism in Canada: The Forgotten Diversity
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CHAPTER SUMMARY

Understanding regionalism is vital to understanding life in Canada. Regionalism is a form of diversity because Canada is a country comprised of many regions where the inhabitants of each region regard themselves as different from those in other regions. After all, regions are made up of people and people make regions.

Provinces are the appropriate tools to examine regionalism because provinces speak with a single voice, command the loyalty of their populations and possess the political tools to create a shared regional identity.

There are many explanations for the existence of regionalism. Four of the most popular are the natural resources approach, market approaches, interventionist approaches and Marxist approaches. They are mutually exclusive explanations. More than one cannot be used to explain the existence of regional differences and their affect on Canadian life.

There are many factors that intensify regional differences. Two of the most important are federalism and our electoral system, the single-member plurality system. Federalism is important because senior decision makers frequently support the interests of some regions at the expense of others. Similarly, the single-member plurality system is based on the principle of representation by population. Consequently, the provinces with the most people—Ontario and Quebec—will determine the outcome of federal elections. Governments, therefore, will always cater to their interests first.

The federal government, however, does have an interest in the wellbeing of the entire country. Paradoxically, the federal government has made decisions and implemented policies that have both intensified regional differences (see the case of Western Canada), and attempted to ameliorate these same differences. The three most common tools used to lessen regional differences are reducing physical distances, spending money, and promoting understanding between Canadians.

Finally, whatever actions and policies are adopted by the federal government, there is always an important sociopsychological component to regionalism that government and Canadians ignore at their own peril. The most visible example of this is the contempt shared by most Canadians with regard to Central Canada and Metropolitan Toronto. While this contempt brings some Canadians together, it drives others apart.

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TEST BANK QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is NOT a problem associated with regional analysis?
- a. There is no consensus on regional definition
 - b. Provinces are often confused with regions
 - c. Some people consider it inappropriate to study Canadian residents by region
 - d. Most people believe that regions are nonexistent

ANS: D

REF: p. 5

2. A number of theoretical approaches are used to explain the causes of regionalism. Which of the following is NOT one of the main theoretical approaches?
- a. natural resources approach
 - b. state approach
 - c. interventionist approach
 - d. Marxist approach

ANS: B

REF: pp. 8-11

3. Which two factors intensify regionalism?
- a. imperialism and CBC
 - b. imperialism and the Commonwealth
 - c. federalism and colonialism
 - d. federalism and the electoral system

ANS: D

REF: pp. 12-15

4. Which was NOT an attempt by the federal government to reduce regional differences?
- a. CPR
 - b. TCA
 - c. FIRA
 - d. transfer payments

ANS: C

REF: pp. 26-29

5. How many Royal Commissions has the federal government initiated since 1867?
- a. 300
 - b. 400
 - c. 500
 - d. 600

ANS: B

REF: p. 29

6. What is Canada's electoral system called?
- a. absolute majority
 - b. multi-member constituency
 - c. single member plurality
 - d. proportional representation

ANS: C

REF: p. 14

7. How many regions are there in Canada?
- a. 4
 - b. 5
 - c. 7
 - d. 13

ANS: A

REF: p. 8

8. Where is the Golden Horseshoe area of Ontario?
- a. between Kitchener and St. Catharines
 - b. between Oshawa and Niagara Falls
 - c. between Pickering and Peterborough
 - d. between London and St. Catharines

ANS: B

REF: p. 6

9. Which theoretical approach asserts that some regions have prospered at the expense of others?
- a. Marxist
 - b. free enterprise
 - c. market
 - d. interventionist

ANS: D

REF: p. 10

10. The Meech Lake Accord was an example of which type of decision making?

- a. executive federalism
- b. Canadian federalism
- c. parliamentary federalism
- d. unitary federalism

ANS: A

REF: p. 13

11. Which of the following principles is used to determine how many seats each province has in the House of Commons?

- a. cooperation
- b. federalism and executive federalism
- c. representation by population
- d. proportional representation

ANS: C

REF: p. 14

12. Which is NOT associated with regionalism?

- a. national childcare
- b. social-psychological thoughts
- c. provinces
- d. attitudes

ANS: D

REF: pp. 4-5

TRUE/FALSE

1. Regionalism is a form of diversity in Canada.

ANS: T

REF: p. 4

2. Regionalism is only about attitudes.

ANS: F

REF: pp. 4-5

3. The only way to study the people of Canada by looking at regional differences.

ANS: F

REF: p. 7-8

4. Canada's electoral system intensifies regionalism.

ANS: T

REF: p. 14

5. Some of the federal government's actions have intensified regionalism; other federal government actions have lessened the impact of regional differences.

ANS: T

REF: pp. 12, 25

6. The federal government uses Royal Commissions to collect information about Canada and promote further understanding between Canadians.

ANS: T

REF: pp. 28-29

7. The 1995 fishing (turbot) dispute between Canada and Spain was equally important to all Canadians.

ANS: F

REF: p. 31

8. The Western provinces believe their contributions to building Canada are adequately recognized by the federal government and the rest of Canada.

ANS: F

REF: p. 20

9. The federal government spends billions of dollars trying to deal with the negative outcomes of regionalism.

ANS: T

REF: p. 25

10. Central Canada dominates the social, political, economic and cultural life of Canada.

ANS: T

REF: pp. 32-33

SHORT ANSWER

1. Define regionalism and explain why it is studied.

ANS: Answers will vary

2. Outline the three (3) central problems associated with regional analysis.

ANS: Answers will vary

3. Describe the two (2) major factors that intensify regionalism.

ANS: Answers will vary

4. Why is comparing provinces an appropriate way to study the Canadian experience?

ANS: Answers will vary

5. How did the National Policy of 1879 affect Western Canada?

ANS: Answers will vary

ESSAY

1. Outline and criticize the different theoretical explanations for the emergence of regionalism. Which do you believe best explains regional differences in Canada, and why?

ANS: Answers will vary

2. Along with provinces, briefly describe the different tools that can be used to explain social life in Canada. Which one(s) do you believe are the most accurate for explaining the Canadian experience?

ANS: Answers will vary

3. Outline what is meant by the sociopsychological dimension to regionalism. How important is it to your understanding of living in Canada?

ANS: Answers will vary

4. Explain how the Sponsorship scandal is linked to the sociopsychological dimension of regionalism. How does this relate to Anglo-Franco relations in Canada?

ANS: Answers will vary

5. Suppose you are the Prime Minister. Explain five things you would do to reduce regional dissatisfaction in Canada. Be specific, and provide examples.

ANS: Answers will vary