

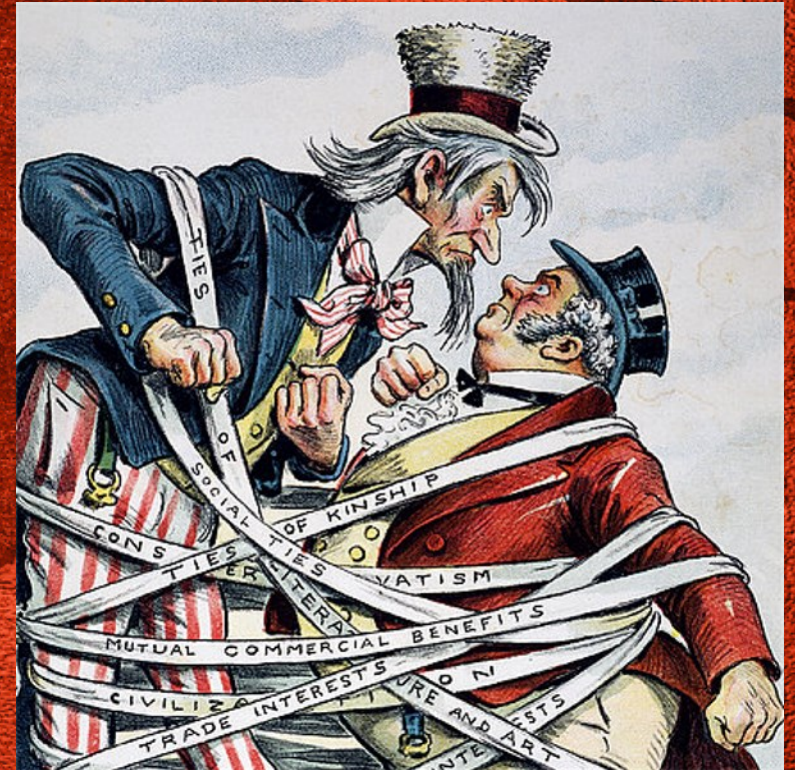
Recapping the Tensions

1. Americans vs. British
2. Wealthy Land Owners vs. Small Land Owners
3. Upper Classes vs. Lower Classes



1. Americans vs. Britain

- With the U.S. War of Independence (American Revolution) and the War of 1812, the United States and Britain had gone to war twice in 40 years



- The United States had also attempted (and failed) to invade British North America
- This led to tensions and distrust between the two sides
- It didn't help that U.S. agitators were constantly encouraging colonists in BNA to part ways with Britain



- This helps explain why the British government took steps to create and strengthen deep ties between Britain and settlers in BNA



2. Wealthy Land Owners vs. Small Land Owners

- Hundreds of thousands of people emigrated from Great Britain to BNA with the promise of affordable land for farming
- Wealthy settlers bought up massive sections of the best farm land



- Rather than farming the land, land speculators would wait for prices to rise before selling the land at a profit
- Absentee landlords charged tenants to rent their lands. Small farmers came to BNA to buy land, not rent it



- Both practices infuriated settlers with hopes of buying a small farm who could no longer afford to buy even small sections of the best land
- Many settlers were forced to relocate to more remote areas with poorer soil for farming
- Resentment between haves and have-nots began to spread

Important!

- Poverty does not lead to violence. Relative poverty often does!



3. Upper Classes vs. Lower Classes

- Upper class settlers brought with them from Britain and other parts of Europe the idea of a Top → Down system of government
- The upper classes rule the “unruly” lower classes
- “Might equals right”



- Many people belonging to the lower classes hoped that they had left the European class system behind when they settled in BNA
- They pushed for a U.S.-style Bottom → Up democracy
- “Meritocracy” → KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS!

