

Regionalism in Canada

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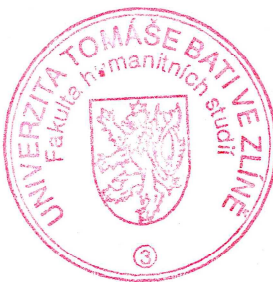
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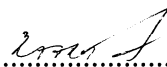
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ABSTRAKT

V této bakalářské práci se zabývám rozdíly a společnými charakteristikami mezi východními a západními regiony Kanady.

První dvě části jsou zaměřeny na historii, ekonomii, populaci a turismus v jednotlivých regionech, a provinciích tvořících tyto regiony východní a západní Kanady.

Závěrečná část porovnává jednotlivé oblasti Kanadských regionů, které byly zmíněny v předchozí části.

Klíčová slova: regionalismus, východní Kanada, západní Kanada, Maritimes, Nový Brunšvik, Nové Skotsko, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Britská Kolumbie, historie, ekonomie, populace, turismus

ABSTRACT

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to consider the differences and similarities between eastern and western Canadian provinces.

The first two parts of the thesis deal with history, economy, population, and tourism in each of the region, and the provinces included in the regions of eastern and western Canada.

The final part includes comparison of the regions according to the areas mentioned in the first part.

Keywords: regionalism, eastern Canada, western Canada, the Maritimes, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, British Columbia, history, economy, population, tourism


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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis is my own and certify that any secondary material used has been acknowledged in the text and listed in the bibliography.

May 13, 2009


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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to find out whether there are any similarities or differences between eastern and western Canadian regions. As Canada is the second largest country in the world covering an enormous amount of land, it is not surprising that it is divided into several provinces and territories. It is also known as a country divided into regions according to various features such as natural landscape, economy, politics, population, historical settlement and development, or even language background in the past.

Regionalism as such deals with characteristics typical for various areas, provinces, states, or nations. Each of the regions usually shares the same characteristics that distinguish them from other regions. The differences and similarities between certain regions are usually shown by comparing these regions. Canada is divided into several regions such as the almost unsettled Northern territories; Quebec with large Francophone population known for separatist attempts; the Atlantic Canada which became known worldwide after the cod fish moratorium in the 1990s; the Maritimes that used to be a French colony of Acadia; the remote Newfoundland and Labrador which joined Canada as the last province; the Prairie provinces characterized by agriculture, mainly growing wheat; Ontario known as the industrial heartland; or British Columbia and Alberta which became very powerful and rich in recent years through tourism, international trade, and mining.

The first part of this thesis deals with a region in eastern Canada referred to as the Atlantic Canada or as the Maritimes which consists of three provinces – Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The Atlantic Canada, on the other hand, includes also Newfoundland and Labrador which is sometimes treated separately due to several differences between it and the other three provinces included in the Maritimes. It was the region of the Maritimes where the first settlers and immigrants settled and where the modern history of Canada started. The region also played a crucial role in international trade until the beginning of the 20th century when it unfortunately lost its importance and was replaced by British Columbia.

The next part concentrates on the western Canadian region which includes British Columbia and Alberta. These two provinces are either included in one region known as Western Canada, or they are treated separately as Alberta being part of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia as individual region called British Columbia or the Pacific province. Nevertheless, both these provinces have become very strong and important in

Canada at the time when the Atlantic Canada started losing its importance. Vancouver, British Columbia, has become crucial in international trade and Alberta has become Canada's richest province due to oil and natural gas mining.

The final part of the thesis is a comparison between the two Canadian regions. In this comparison population, economy, tourism, and historical beginnings of settlement are being emphasized. As the Maritimes and British Columbia are all coastal provinces, several similarities are expected to be found between them, for example in economy that might be based on fishery and overseas trade, or in tourism and tourist attractions. Similarities are also expected to be found between Alberta and Nova Scotia whose economies are based on mining. Since not all of the regions were settled at the same time and on the same basis of attractions that made many people to go and settle there, several differences are, however, expected to be found between the two regions as well. These differences might result from the size of the regions, different structure of population, economical development, or settlement.

1 EASTERN CANADA

Eastern Canada is a region at the eastern part of Canada at the Atlantic Ocean coast. It is usually referred to as Atlantic Canada and it consists of four provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The first three provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island) are part of a region called the Maritimes while Newfoundland and Labrador is usually treated separately. This might be the result of their different history – the Maritimes were originally settled by French who established there a colony called Acadia but Newfoundland and Labrador, on the other hand, was a British colony where the settlement was not officially encouraged. Other differences include the climate, nature and landscape, economy, or the time when the provinces entered the Confederation. Newfoundland and Labrador is also very isolated from the rest of the Atlantic provinces. The island of Newfoundland is accessible only by ferries from the Maritimes and there are not many settlements on Labrador because of its harsh climate and remoteness.

1.1 The Maritimes

1.1.1 History

History is an important factor in the formation of a region or regional feeling. It is something that connects the people living in the same area as they have experienced the same happy or harsh times, wars or victories. There are often many habits, events, and public holidays related to historical events taking place in the area that have created a certain attitude common to everyone living in the same region. That is why I think history should be looked at when comparing eastern Canadian regions with those in western Canada whose history might be different and might form different regional feeling and characteristics.

The first Europeans came to the region because it was known for its waters very rich in fish. They were mainly French fishermen who established permanent settlement in early 1600s, and soon after started a fur trade with the Native people living in the area. The first successful French permanent settlement in the area was at Port Royal in 1605. Although there were also Englishmen in this area were, they were interested more in fishing than in establishing permanent settlement. The land that the French claimed became a French

colony known as Acadia. Acadia actually included a much larger area than the Maritimes – parts of Quebec as well as New England, the United States of America – and it was based on agriculture, fishing and fur trading.

The colony of Acadia existed for nearly hundred years when Britain began with attempts of acquiring it. Britain finally succeeded in 1713 when most of the French colony of Acadia came under the control of Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht. Following the treaty, Britain renamed the area Nova Scotia. At that time France kept Ile St-Jean (nowadays Prince Edward Island) and Ile Royale (Cape Breton Island). Although the Acadians (French-speaking unlike the new English-speaking settlers) living in the area were given time to either swear alliance to Great Britain or leave, Britain did not show any attempt to colonize the newly gained area until 1749 when Halifax was established to guarantee the area against the Acadian fortress Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. At the outbreak of a war between France and Britain in 1755, Acadians living in Nova Scotia who had not sworn alliance to Britain were accused of disloyalty and were forced to leave or were expelled to other parts of North America or France. Their homes, farms and land were given to immigrants from Great Britain, loyalists from the US thirteen colonies, and immigrants from other European countries. When this war between Britain and France known in Canada as the French and Indian War ended in 1763 by the Treaty of Paris, French territories of Ile St-Jean and Ile Royale came under British control.¹

The Maritimes and its historical development were influenced by another historical event few years later – the independence of Britain's thirteen American colonies in 1776. American loyalists who wanted to live under British control and did not agree with American independence were offered land in what is now Canada. There were about 35,000 of American loyalists who settled in the Maritimes, particularly Nova Scotia. This wave of immigrants, together with the expulsion of Acadians in 1750s, helped to change the region and its population from French speaking to predominantly English speaking one. To accommodate the newcomers, two new colonies, New Brunswick and Cape Breton, were created by dividing Nova Scotia in 1784².

¹ Lenka Rovná, and Miroslav Jindra, *Dějiny Kanady* (Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové Noviny, 2000), 26-37

² Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 64

Ideas about various ways of union such as Maritime Union or the Dominion of Canada emerged in the second half of the 18th century. The Maritimes were at first not interested in neither of them. Nevertheless, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick together with Ontario and Quebec established the Dominion of Canada in 1867 (Prince Edward Island joined the Confederation in 1873). There were several reasons why the provinces changed their view about the Dominion. These include economic reasons as well as reasons concerning the ownership of the land:

- the possibility of cancellation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States which supported the trade between Canada and the United States; unfortunately the United States thought of it as beneficial only for Canada and the treaty ended in 1865;
- promise of railway that would connect the region with central Canada together with hope for economic benefits that would arise from the new markets after the loss of the American market with the end of the Reciprocity Treaty;
- the Fenian raids from the United States into New Brunswick in 1866 that were directed against Great Britain by people of Irish background who wanted Britain to withdraw from Ireland (the raids took place in the years 1866 to 1871);
- United States' manifest destiny that they were destined to expand across and control the whole North American continent including Canada³.

Entering the Dominion of Canada was not as advantageous as expected. Trade with central Canada increased after the completion of the railway, but the region was prosperous only until the Industrial Revolution reached Canada in the second half of the 19th century. The Maritimes, in contrast to central Canada, did not manage to adjust to the changes and with no manufacturing base or industrial development (except for Halifax and Saint John) was becoming marginalized while central Canada with its developing manufacturing was becoming stronger⁴. The problems that the region experienced include decline in forestry and wooden shipbuilding, or many mergers and takeovers by central Canadian companies. Wooden shipbuilding which was crucial mainly in New Brunswick declined due to new steel ships that were faster and better suited the needs of trade and fishery. The mergers and takeovers often resulted in closing local factories, loss of jobs, and increase in

³ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 190-203

unemployment. Most of the important industries started to be owned and located in central Canada leaving the Maritimes to become marginalized and gradually dependent on transfer payments from the federal government supposed to help the less developed and successful provinces or regions. Since then the Maritimes have become known for out-migration as many people started to leave the region.⁵ They went mainly to New England and central Canada. Out-migration has continued till these days and it has become a typical characteristic as well as a big problem for the region as most of the people leaving the region are young and educated.

The Maritime's decline, marginalization, and out-migration that begun at the end of the 19th century continued throughout the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century. The only improvements came with the First and Second World Wars when the region became a military base. During the wars coal, steel, and textiles for uniforms were needed, and as the wars reduced transatlantic shipping between Canada and Europe, the demand for Maritime's goods and resources such as fish, forest, and agricultural products, increased. However bright the future might seem to be for the Maritimes thanks to the improvements during the wars, the region always fall back where it was before the wars started. The situation got even worse after the First World War when the freight rates increased rapidly. As freight rates are included in the price of goods, they became more expensive, could not compete with cheaper central Canadian goods, and many especially small businesses were forced to close or went bankrupt⁶.

The second half of the 20th century brought a lot of interest in the region's heritage, folklore, and pre-industrial past as well as development and increase in tourism and shift from primary to tertiary industries⁷. Despite the changes the region still remains behind the economy of Canada and the situation of the Maritimes does not seem to improve in the near future. Another change or event that proved to be devastating for the economy of the region came with a cod fish moratorium in 1992 when thousands of fishermen lost their jobs. This has had a great impact on the region because, as mentioned earlier, fishing has

⁴ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 190-203

⁵ Margaret R. Conrad and James K. Hiller, *Atlantic Canada: a concise history* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 128-137

⁶ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 209

⁷ Margaret R. Conrad and James K. Hiller, *Atlantic Canada: a concise history* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 200

always been an important part of Maritimes economy employing thousands of people. The moratorium, which was declared because of overfishing by Canadian fishermen as well as by fishermen from other countries, left many people unemployed, forced many to leave the region, and worsened its economy. Once again, a high out-migration appeared in the region. This time the people left and still leave mainly for Alberta which has become the richest Canadian province as it will be mentioned later in this thesis.⁸

1.1.2 Population

People living in the same region usually share the same religion, language, and national background. They also lead way of life based on the same or similar habits. Although this pattern used to be typical especially in the past, the Maritimes' population, as well as population in other Canadian regions, still differs from those in other regions.

The first people who settled in the Maritimes were mostly fishermen of French origin. Although there were also fishermen of other nationalities such as Bretons, Normans, Basques, Portuguese, or Englishmen, it was only the French who settled the area. They were called Acadians after the colony of Acadia which was established there and had a generally friendly and peaceful relationship with the Native Micmac population. They lived peacefully in the same area and even a fur trade later developed between the Micmac and Acadians who were mainly farmers and fishermen.

First bigger change in population came when the colony of Acadia came under control of Great Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht. Those Acadians who had not sworn alliance to Britain by 1755 were expelled as a result of a war between Britain and France. They were deported to France or other British North American colonies, e.g. to Louisiana where they became known as the Cajuns. The expelled Acadians were later allowed to return back. Those who did so found their land and farms taken and owned by immigrants from Great Britain and other European countries as well as by American loyalists who came to the Maritimes after the American Declaration of Independence in 1776.

British sovereignty over the Maritimes was formally established in 1763 by the Treaty of Paris when the whole Maritimes came under British control. It is obvious why Britain wanted to settle the area by English speaking protestants – to outnumber the remaining

⁸ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 210

French-speaking Acadians and to avoid religious or language troubles that might arise between them and the English speaking immigrants from the United States and Great Britain. With about 35,000 loyalists from the British former thirteen colonies, the population of the Maritimes rose sharply, became mostly English-speaking, and diversified as there were about 3,000 black loyalists among the newcomers. The newcomers settled mostly in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the black loyalists mainly in Nova Scotia⁹.

In the late 18th and first half of the 19th century about 17,000 of Scots came to the Maritimes because of the Industrial Revolution and worsening economic situation in Great Britain. They settled mainly on St John's Island, Cape Breton, and in eastern Nova Scotia. In 1840s there was a wave of Irish immigrants caused by potato famine in Ireland. The Irish immigrants settled mainly on Prince Edward Island and in New Brunswick. Immigrants from the British Isles were also attracted by the boom in shipbuilding that the Maritimes experienced at that time. Both the Irish and the Scottish immigrants made up a significant part, if not the majority, of the population in each province they settled in¹⁰.

As mentioned earlier, the Maritimes became marginalized when the Industrial Revolution reached Canada in the second half of the 19th century as the region was not able to adapt to the new technologies and advances that the revolution introduced. The central Canada, on the other hand, did so and became strong. As a result many people in the Maritimes lost their jobs as many of the companies there were closed or taken over as they were no longer able to compete with those based in central Canada, and less people were needed to do the same work as before the revolution. Those who lost their jobs as well as young educated people started to move to towns and other parts of Canada or the United States, mainly New England which has close relationship with the Maritimes. This situation became known as out-migration and has continued since then.

Another wave of out-migration from the Maritimes during the 20th century resulted from a decline in coal mining caused by increased demand after oil, and by the cod fish moratorium which left many fisherman unemployed. This time the people went mainly to Alberta which had become the richest Canadian province by then.

⁹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 197

¹⁰ Margaret R. Conrad and James K. Hiller, *Atlantic Canada: a concise history* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 89

Despite all the troubles with the out-migration and economic problems, the region gained a reputation of a perfect place for those who do not like the modern quick way of life as the pace of life in the Maritimes is quite relaxed, the value of land is affordable, and the population is referred to as friendly.¹¹

Each of the Maritime provinces is characterized by a different population. Nova Scotia became new home for thousands of Scottish immigrants who settled mainly on Cape Breton and the Northumberland shore. Thanks to them Nova Scotia has a strong Scottish heritage. There were also many black American loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia after the American Declaration of Independence in the second half of the 18th century. Prince Edward Island's population does not differ from Nova Scotia's one. The island became home for many Irish as well as Scottish immigrants who came mainly during the 19th century as a result of bad economic situation in Great Britain, potato famine in Ireland, and booming economy in the Maritimes. New Brunswick, on the other hand, has population which is more diversified than those of the other two provinces. There is a large French-speaking population living mostly in northern New Brunswick. These French-speaking people are descendants of French-speaking population of the French colony of Acadia and they are still referred to as Acadians. Acadians living in New Brunswick became quite strong in the second half of the 19th century and tried to establish a collective identity and promote Acadian interest. As a result, New Brunswick was declared a bilingual province in 1969. Their success encouraged Francophone population in other parts of Canada and helped to develop French culture.¹²

The region of the Maritimes does not have a significant Native population when compared to other Canadian regions. The Natives living in the Maritimes are called Micmac. They became allies with the first French settlers, who were engaged in fish and fur trade and they started farming in the region so they were no threat to the Natives at first. As in other areas, with the arrival of the Europeans the number of the Native people declined, their land was taken up, and they were forced to live on reserves. As early as in 1610 the Micmac turned to Christianity when the chief was baptized. Today there are about 20,000 members and they are very active in gaining their land back, keeping their fishing

¹¹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 227

¹² Margaret R. Conrad and James K. Hiller, *Atlantic Canada: a concise history* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 140

rights, and preserving the language. They have been successful claiming their land as they are one of the few tribes who did sign any treaties giving up their land.¹³

1.1.3 Economy

The way a region's economy develops and performs depends on its natural resources and its access to markets where it could sell its products.

Fishery, fur trade, agriculture, coal mining, forestry, and shipbuilding were the most important industries in the eastern Canadian region of the Maritimes till the end of 1880s. Probably the most important was the forestry and shipbuilding that experienced their boom until the end of 19th century when iron and steam ships appeared and became more wanted. Wooden ships were not able to compete with the iron ones which resulted in decline in wooden shipbuilding.

At first, the Maritime's economy was dependent on the free trade with Great Britain. When the free trade was abandoned by Britain in 1840s, the Maritimes turned to New England, a region in the United States, instead of central Canada. It is not surprising as there was no proper connection between central Canada and the Maritimes until the late 19th century. Since the end of the free trade between Great Britain and the Maritimes, the Maritimes had closer economic ties with New England than the rest of Canada. This economic cooperation, however, became more difficult, less accessible, and declined when the Maritimes entered the Canadian Confederation in 1867 as a result of duties and increased trade barriers. The situation of the Maritimes was further worsened by the Industrial Revolution reaching Canada in the second half of the 19th century and the Maritimes not being able to adapt to the changes. This is the reason why central Canadian economy, being able to adapt to the changes, became stronger, was growing, and received most of the attention while the Maritimes became marginalized, many of its companies were taken over by the central Canadian ones and at the end were usually closed. To improve the situation and help the Maritimes to find new markets, railway was built to connect the region to markets in central Canada. It was mainly Nova Scotia to whom the

¹³ Kristi L. Desaulniers, *Canada (Modern World Nations)* (Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publisher, 2003), 41-51

building of railways helped as it had a strong steel industry (steel rails and locomotives were produced there).¹⁴

The economic situation of the Maritimes did not improve during the 20th century. The freight rates rose in 1919 and made trading with central and western Canada very difficult as the price of the traded goods had to be raised due to the higher freight rates¹⁵. Other problem was the lack of technological change and modernization which did not take place in the Maritimes, unlike in other Canadian provinces. As a result the Maritime goods were not able to compete with those from other parts of Canada and many firms were forced to close or were taken over and mostly closed, or reduced, by central Canadian companies. The Maritime's economy gradually became unable to compete with central Canada and because of high unemployment at that time many people, mostly the young and educated ones, started to leave the region in search for work and the region became short in workforce. At that time they usually went to New England or central Canada, later to Alberta. The situation was further worsened by decline in coal mining, when coal was replaced by oil and coal mines were gradually closed, as well as by declaring the cod fish moratorium in 1990s caused by overfishing. High unemployment and out-migration once again became characteristic for the region.

The only times the region experienced improvement were the First and Second World Wars during which its economy improved as most of the war military was concentrated in the region. Other possible improvement may come with the discovery of offshore natural gas in Nova Scotia, development in high-technology and information technology, as well as Canada's membership in WTO and NAFTA which have made the New England markets once again more accessible for the Maritimes and trade between these two regions increased.¹⁶

Since the middle of the 20th century the Maritimes gradually became dependent on transfer payments and other forms of financial help from the federal government. All kinds of financial help are targeted to less developed or problematic regions which stand behind the rest of Canada. Unfortunately, not all of the financial help programs reached their goals

¹⁴ Robert M. Bone, *The Regional Geography of Canada* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 443

¹⁵ Robert M. Bone, *The Regional Geography of Canada* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 443

¹⁶ Robert M. Bone, *The Regional Geography of Canada* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 447

and the Maritimes are still left behind the rest of the country and is still one of the poorest and marginalized Canadian regions.

Prince Edward Island

Economy of Prince Edward Island, which is the only Atlantic Canadian province with arable land, is concentrated on agriculture, which is very important for the province and in which potatoes dominate. Prince Edward Island provides Canada with majority of seed potatoes as well as with frozen products made from the crop, mainly frozen French fries which are also exported. The next very important economy in Prince Edward Island is tourism. Even so, Prince Edward Island's economy is the least strong among the Maritime provinces.¹⁷

Nova Scotia

Although Nova Scotia's economy is diverse, it is concentrated mainly on mining. In the past, coal mining on Cape Breton Island was the most important industry. Coal mining has experienced downward trend since the discovery of oil and natural gas, mainly in Alberta, which gradually reduced and replaced the demand after coal. Coal mining has been substituted by offshore natural gas mining which, as it is hoped, might help the province to improve its economic situation. Other important industries include steel industry and agriculture in the Annapolis Valley, forestry, and tourism.

New Brunswick

As the province has dense forests, the most important industry in New Brunswick is, and was, forestry. Wooden shipbuilding was the most important industry in the past until the iron ships emerged. Since then the wooden shipbuilding declined. There are also other industries in New Brunswick that are important such as tourism or agriculture in the Saint John River Valley. New Brunswick has quite an unusual economy as most of the companies operating in the province are owned by two families – the Irving family and the McCain family.¹⁸

¹⁷ Iain Wallace, *Geography of the Canadian economy* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 123-139

¹⁸ Iain Wallace, *Geography of the Canadian economy* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 181

1.1.4 Tourism

Tourism is one of the many ways how to distinguish regions. It is affected for example by the region's location, nature, history, people, and heritage. Each province or region has something else to offer and attract tourists.

Tourism is one of the Maritimes' growing and most important industries nowadays. The region has much to offer e.g. rich history, unspoiled nature, or special events connected either to the history of the region or its population. It has also gained a reputation of relaxed pace of life and friendly people which makes the region an attractive place for buying summer houses and spending summer holidays as the weather during summer is very pleasant in the Maritimes.¹⁹

As the region has close ties with New England there are many tourists from New England. The American tourists come mainly to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The number of tourists visiting Prince Edward Island has been increasing since the connection of the island to land by the Confederation Bridge.

Each of the three provinces has different tourist attractions connected to for example its nature, history, or population.

Prince Edward Island

Although Prince Edward Island is the smallest Maritime province, it is very often referred to as the most beautiful and attractive Maritime province by travel guides. It actually became a popular destination for British nobility as early as in the 19th century. It is visited during whole year and probably the most visited and known attraction is a house connected to Anne of Green Gables, a world-wide known film and book that became a popular symbols of the island.

Nova Scotia

The province of Nova Scotia is together with Prince Edward Island a very attractive place for tourists. It is a wooden peninsula with a lot of national parks and trails that lead through the whole province. The province has concentrated on tourism much during the past years and many of the visitors come from the United States.

¹⁹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 227

New Brunswick

Tourist attractions in New Brunswick differ from those in other two Maritime provinces. As New Brunswick has a large francophone population, there are many places connected to them such as Village Historique Acadien showing the Acadians way of life, or a French music and cultural festival called Foire Brayonne. Fundy National Park is among the most famous and visited places in New Brunswick. It is unique for the world's biggest difference between low tide and high tide.

2 WESTERN CANADA

When dealing with regionalism in Canada, British Columbia and Alberta are two Canadian western provinces included in different regions. British Columbia is referred to as a Pacific province region or as part of western Canada region. Alberta, on the other hand, is included in the Prairie provinces region together with Saskatchewan and Manitoba or, together with British Columbia, in Western Canadian region. Saskatchewan and Manitoba are not included here for being completely different from British Columbia and also partly from Alberta which has more diversified economy, larger population, and is far richer than these two provinces. Alberta, on the contrary, is included here because it shares several features with British Columbia and both of them are sometimes referred to as Western Canadian region.

2.1 British Columbia

2.1.1 History

History and historical development of British Columbia are important for the province. Although its history is quite young, it has influenced the province, its development of economy and population a lot. In a way, its history is much different from other Canadian provinces. It is for example the only Canadian province where the settlement started from the west first and headed eastward. The historical development has also been important according to the population that settled in the area.

As mentioned earlier, British Columbia was first settled from the west heading eastward. The reason was the Rocky Mountains dividing the area from the rest of the country. It is not known exactly who the first Europeans in the area of British Columbia were but Captain James Cook is most often credited with the discovery of the area as it was him, who started sea-otter pelts trade with the Native people and discovered waters full of fish as claimed by him in the 1770s.²⁰ The first European immigrants started to come to British Columbia shortly after its discovery. They were at first attracted by and interested in natural resources such as furs and fish. The discovery of gold in the mid-1800s started a real boom in immigration mainly from eastern Canada, America, and Europe to the area.

Big changes in British Columbia's history came when it became a province in 1849. Before it was owned and administered by Britain together with Spain until 1794, later the United States as part of the Oregon Territory between the years 1818 and 1846 when the land was divided between Canada and the United States. British Columbia joined the Canadian Confederation in 1871 under the condition of building railways that would connect the province with the rest of the country. Nevertheless, the province stayed separated until the mid-1880s when the railway was finished. Another reason why British Columbia joined the Confederation was the fear of the United States' Manifest destiny to control and own the whole North American continent.²¹ The completion of the railways together with the gold rush in the mid-1800s brought many immigrants to the area, supported growth in trade, investment, and resource development.

During the 20th century, growth and development that started at the end of 19th century continued increasing. British Columbia experienced growth in population caused by immigration from other parts of Canada, Europe, and later mainly from Asia. The economy experienced boom in forestry when Panama Canal was opened and made it easier to ship woods to eastern Canada as well as to Europe; oil and natural gas mining; the Asia-Pacific trade; and tourist and retirement industries. British Columbia, on the other hand, had to face some problems during the 20th century such as decrease in salmon fishery connected to building dams which make it difficult for the fish to get from their birth places in rivers to ocean and back; and to global warming which rises the temperature of the sea and makes it difficult for the fish to survive there. Salmon fishery could end up the same way as the cod fishery in the Atlantic Canada – by a moratorium. Another difficulty that the province had to face was connected to its close economic links with Asia. British Columbia's economy and tourism were hit by recession of Asian economies in the 1990s. Nevertheless, the province's future might be very bright as Vancouver is going to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games which will attract many tourists and make the province more attractive than it is now. The other potential future improvement and development is the possibility of off shore drilling. This possibility is still being discussed as it is quite dangerous since the area is volcanically active.²²

²⁰ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 304

²¹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 304-305

²² Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 315

2.1.2 Population

British Columbia's population is specific in various ways. The first people came from the west heading east and the population of the area is more diversified and multicultural than in some other provinces, for example the Maritimes. It is also typical for its multicultural character and climate that attract certain groups of new immigrants.

The first Europeans came to this region by sea while searching for a northern seaway around North America from Europe to Asia. Among the first of them were Englishmen and Spanish after whom there remain only Spanish names along the coast, for example the Cordillera Mountains, as they surrendered their claims on the land in 1794²³. The main reasons why people were coming to this region were similar to those of other parts of Canada – hope for better future, fishing, fur trade, and later the gold rush. The fur traders were also the first people who came to British Columbia over-land from east around the middle of 19th century.

As mentioned earlier, British Columbia was administered by British together with Americans in the first half of the 19th century and so there were also many Americans living in the region. The discovery of gold in the mid-1800s and completion of the transcontinental railway in the late 1800s were the most important events that attracted many immigrants from whole North America as well as from other countries including many Chinese who helped to build the railway but were not wanted in the region after the railway was completed. There were not many immigrants in the region before the gold rush but since then the population started to grow and new towns were established. The population growth slowed between the end of the gold rush and the completion of the railway. At that time many ghost towns appeared with people leaving the mining towns at the end of the gold rush.²⁴

There were many groups of immigrants coming to British Columbia including religious groups such as the Mennonites or Doukhobors at the end of 19th century. The Mennonites were a group of German-speaking Protestant pacifists; the Doukhobors were a group of pacifists who separated from the Russian Orthodox Church. Both of these groups were looking for religious freedom. At first they were granted land in the provinces of

²³ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 304

²⁴ Lenka Rovná, and Miroslav Jindra, *Dějiny Kanady* (Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové Noviny, 2000), 107-113

Manitoba and Saskatchewan but were later forced to leave the provinces and settle in British Columbia.²⁵

During the 20th century the population grew rapidly due to the resource development, growing economy, the new Asia-Pacific trade, and Vancouver becoming the new Canadian front door in international trade. All these made the province very attractive for the newcomers who were looking for new possibilities and brighter future. They were from other Canadian provinces, mainly from the Maritimes and Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as from other countries, including immigrants from India, China, Taiwan, or many Chinese immigrants when Hong Kong came under control of the People's Republic of China in 1997 (until then Hong Kong was controlled by Great Britain). The Chinese immigrants concentrated mainly in Vancouver which started to be called Hongcouver after the high numbers of Chinese population concentrated there.²⁶

The population of British Columbia grew mostly through immigration. Immigrants came from other parts of Canada as well as other countries from around the world. Even so, not all immigrants were wanted in the region for various reasons. Among the unwanted groups of immigrants were for example the Chinese, at the end of 19th century; Sikh immigrants trying to get to the province by ship in 1914; or Japanese and their descendants after the bombing of Pearl Harbour who were forced to leave and were not allowed to return to the coast until 1949.²⁷ Nevertheless, if it was not for the immigrants, the province would not be as multicultural and culturally diverse as it is nowadays.

Most of the British Columbia's population is concentrated in the southwestern part of the province around the cities of Vancouver and Victoria. The mild climate of British Columbia is an important factor for the population as there are many retirees from whole Canada moving to this province, mainly to the Okanagan area, the southeastern Vancouver Island, and the Lower Mainland.²⁸

²⁵ J. M. Bumsted, *The Peoples of Canada: A Post-Confederation History* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2008), 115

²⁶ Kristi L. Desautniers, *Canada (Modern World Nations)* (Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publisher, 2003), 55-56

²⁷ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 370-371

²⁸ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006)

2.1.3 Native Population

The Native people inhabited the area long before the first Europeans came, claimed, and settled the land. No matter how important the Native populations were for the Europeans at the beginnings of their settlements, they were often killed or forced by the Europeans to leave their land in favor of Europeans and start to live on reserves.

It is expected, that the Native population has lived in the region for more than 10,000 years before the first Europeans came. The Natives in this region, for example Nuu-Chag-Nulth, had a very diverse, developed, and complex culture. But as it was usual in every country the Europeans discovered and started to settle, the Native population in British Columbia was quickly devastated by diseases, wars, and guns provided by the coming Europeans and other immigrants that started to settle in the region since the late 18th century, or they were forced onto reserves that were established for the Native peoples to live on. British Columbia has many reserves but most of them are much smaller than those in other parts of Canada, especially the Prairies.²⁹

The situation between the Native population and the Canadians started to improve recently, for example by the Native population being given the right to fish and hunt which they had been denied for a long time. The Natives have also won some of their land claims according to which they were given back land which was taken from them by early settlers.³⁰

2.1.4 Economy

British Columbia's economy is what attracted, and still attracts, thousands of immigrants to the area. The most important ones include forestry, fishing, mining, and trading with Asian countries. It is probably the Asia-Pacific trade that has influenced the province's growth, development, economy, as well as population.

Fur trading, fishing, forestry, and mining attracted thousands of immigrants to the region and were the first economic industries that developed in British Columbia. The very first one was the sea-otter pelt trade. The sea-otter pelts were very valuable in China and as most of the sailors and merchants sailed from British Columbia to China and traded with

²⁹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 301-312

³⁰ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 315

China the sea-otter pelt trade developed very quickly. Later when the fur trappers from North Western Company reached the province through the Rocky Mountains, a fur trade from animals living on the land developed too.

Fishing, important part of British Columbia's economy, focuses mainly on salmon. During the past years, the industry is experiencing a decline and the province might face a serious problem in the future. There are several reasons that may stand for the decline of salmon fish such as overexploitation, building dams which block the streams and stop the fish from migrating between their birthplace in rivers and the ocean where they live, water pollution, or global warming which rises the temperature of the Pacific Ocean and makes it too warm for the fish to live there.³¹

Mining actually started with the discovery of gold in the mid-1800s and further developed with the completion of railway along which new mining towns were built. Nowadays coal (mainly for export), natural gas, and oil are the most important natural resources being mined in British Columbia. According to *Canada – A Nation of Regions* the federal government of British Columbia is considering the possibility of off shore mining. As this area is in seismically risky region, it might be very risky and it is necessary to think it over properly and consider all the possible threats and dangers to people as well as for the environment.

Forestry is another and probably the most important natural resource and industry in British Columbia. The province is heavily forested and has the largest coniferous trees in Canada. The quality of the wood differs along the coast and further inland where the trees are not as tall, big, and dense as along the coast where the industry originally started. Forestry did not spread into the interior of the province until after the Second World War and building railways in the province's interior. Although forestry is the province's most important industry, it faces problems. The speed of cutting down the trees and the time the trees need to grow are not the same and as a result the province could face a lack of wood in the near future.³²

Agriculture, on the other hand, is not one of the most important industries in the area as the province does not have much of agriculturally suitable land. Even so, Okanagan

³¹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 313

³² Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 44

Valley in southern British Columbia provides the province as well as whole Canada with lots of fruit and more recently with wine.

Although natural resources, mainly forestry and mining, are still very important, British Columbia's economy has diversified during the 20th century and new industries emerged. These include tourism, retirement industry, hydroelectric power, service and high technology industries, and Asia-Pacific trade. The major markets for British Columbia's forest and other industries are the United States, Japan, Europe Union, and Asian countries along the Pacific coast³³. Very important role in the international trade plays Vancouver which became a vital international port and a centre of international business and shipping goods after completion of the railway and opening the Panama Canal in 1914. Both of these occasions made it easier to ship goods to eastern parts on Northern America and to Europe. Since then Vancouver, as well as the whole province, started to grow and develop rapidly. The economy of British Columbia was growing until the 1930s Depression which, as in other Canadian regions, caused economic problems and high unemployment. As suggested in *The Regional Geography of Canada*, the situation at that time was worsened by immigrants from other parts of Canada arriving to British Columbia in search for job opportunities and better future. The economic situation of the province improved with the outbreak of the Second World War and has continued ever since except for a short period in the 1990s when it was affected and slowed down by a recession in Asian countries. The province actually replaced the Atlantic Canada and became the country's new front door in international business.

2.1.5 Tourism

British Columbia is a very attractive place for tourists who visit the province during the whole year and so tourism has become one of the most important industries in the province. Tourists can find here nearly everything they might be looking for which makes the province different from other Canadian provinces.

Tourism in British Columbia has developed during the 20th century, mainly since the Expo 86 hold in Vancouver. Nowadays there are more and more people working in the industry. As the province has close ties with Asia, there are many tourists coming from

these countries, mainly from Japan, who became very important for the industry. The downside of this close relationship between Asia and British Columbia became evident in the 1990s when Asia suffered recession and the number of Asian tourists declined. Other events that can affect the industry are the same as in other regions and countries such as economic problems or fear of terrorism.³⁴

The region has a lot to offer thanks to its varied nature, mild climate, and other interesting places. The most visited and attractive places in British Columbia include Vancouver, which will host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and has a significant Asian population; the Rocky Mountains; national parks; wildlife in general; sea and water connected activities; whale watching; historic sites; cultural events and much more.

2.2 Alberta

2.2.1 History

Just like any other country, region, or province, also Alberta and its development were influenced by its history. The homesteaders and immigrants who settled there; development from a single commodity dependent economy to a more diversified one; or the discovery of rich oil and natural gas fields have changed the province a lot.

Alberta, one of Canada's Prairie provinces, was at first part of Rupert's Land and owned by the Hudson Bay Company. The company was engaged in fur trade so that the first settlers coming to the area in the 17th century were the fur trappers and fur traders who secured their business by marrying the Native women and by doing so a new community called the Métis developed. The Métis, first engaged in fur trade, later became farmers.

The area became British territory by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 but settling it was quite slow until the Dominion Act was passed in 1872 to provide the settlers with land; and a transcontinental railway was built to encourage settlement and make the area more accessible. Both of these events happened mainly because of Canada's fear of the United States' Manifest Destiny to control the whole North America and the possibility of

³³ Robert M. Bone, *The Regional Geography of Canada* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002)

³⁴ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 326

annexing the area. With the growing population in the area, province of Alberta was created in 1905.³⁵

The first settlers were predominantly farmers who focused mainly on growing wheat and the province became dependent on a single commodity – the wheat. This proved to have terrible consequences for the province when the 1930s Depression together with drought caused crash of the wheat price and the farmers, as well as the whole province, suffered serious troubles. Many of them even gave up farming and left the province. Change and improvement came with the Second World War when the situation improved and the economy diversified by discovery of rich fields of oil and natural gas.³⁶

Another important event that influenced Alberta happened in the 1970s during the energy crisis. At that time the unemployment rose, plants were closed, out-migration from Alberta appeared, and the National Energy Program raising the taxes the oil producers had to pay was passed. The program was very unpopular among the Alberta's population and it was followed by a significant movement for separation from Canada.³⁷

Alberta has become a very attractive place for immigrants as it is nowadays the largest producer of oil in Canada as well as the richest Canadian province dependent mostly on oil and gas industry. The downside of this dependence is the province's vulnerability to be influenced by various occasions such as for example the Gulf War of 1990, invasion of Iraq in 2003, or the hurricane Katrina in the Gulf of Mexico in 2005 which all influence the price of oil. Another threat could be the Kyoto Protocol which Canada signed in 2002 according to which the greenhouse gases should be reduced. To reach the agreed levels of the greenhouse gases could be a problem for Alberta as it is Canada's "leading producer of fossil fuels"³⁸.

2.2.2 Population

Population of an area or region usually has something in common that distinguishes them from other regions. This can include the place the people live, their national background, language, or religion.

³⁵ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 270

³⁶ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 274-286

³⁷ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 287-295

³⁸ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 291

The first people came in the 17th century with the fur trade. At that time the settlement was slow and the number of settlers did not start to increase until the end of 19th century when the Dominion Act of 1872 was passed granting homesteads and promoting settling the land, and the railway was built. At that time the settlers were from other parts of Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and other European countries. The Canadian immigrants were mainly from the Atlantic Canada that was losing its power and unemployment was rising there at that time. The Americans were coming mostly because there was no more any free land in the American West to take and settle on in the late 1800s. There were also many Central and Eastern Europeans (mainly German, Russians, and Ukrainians) coming to the area in the late 19th century as the possibility of settling in western Canada and getting homesteads was promoted in Europe. The immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe were, however, often perceived as inferior for not being from an English-speaking country.³⁹ On the other hand, if it was not for them, the province's population would not be as diversified and multicultural as it has become.

The population of Alberta has been growing quite rapidly since the end of the 19th century. This growth reflects the province's strong, growing, and diversifying economy. On the other hand, the population growth is also caused by the poor economic situation in the Atlantic Canadian provinces which forces many, especially young and educated people, to leave their home provinces in search for job opportunities in richer and more prosperous provinces such as Alberta. During the second half of the 20th century the population became rural as most of the people rejected farming, left villages and moved to towns and cities. Nowadays most of the population lives in two cities of Calgary and Edmonton and in the corridor between them.⁴⁰

2.2.3 Native Population

Alberta was inhabited by the Native populations long before the first Europeans came. After their arrival, the Natives started to die out or were forced to live on reserves. In Alberta, and the other Prairie Provinces, the arrival of the Europeans is also connected with the beginnings of a new community of the Native – the Métis.

³⁹ Robert M. Bone, *The Regional Geography of Canada* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 390

Arrival of the European immigrants had bad consequences for the Natives living here. Those living in southern parts were affected much earlier than those living in the northern part of Alberta as the Europeans started the settlement in the southern parts of the province. The Europeans not only introduced guns and diseases, they even killed the buffaloes (in the second half of the 19th century) that were source of food for the Natives. The Natives were also forced to live on reserves made up for them so that the Europeans could take and use their land. Gradually, the Natives became dependent on the Europeans.

The Native population living in the area of Alberta includes the Indians (mainly Cree, Ojibway, and Saulteaux) and the Métis. The Métis are a community of the Native and European, mainly French and Scottish, descendants⁴¹. This new community appeared because the North West Company supported its fur trappers to marry the Native in order to secure the fur trade in the area. The Métis later turned from fur traders into farmers. Only in the 20th century the Métis got the same benefits as the Native Americans as they were officially accepted as the Native population. Till then, they were neither Native nor non-Native population.

2.2.4 Economy

The economy of Alberta helped to create certain feelings among its population. As a result of a single commodity economy the population in the region had to overcome hard times. Nowadays, Alberta is the richest Canadian province, though again quite dependent on a single industry – oil mining.

The industries that originally attracted immigrants to Alberta were the fur trade and agriculture. The early development of the industries, as well as settling the area, were supported by building railways that would make it easier to transport the products to markets in other part of Canada and in other countries. The early farmers were suggested to grow wheat and soon the province became dependent on a single commodity. This proved to be a bad choice not long time later. Series of dry years together with the 1930s Depression and falling prices of wheat caused serious economic problems in whole

⁴⁰ Kristi L. Desaulniers, *Canada (Modern World Nations)* (Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publisher, 2003), 54-55

⁴¹ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 264

province. Many farmers went bankrupt or gave up farming and went to cities or left the province in search for work.

Alberta's industry became more diversified after the 1930s Depression and the Second World War. At that time the province experienced boom in resource development. The most important industries became oil and natural gas mining followed by coal mining and forestry. The oil mining became even more important since the 1970s energy crisis when the price for oil rose sharply. Alberta is nowadays the biggest oil producer in Canada and Calgary is considered to be the headquarter of oil industry⁴².

The downsides of Alberta's economy are connected to its dependence on oil mining. Oil price is highly sensitive to changes caused by world events such as the Gulf War of 1990, the United States' invasion of Iraq in 2003, or the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico⁴³. Another problem is connected to protection of environment. Since Canada signed the Kyoto Protocol in 2002, Alberta is forced to reduce its production of greenhouse gases. This might be quite difficult as the greenhouse gases rise from burning fossil fuels and Alberta is their major producer in Canada.

2.2.5 Tourism

Tourism in Alberta is influenced by the location of the region, nature, history, and other features and varies greatly throughout the province which is sometimes called country of opposites as the eastern part is flat while the western part is made up by the Rocky Mountains.

The most visited attractions include Banff and Jasper National Parks; Dinosaur Provincial Park; cities of Calgary and Edmonton; West Edmonton Mall, the largest shopping mall in North America with various attractions that are not usually found in shopping centers such as water park, Galaxyland, ice rink, or sea-lions show; or festivals and special events such as Calgary Stampede that is a festival and rodeo promoting western cowboy heritage; or Edmonton Folk Music Festival. The visitors can also enjoy skiing in the Rocky Mountains, hiking, fishing, or hunting.

⁴² Robert M. Bone, *The Regional Geography of Canada* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), 420

⁴³ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 298-290

3 COMPARISON OF EASTERN AND WESTERN CANADA

As mentioned earlier, Canada is a country of regions which share features that distinguish them from other regions. These features could be natural landscape, economy, population, history and historical development, politics, language and religion, national background, climate, or natural resources.⁴⁴ I have chosen to compare eastern and western Canadian regions to find out whether these regions that share several features are similar or not.

Three Canadian provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick at the eastern coast of Canada are included in two regions – the Maritimes and Atlantic Canada which includes also Newfoundland and Labrador. These three provinces have much in common but they also differ from each other for example in economy or population.

British Columbia and Alberta in western part of Canada are not always included in the same region. British Columbia is often treated separately and Alberta is mainly part of the Prairie Provinces region. Nevertheless, Alberta shares some features with British Columbia and that is why both of these provinces are included in western Canadian region in this bachelor thesis.

3.1 Settling the Regions

There are several differences in the settlement of the eastern and western Canadian regions that are connected to the position and accessibility of the regions. The Maritimes were discovered much earlier than the coast of British Columbia or Alberta as the eastern region was easier to reach for the European explorers. The western Canada was thus settled by first Europeans in the 18th century, while the Maritimes were settled in the early 17th century.

The Maritimes as well as Alberta were settled from the east heading westward as the immigrants from Europe, the United States, and other Canadian provinces were moving further west. British Columbia, on the contrary, was first explored and settled from the west heading eastward. The reason for this different pattern of settling the area was the Rocky Mountains that kept British Columbia separated from the rest of the country until

⁴⁴ Brett McGillivray, *Canada – A Nation of Regions* (Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2006), 6-7

the late 19th century when an intercontinental railway connecting the whole country was built.

At first both eastern and western Canada had similar attractions for the people to settle there including fishery in the Maritimes and British Columbia; fur trade; farming; cheap land available in Alberta on the grounds of the Dominion Act passed in 1872; and most of all the promise of better future all the immigrants were looking for. Western Canada started to attract more people than any other Canadian region during the 20th century. The reason was its economic situation which was much better than those in other Canadian province, particularly in the Maritimes, Newfoundland and Labrador, and in the northern territories. As the Maritimes were not able to adjust to all the changes and modernizations connected to the Industrial Revolution, which reached Canada in second half of the 19th century, the region started to fall behind the rest of Canada, many businesses were closed, unemployment rose sharply, and people started to leave their homes and moved to other parts of Canada. During the first half of the 20th century they went mainly to central Canada, but Alberta's booming economy connected to oil and gas mining development and Alberta becoming a rich and powerful province attracted many immigrants in the second half of the 20th century who started to move there.

3.2 Population

Immigration plays as important role in settling Canada and in Canada's population structure. Canada has received most of its population through immigration, either from other countries or from other provinces.⁴⁵ There have been different groups of immigrants arriving from various countries usually settling in the same area according to their language, religious, or national background.

The Maritimes were first settled by French-speaking people called Acadians after the colony of Acadia that was established in the area. Later when the land came under British control many of the Acadians were expelled as Britain wanted the land to be settled by English-speaking population. Since then many people from the British Isles started to come, mainly Scottish and Irish immigrants in the late 18th and during the 19th century.

⁴⁵ Barry R. Chiswick, *Immigration, language, and, ethnicity: Canada and the United States* (Washington: the AEI Press, 1992), 6

The Scottish came mainly because of high unemployment caused by the Industrial Revolution as less people were now needed to do the same work as before the Revolution. The largest wave of Irish immigrants came to the Maritimes in the 1840s when Ireland was hit by a potato famine. As a result, the Maritimes have predominantly English-speaking population of English, Scottish, and Irish immigrants with significant French-speaking population living mainly in New Brunswick. Nevertheless, since the end of the 19th century the Maritimes are experiencing difficulties such as poor economic results or high unemployment rates which made many especially young and educated people leave their homes and move to other parts of Canada or to the United States.

Alberta, on the other hand, has a more diversified population than the Maritimes. It was also settled by immigrants from the British Isles, but also by people from non-English speaking countries in Central and Eastern Europe that where settling and homesteads in Alberta were propagated at the end of the 19th and beginning of 20th century. As a result the province consists of descendants of English- as well as non-English speaking immigrants but unlike in the Maritimes, there is not any significant French-speaking population in Alberta. What is more, the province has experienced a steady population growth during the second half of the 20th century because it became an attractive place for those leaving the Maritimes.

British Columbia's population differs from the Maritimes so much, that it is hard to believe that both of the provinces, or regions, are part of the same country. British Columbia has a large population of Asian origin, mainly from China and Japan, which is unusual for the Maritimes. Since most of the Chinese immigrants live in Vancouver, the city is sometimes called Hongcouver, as previously mentioned. Most of them came to British Columbia in late 1990s from Hong Kong when it came under the control of the People's Republic of China.

It is clear now, that the Maritimes and western Canada differ a lot according to the people living in the regions. The Maritime's population is quite complex with an English-speaking majority and a large French-speaking population concentrated mainly in New Brunswick. The western Canada, on the contrary, has a much more diversified and multicultural character. Neither British Columbia nor Alberta has a large French-speaking population and none of them has a majority of English-speaking population. Instead, there are many of those from European non-English speaking countries such as Germany,

Scandinavia, or Ukraine in Alberta. British Columbia has a significant group of Asian population, mainly the Chinese.

3.2.1 Native Population

The Native populations are people who inhabited the area before the arrival of the first Europeans. Different groups of the Natives lived in each of the regions and developed different culture according to the area they lived in. The most complex culture was among the Natives in British Columbia. One of the reasons of the culture development may be the remoteness and late discovery and settlement of British Columbia. The Native populations in all of the provinces played an important role at the beginnings of European settlement in helping the first Europeans to survive, and in development of fur trade. Unfortunately, as the settlement of the area continued, the Native populations were forced to leave their land in favor of the newcomers and move to reserves that were set to accommodate them.

The Europeans were not only a threat for the Natives. As the fur trappers in the prairies including Alberta wanted to secure their trade, marriages between the Europeans and the Native population were encouraged and as a result a new community appeared – the Métis who are nowadays included among the Canadian aboriginal population together with the Indians, and Inuits living in the north.

3.3 Economy

Economy is another field in which eastern and western Canada share similar development patterns as well as possible threats and problems such as decline in fishery, the importance of overseas trade, oil and natural gas mining, or in the way the economy affects the number of population.

3.3.1 Overseas Trade

The Maritimes played the crucial role in international overseas trade for most of the Canada's history. They traded mainly with Great Britain, later with the United States. Unfortunately, the region did not manage to modernize and adjust to changes that came with the Industrial Revolution in the second half of the 19th century. Instead, the Maritimes kept the old habits and gradually lost their economic strength and important role in

international trade. British Columbia, on the contrary, did adjust to the changes and when the Panama Canal was opened in early 20th century it became easier and cheaper to ship goods from western Canada to Great Britain and eastern parts of North America. Since the 1970s, when Asian economies developed a lot and trade between Asian countries and British Columbia became strong and important, the province was becoming more and more important in international trade until it became what the Maritimes were in the past – the new Canada's front door in international overseas trade.

3.3.2 Fishery

As the Maritimes and British Columbia are coastal provinces, fishery plays an important part in their economies. In both regions it was among the attractions that drew the first immigrants to the area and among the first industries that developed there. The Maritimes concentrate on cod fish while British Columbia's most important kind of fish is salmon. Although fishery in these regions specializes on different kinds of fish, both of the regions have experienced a decline in the number of caught fish. The decline caused by overfishing had been so significant, that a cod moratorium had to be declared in the Maritimes in 1992. The results of the moratorium were devastating for the region. The regions economic performance was very poor, lots of people lost their jobs, the unemployment rate rose sharply, and it all led to out-migration as many people moved to other Canadian provinces, mainly to Alberta, and to the United States. The British Columbia's decline in fishery is just like in the Maritimes caused by overexploitation together with building dams, changing climate and consequent global warming. The future of fishery in the Maritimes and British Columbia is insecure and hard to predict as it might take the fish stocks long time to recover reach levels sustainable for fishing. The future of salmon fishery is insecure because the rising temperature of the Pacific Ocean is getting close to a level above which salmon fish can't survive.

3.3.3 Oil and Natural Gas Mining, Forestry

Forestry was as important part of economy as oil mining is nowadays. Both of the industries have been important in attracting immigrants into the area and have influenced the economic results of the area.

Forestry is a key industry in British Columbia and New Brunswick, one of the Maritime provinces. Both of the provinces are densely forested and British Columbia even has the largest coniferous trees in Canada. Nevertheless, boom in New Brunswick's forestry together with wooden shipbuilding lasted only until the end of the 19th century. At that time the Industrial Revolution reached Canada and new, stronger, and more powerful steel ships were introduced and the wooden ships were substituted by them. Since then the industry declined but still plays an important role in New Brunswick's economy. The problem forestry British Columbia is facing is not connected to shipbuilding, but to development in the industry. With rising number of cut trees comes the question of how many trees can be cut not to overexploit the industry and keep the woods at sustainable levels.

Oil and natural gas mining, which is a quite new industry that developed during the 20th century, is limited to only some Canadian regions or provinces including Alberta, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia. Alberta has the richest deposits of these two natural resources and thanks to them and rising oil prices after the 1970s gradually became Canada's richest province. British Columbia has oil and natural gas fields too. Although there is the possibility of further development of the industry by off shore mining, it is not the most important industry in the province, unlike in Alberta. Nova Scotia has always been an important mining province. At first it concentrated on coal mining on Cape Breton Island but most of the mines were gradually close after discovery of oil, and coal mining was replaced by off shore natural gas mining thanks to which the economic situation of the province is improving.

3.4 Tourism

Tourism is an industry that developed and became important for regional and national economy mainly during the 20th century. Tourist industry is influenced by climate, natural attractiveness, historical or social events, sport events taking place in the region, the region's accessibility, and many others.

British Columbia and the Maritimes are both coastal provinces which means that they, unlike Alberta, have seaside resorts, can offer ship cruises, or very attractive whale watching.

Parts of Alberta and British Columbia are made of mountains, the Rocky Mountains, where are many famous winter and ski resorts such as Jasper, Calgary which hosted the 1988 Winter Olympic Games, or Vancouver that is hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 2010. The Maritimes, on the other hand, are not famous for and do not offer many winter sports although the Appalachian Mountains interfere into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Population, cultural events, and cultural diversity contribute to tourism a lot. As people usually settle in various places or cities according to their background, these places become attractive for visitors and usually can offer various events connected to the habits typical for them such as festivals connected to Chinese population living in Vancouver, French-speaking Acadian population living in New Brunswick, or people of Scottish and Irish origin in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. As western Canada is more culturally diversified than the Maritimes, it attracts those interested in seeing and visiting various cultures at one time more than the Maritimes do.

Tourism is an attractive industry which has a significant drawback – it is very sensitive to various international and national events including wars, natural disasters, political disputes, or economic performance all of which can have positive as well as negative effects on the number of tourist visiting the region. Economic performance and economic ties are important for tourism in both British Columbia and the Maritimes. British Columbia, which has close economic ties with Asia, experienced decline in number of Asian tourists in the 1990s during the recession of Asian economies. The Maritimes, on the other hand, have a close economic relationship with New England area in the United States and as a result receives thousands of American tourists every year. Other event that influenced the number of tourists was the 9/11 terrorist attack in the United States, Canada's neighbor.

CONCLUSION

Canada is a country divided into several regions according to characteristics typical for each of the areas. The Maritimes and Western Canada on which this bachelor thesis focuses each include provinces and areas that share either the same historical development, recent economic development, landscape, or attractions for immigrants. Since Canada is a country dependent on immigration, this feature plays an important role in Canadian population.

As expected, several similarities were found between eastern and western Canadian regions. The Maritimes and British Columbia are both dependent on fishery and the industry has even experienced decline in the number of catch caused by overexploitation in both regions. Nevertheless, the approach to the problem is not the same as a cod moratorium was declared in the Maritimes in the 1990s to let the fish stock grow, while British Columbia had to deal with more obstacles including rising temperature of the Pacific Ocean. Other similarities include important forest industry or the role the regions play in overseas trade. However, the Maritimes are not as important as they used to be and British Columbia gradually took over their place and became the new Canadian front door in overseas trade.

There are also differences found between the two regions connected mainly to the population and tourism. Although it might seem that economy of the regions differs too, it shares similar patterns of development connected to the population and immigrants settling in the areas. Population is one of the key characteristics that make a region specific. As the Maritimes were settled at first by French people, who established a colony called Acadia there and after which they were and still are called Acadians, and later particularly by immigrants from the British Isles, its population is quite homogeneous. Western Canadian region, on the contrary, has a much more diverse and multicultural population. British Columbia has a large Asian community living mainly in Vancouver; Alberta was settled by immigrants mainly from Central and Western Europe. Both British Columbia and Alberta also became new homes for immigrants from other part of Canada, mainly the Atlantic Canada, and the United States of America looking for better job opportunities or better living standards.

Tourism is another area which clearly shows the difference between the small, mainly rural, and economically marginalized eastern region and the rich, developing, and urban western region. Tourism in western Canadian region concentrates mainly on skiing in the

Rocky Mountains, visiting multicultural cities such as Vancouver with large Asian population, shopping in West Edmonton Mall, or experiencing western cowboy culture in Calgary. Tourism in the Maritimes, on the other hand, concentrates mainly on its unspoiled nature and remarkable natural curiosities such as the Bay of Fundy, number of national parks, trails, or world-wide known Green Gables Farmhouse where the world-wide film *Anne of Green Gables* was shot.

To sum it up, it can be said that regionalism plays an important role in Canada. It would be even surprising if regions and regional feeling would not exist in such a big country when regionalism can be found in much smaller countries, for example Germany, France, or the Czech Republic. As a matter of fact, if there were not so many differences between Canadian regions that are still kept alive, the country might not be known as multinational and multicultural, and might not be so popular among tourists who like to experience and compare different cultures, nature, or historical and national events.

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