

## The Social origins and identity of the Canadien population

Social origins of the *Canadien* Population: French settlers were made up of 3 social classes

nobility

### ***Nobility***

- Governor, Intendant, and high ranking military officials
- Wealthy: they enjoyed many privileges

clergy

### ***Clergy: All the officials of the Catholic Church***

- Upper Clergy: Bishop – wealthy with many privileges
- Lower Clergy: parish priests, members of religious orders lived modestly - had few privileges

### **Third Estate – common people**

*Bourgeoisie* [middle class]

- Made of wealthy merchants
- Lived in cities [ Montreal, Quebec]

bourgeoisie

*Seigneurs*

- Land owners – had many privileges

*Common People*

- Majority censitaires- common tenant farmers also called *habitants*
- Crafts people
- Small merchants

*Slaves:* had no legal rights/ not part of the social classes

- 1700 -1760 – there were approximately 2000 slaves in New France
- Mostly native people
- Some African slaves: worked as servants for wealthy in cities

Change in *Canadien* culture and Way of Life

Canadien

- Canadien population kept many elements of French culture: especially French language and catholic religion
- BUT due to specific influences from North America and the St. Lawrence valley the culture and way of life changed to adapt

Adaptation to the climate of the St. Lawrence River Valley [Canada]

- Cold + heavy snow forced the *Canadien* population to adapt
- Dress – they adapted French clothing to the cold environment: hood, woolen belt, hat, boots
- Housing: deeper foundations, double windows, steep sloping roof
- transportation: use of sleds

Indigenous Influence

- The Canadiens used indigenous technologies to adapt to the environment by the use of:
  - snowshoes, toboggans for winter travel
  - birch bark canoes for shallow fast flowing rivers
  - adopted smoking tobacco
  - Moccasins to adapt to cold

The development of an Independent Spirit

- Conditions of settling in the St. Lawrence valley contributed to an independant spirit
- *Canadiens* were forced to become self reliant to meet their needs
- Indigenous beliefs of equality between individuals served as a model for *Canadien* population