

# THE ART OF BREAKING PEOPLE DOWN: THE BRITISH COLONIAL MODEL IN IRELAND AND CANADA

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Ireland was central to Britain's first colonial expansion and its techniques were honed in its expanded colonization around the world, including in Canada. The common features include control over land and resources and subjugation of Indigenous peoples through enforced assimilation. Britain wanted Ireland and Canada for military strategic purposes, economic profit, and political power. Britain forced its way onto both lands through methods that included forced relocations of Indigenous peoples and legislating assimilation through penal laws in Ireland and the Indian Act in Canada. Britain's "divide and rule policy," cultural and spiritual subjugation, and the use of planted settlers were employed in both Ireland and Canada. The similarities in both places are identified as are the distinctions due to geography and timing. The role that complexities play within Indigenous societies is identified. The common and differing forms of resistance and resilience of the Irish and various Indigenous nations in Canada are also identified.

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## INTRODUCTION

Ireland is the first colony of the British Empire.<sup>1</sup> Its colonization pattern was then applied to overseas colonies such as Canada, India and Ceylon, and Australia.<sup>2</sup> Britain came to Canada as early as 1576-1578 in the Arctic, after France, and spread to colonize most of what became known as North America.<sup>3</sup> At its height, colonization by the British Crown spanned the globe, with Christopher North remarking in his 1829 work *Noctes Ambrosianae*, "His

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