

Major British Crown relationships affecting the Acadians

Union of Saints

1. British Crown + New England colonies

The British Crown's North American colonies—particularly **Massachusetts/New England**—were major military participants in the wars against France and its Acadian and Mi'kmaq allies. New England forces attacked **Port Royal in 1707 and 1708**, and a third expedition captured it in 1710. ([Canada](#))

This was significant because Port Royal was the principal Acadian settlement and administrative center.

2. Treaty of Utrecht — 1713

This is one of the most important turning points.

Under the **Treaty of Utrecht**, France ceded mainland Acadia to Britain. The treaty did not adequately resolve Indigenous territorial rights, and the Mi'kmaq and Wabanaki nations objected to France transferring claims over lands they considered their own. Parks Canada specifically notes that the treaty transferred French claims **without consultation or recognition of the Indigenous peoples whose lands were involved**. ([Parks Canada](#))

For the Acadians, this placed French-speaking Catholic communities under British sovereignty.

3. British Crown + Mi'kmaq/Wabanaki peace negotiations

This is an important distinction: the Mi'kmaq were **not simply British allies**. They had a long-standing alliance with the French and resisted British expansion.

The British eventually negotiated the **Peace and Friendship treaties**, including the 1726 treaty with Mi'kmaq and other Wabanaki peoples. The treaty attempted to establish coexistence while recognizing Indigenous relationships with the land. ([Parks Canada](#))

At the same time, British officials wanted Acadians to demonstrate loyalty to the Crown.

4. The Acadian conditional oath — 1729–1730

This directly affected Acadian political status.

Governor Richard Philipps reached an arrangement whereby Acadians would swear allegiance to the British Crown while receiving a **verbal assurance that they would not be required to bear arms against the French or Mi'kmaq**. Acadians continued to resist being placed in a position where they would have to fight their French and Mi'kmaq neighbors. ([Parks Canada](#))

British officials in London and later Halifax did not accept the modified arrangement as sufficient.

That disagreement became increasingly important as another Anglo-French war approached.

5. British Crown + Nova Scotia colonial government

After the founding of **Halifax in 1749**, British authorities increased settlement and military presence in Nova Scotia. Acadian neutrality became increasingly difficult for British authorities to accept.

Parks Canada describes the continuing dispute: most Acadians maintained neutrality, while Nova Scotia authorities increasingly demanded an **unqualified oath of allegiance**. ([Parks Canada](#))

6. British + New England military alliance during the Seven Years' War

By 1755, British imperial authorities and New England colonial forces were cooperating militarily in the region.

The British government increasingly regarded the Acadian population as a potential security problem because of its connections to **France, the Mi'kmaq, and the Acadian refusal to take an unrestricted military oath**.

This culminated in the decision in 1755 to deport Acadians who refused the unqualified oath. Parks Canada identifies September 5, 1755, when Lieutenant-Colonel **John Winslow** read the deportation order at Grand-Pré. ([Parks Canada](#))

The important chain

A useful way to understand the sequence is:

French Crown + Acadians + Mi'kmaq

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Anglo-French imperial wars

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British/New England military victories

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Treaty of Utrecht (1713)

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Mainland Acadia transferred to Britain

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Acadians remain culturally French and Catholic

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Acadians seek neutrality rather than military allegiance

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British authorities increasingly demand unconditional allegiance

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Halifax/New England military expansion

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Seven Years' War

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1755 Deportation / Grand Dérangement

The key point is that **the British Crown did not simply have one "alliance" against the Acadians**. There was an evolving imperial system involving **the British Crown, Massachusetts/New England, Nova Scotia authorities, military forces, treaties with Indigenous nations, and the struggle against France**.

And there is an important irony: **the Mi'kmaq and Acadians had their own interconnected relationship**, while the British were simultaneously trying to establish sovereignty over the same territory. Parks Canada describes the 18th-century French-Mi'kmaq alliance as a formal political and military alliance that helped slow British expansion. ([Canada](#))

If you're building this into your **Acadian/French-American historical document**, I can also lay out **the specific British monarchs, governors, New England colonies, military commanders, treaties, and dates from 1604–1763**, showing exactly who was involved at each stage.