

## **The Acadian Deportation (1755–1764)**, or

*Le Grand Dérangement*, is largely under-recognized due to its overshadowing by the Seven Years' War, a lack of widespread inclusion in American/British history curriculums, and its status as a **"hidden" event in Canadian history** that was **only formally acknowledged by the Crown in 2003**.

### **Why the Acadian Deportation is Less Known:**

- **Focus on Other Conflicts:** The expulsion occurred during the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), a much larger global conflict that dominated historical narratives.
- **Marginalized Perspective:** The event primarily affected a small, geographically isolated French-speaking Catholic population in British-controlled Acadia, separating them from the main narratives of New France (Quebec) and British America.
- **Forced Dispersal/Assimilation:** The British intended to disperse Acadians throughout Anglo-American colonies to force assimilation into the English-speaking population, scattering the population and reducing their collective historical footprint.
- **Delayed Official Acknowledgement:** While known locally in Maritime Canada and Louisiana (as Cajun history), the British Crown only issued a formal apology and acknowledged the brutality in **2003, nearly 250 years later**.
- **Lack of Prominence in Education:** Outside of Atlantic Canada and French-American history, the systematic expulsion of over 10,000 people—leading to thousands of deaths—**is rarely covered in depth in North American schools**.

The deportation was a brutal ethnic cleansing, where 75% of the Acadian population in present-day Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island were forcibly removed, with thousands dying of disease or starvation on ships.