

Factors in the Creation of the Colony of British Columbia

<p>Cause A: British government feared that the United States would annex the mainland</p>	<p>Explanation: Throughout the 19th century there was conflict between the British government and the American government over territorial claims in the Pacific Northwest. Both sides attempted to strengthen their claims to land by encouraging settlement and economic development. After the discovery of gold in the mainland of BC the British government was worried that an influx of American miners into British territory would lead the American government to try and annex [take] the land and combine it with the Oregon Territory. The British Government knew that unless they established a colony on the mainland there was a risk of losing the territory to the United States.</p>
<p>Cause B: British government wanted to protect gold resources on the mainland</p>	<p>Explanation: The Hudson's Bay Company was granted exclusive trading rights with the Aboriginals on the mainland in 1838, but had no other exclusive rights to the area. It had no authority to stop settlers from moving in, and it had no rights to form a government, or interfere with any commercial interests in the area other than the exclusive trade it had with Aboriginal peoples. If the British government wanted to protect its gold and other mineral resources, it had to replace the commercial interests of the HBC with a formal British colony that would make sure that miners were regulated, licensed and taxed.</p>
<p>Cause C: British government wanted to avoid conflict between Aboriginal people and miners</p>	<p>Explanation: When miners from the Oregon Territory began entering Aboriginal land on the mainland during the Gold Rush, it increased the possibility of serious conflict between miners and local Aboriginal groups who believed that the land and its resources belonged to them. The British Government felt that they needed to establish a formal British colony on the mainland that had the power and authority to defend Aboriginal Rights.</p>
<p>Cause D: British government wanted to end the Hudson's Bay Company trade monopoly and promote free trade</p>	<p>Explanation: The trade monopoly granted to the HBC west of the Rocky Mountains was due to expire on May 30, 1859 and many members of the British government opposed the monopoly because they believed that it was out of date and not as desirable as free trade. The British government decided to cancel the monopoly that was about to expire and established a colony in British Columbia, which it was fully entitled to do.</p>