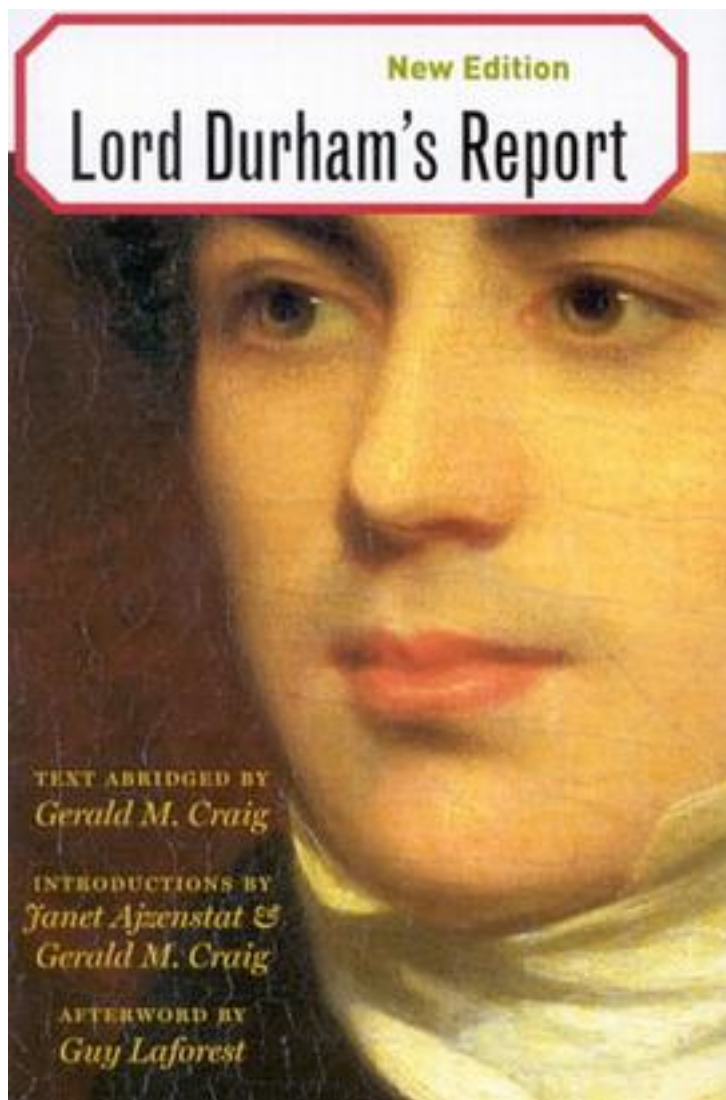


Lord Durham's Report



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In his famous 1839 call to reform, John George Lambton, Earl of Durham, recommended that Upper and Lower Canada be accorded responsible government by uniting the two provinces under a single legislative assembly - a union which would also bring about the assimilation of the French-Canadians. The Report has been criticized ever since - by nineteenth-century British imperialists who found it dangerously liberal to twentieth-century French-Canadians who despise Durham for his presumed racism. This new edition of Gerald Craig's abridgement retains his 1963 introduction and adds essays that debate Durham's political assumptions and goals, re-examine the philosophical and historical context in which the Report was created, review the Report's reception and influence, and show how it remains relevant to questions about democracy and civil society today. Janet Ajzenstat reconsiders the report in the context of nineteenth-century debates about the relation between culture and political institutions, arguing that Durham should be seen as a progressive universalist who wanted to rid political institutions of the divisions of race and creed and give more freedom to French- and English-Canadians alike. Guy Laforest reexamines the report in terms of British liberal imperialism and twentieth century English-Canadian perspectives to argue that Durham was a one-sided sociologist and the first in long line who used liberalism for imperialist purposes.

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