

## 1: Old Dominion's frat suspended during probe into sexually suggestive signs | MSNBC

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Definition[ edit ] Map of the British Empire under Queen Victoria at the end of the nineteenth century. A distinction must be made between a British "dominion" and British "Dominions". At the time of the adoption of the Statute of Westminster, there were six British Dominions: At the same time there were many other jurisdictions that were British dominions, for example Cyprus. These dominions never had full self-governing status. However, it was at the Colonial Conference of when the self-governing colonies of Canada and the Commonwealth of Australia were referred to collectively as Dominions for the first time. At the time of the founding of the League of Nations in , the League Covenant made provision for the admission of any "fully self-governing state, Dominion, or Colony", [8] the implication being that "Dominion status was something between that of a colony and a state". The Statute of Westminster converted this status into legal reality, making them essentially independent members of what was then called the British Commonwealth. Following the Second World War , the decline of British colonialism led to Dominions generally being referred to as Commonwealth realms and the use of the word dominion gradually diminished. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. The later sense of "Dominion" was capitalised to distinguish it from the more general sense of "dominion". Dominion also occurred in the name of the short-lived Dominion of New England – In all of these cases, the word dominion implied no more than being subject to the English Crown. Responsible government and Self-governing colony The foundation of "Dominion" status followed the achievement of internal self-rule in British Colonies, in the specific form of full responsible government as distinct from " representative government ". Colonial responsible government began to emerge during the midth century. The legislatures of Colonies with responsible government were able to make laws in all matters other than foreign affairs, defence and international trade, these being powers which remained with the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Bermuda , notably, was never defined as a Dominion, despite meeting this criteria, but as a self-governing colony that remains part of the British Realm. Nova Scotia soon followed by the Province of Canada which included modern southern Ontario and southern Quebec were the first Colonies to achieve responsible government, in All except for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island agreed to form a new federation named Canada from Section 3 of the Act referred to the new entity as a "Dominion", the first such entity to be created. From the Dominion included two vast neighbouring British territories that did not have any form of self-government: The remainder of New South Wales was divided in three in , a change that established most of the present borders of NSW; the Colony of Queensland , with its own responsible self-government, [17] and the Northern Territory which was not granted self-government prior to federation of the Australian Colonies. Until , the Cape Colony also controlled the separate Colony of Natal. Following the Second Boer War – , the British Empire assumed direct control of the Boer Republics , but transferred limited self-government to Transvaal in , and the Orange River Colony in The New Zealand Observer shows prime minister Joseph Ward as a pretentious dwarf beneath a massive "Dominion" top hat. The hat will soon fit. Canadian Confederation and evolution of the term Dominion[ edit ] In connection with proposals for the future government of British North America, use of the term "Dominion" was suggested by Samuel Leonard Tilley at the London Conference of discussing the confederation of the Province of Canada subsequently becoming the Province of Ontario and the Province of Quebec , Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into "One Dominion under the Name of Canada", the first federation internal to the British Empire. However, neither the Confederation nor the adoption of the title of "Dominion" granted extra autonomy or new powers to this new federal level of government. By the time of Confederation in , this system had been operating in most of what is now central and eastern Canada for almost 20 years. The Fathers of Confederation simply continued the system they knew, the system that was already working, and working well. The Imperial Parliament at Westminster could legislate on any matter to do with Canada and could override any local legislation, the final court of appeal for Canadian litigation lay with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, the

Governor General had a substantive role as a representative of the British government, and ultimate executive power was vested in the British Monarch – who was advised only by British ministers in its exercise. When the Dominion of Canada was created in 1867, it was granted powers of self-government to deal with all internal matters, but Britain still retained overall legislative supremacy. This Imperial supremacy could be exercised through several statutory measures. Then, within two years after the receipt of this copy, the British Monarch in Council could disallow an Act. Thirdly, at least four pieces of Imperial legislation constrained the Canadian legislatures. The Colonial Laws Validity Act of 1865 provided that no colonial law could validly conflict with, amend, or repeal Imperial legislation that either explicitly, or by necessary implication, applied directly to that colony. The Merchant Shipping Act of 1855, as well as the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act of 1843 required reservation of Dominion legislation on those topics for approval by the British Government. Also, the Colonial Stock Act of 1843 provided for the disallowance of any Dominion legislation the British government felt would harm British stockholders of Dominion trustee securities. Most importantly, however, the British Parliament could exercise the legal right of supremacy that it possessed over common law to pass any legislation on any matter affecting the colonies. All matters concerning international travel, commerce, etc. For example, all transactions concerning visas and lost or stolen passports by citizens of the Dominions were carried out at British diplomatic offices. It was not until the late 19th and early 20th centuries that the Dominion governments were allowed to establish their own embassies, and the first two of these that were established by the Dominion governments in Ottawa and in Canberra were both established in Washington, D. C. As Heard later explained, the British government seldom invoked its powers over Canadian legislation. British legislative powers over Canadian domestic policy were largely theoretical and their exercise was increasingly unacceptable in the 19th and 20th centuries. The rise to the status of a Dominion and then full independence for Canada and other possessions of the British Empire did not occur by the granting of titles or similar recognition by the British Parliament but by initiatives taken by the new governments of certain former British dependencies to assert their independence and to establish constitutional precedents. What is remarkable about this whole process is that it was achieved with a minimum of legislative amendments. They provided a new model which politicians in New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa, Ireland, India, Malaysia could point to for their own relationship with Britain. The self-governing colonies contributed significantly to British efforts to stem the insurrection, but ensured that they set the conditions for participation in these wars. The assertiveness of the self-governing colonies was recognised in the Colonial Conference of 1921, which implicitly introduced the idea of the Dominion as a self-governing colony by referring to Canada and Australia as Dominions. It also retired the name "Colonial Conference" and mandated that meetings take place regularly to consult Dominions in running the foreign affairs of the empire. The Colony of New Zealand, which chose not to take part in Australian federation, became the Dominion of New Zealand on 26 September 1907; Newfoundland became a Dominion on the same day. The Union of South Africa was referred to as a Dominion upon its creation in 1910. Designed by Arthur Wardle, the poster urges men from the Dominions of the British Empire to enlist in the war effort. The initiatives and contributions of British colonies to the British war effort in the First World War were recognised by Britain with the creation of the Imperial War Cabinet in 1917, which gave them a say in the running of the war. Dominion status as self-governing states, as opposed to symbolic titles granted various British colonies, waited until 1919, when the self-governing Dominions signed the Treaty of Versailles independently of the British government and became individual members of the League of Nations. This ended the purely colonial status of the Dominions. The First World War ended the purely colonial period in the history of the Dominions. Their military contribution to the Allied war effort gave them claim to equal recognition with other small states and a voice in the formation of policy. This claim was recognised within the Empire by the creation of the Imperial War Cabinet in 1917, and within the community of nations by Dominion signatures to the Treaty of Versailles and by separate Dominion representation in the League of Nations. In this way the "self-governing Dominions", as they were called, emerged as junior members of the international community. Their status defied exact analysis by both international and constitutional lawyers, but it was clear that they were no longer regarded simply as colonies of Britain. Dominion status was never popular in the Irish Free State where people saw it as a face-saving measure for a British government unable to countenance a republic

in what had previously been the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Successive Irish governments undermined the constitutional links with Britain until they were severed completely in . In Ireland adopted, almost simultaneously, both a new constitution that included powers for a president of Ireland and a law confirming a role for the king in external relations. Significantly, Britain initiated the change to complete sovereignty for the Dominions. In spite of popular opinions of empires, the larger Dominions were reluctant to leave the protection of the then-superpower. For example, many Canadians felt that being part of the British Empire was the only thing that had prevented them from being absorbed into the United States. Until , Newfoundland was referred to as a colony of the United Kingdom, as for example, in the reference to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to delineate the Quebec-Labrador boundary. Full autonomy was granted by the United Kingdom parliament with the Statute of Westminster in December . However, the government of Newfoundland "requested the United Kingdom not to have sections 2 to 6[â€™]"confirming Dominion status[â€™]"apply automatically to it[,] until the Newfoundland Legislature first approved the Statute, approval which the Legislature subsequently never gave". It is the view of some constitutional lawyers[ citation needed ] that[â€™]"although Newfoundland chose not to exercise all of the functions of a Dominion like Canada[â€™]"its status as a Dominion was "suspended" in , rather than "revoked" or "abolished". Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland and South Africa prior to becoming a republic and leaving the Commonwealth in , with their large populations of European descent, were sometimes collectively referred to as the "White Dominions".

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