

## Lecture 2

### WATCHING THE MOVIE

When trying to understand to stories we need background information.

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## Quebec My Country Mon Pays

As you watch the documentary, think about the following questions, which you will use to write a descriptive essay about the video.

St. Lawrence river in Quebec

Narrator's family is from Ireland whose ancestors fled 150 years from the famine that British authorities ignored. 250 years ago, English red coats shipped Irish to Montreal like cattle.

English Minorities Exodus – as the pursuit of an independent Quebec ensued

Narrators parents fled Montreal during this time

Why leave Quebec?

Narrator left for his job at the time and thought it was temporary. However, it became permanent, perhaps due to his job not being available in Quebec?

- Dad was a graphic artist in a downtown studio in Quebec
- Mom seemed to be a stay at home mom

Catholic religion dominated Montreal – 200 years of domination

- Faith was important at that time
- Money was associated with the English and SIN
- Best job for a French-Canadian was a clergy position
- Religion ruled until the 1960's and 1970's
  - Were under a class system because the church wanted it so.

People were tired of the clergy “suffocating” them and wanted to be free from the church.

***Cite Libre*** – book of intellectual resistance

Maurice Duplessis died in 1959

- Liberals were elected in 1960 and a new era was born
  - “Quiet Revolution”
    - Got rid of Latin and stop English language from dominating.
    - Establish a socialist, secular, independent country
    - Society changed silently

School in Quebec

- Planes of Abraham (Battle in the French and Indian War)

Trapped in a black and white myth central to the narrator's identity as Quebecers

Hockey Rink was central to Canadian identity

- Brought out the English and French politics

People of Montreal did not quite fit in because they seemed to align with English, and this made them get teased by other people around Canada for not being French enough

1963 – Cities of 9-10 bombs were placed in mailboxes

F.L.Q. planted bombs to advance cause for independence

Quebec culture was mandated to be shown in films to counter the English culture

- Perrault was an influential film maker in the 1960's showcasing the culture of Quebec
  - o Quebec gives great respect to their artists
    - Different from English that shows that they are different (THEIR IDENTITY)

Narrator got to experience the similarities between people of Quebec and Montreal.

1. Their Irish heritage
2. Way their house was set up (day to day life)

French-Quebec culture was shaped by music and art at the time

F.L.Q. sought violence to liberate Quebec from Anglo-American capitalist oppression.

-> Arrogant English minority

Some French-Canadians wanted to change Ottawa, where they felt there was no place for them there.

“Best thing about Ottawa, is the train to Montreal”

“The Three Wise Men”

1970 Minister of Labor in Quebec's liberal government was kidnapped “October Crisis”

- F.L.Q. referred to him as Minister of unemployment and assimilation
  - o Press overstated and romanticized the F.L.Q.

Narrator took a job in Toronto that seemed like a good idea to him at the time.

After 1976, Parti Quebecois became the majority in the government

- Levesque became the Prime Minister
- 1977 enacted the French Language Charter BILL 101
  - o Mandated French to be the language of government, courts, business, and schools

“culture shock” for Anglophones in Canada

Mandate to kick Anglophones out had many people worried.

Animosity between English Canadians and French Canadians exist to this day

Nationalism seems to be exclusionary, pride in one's culture.

- Any other culture seems to be a threat

Patriotism seems to be inclusionary, pride in one's country.

- Any other culture is fine, proud to be a citizen of the country
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This movie deals with the “Quebec” culture and does not acknowledge what being Canadian means. Only what being a Quebecer means.

- Which means all nationalism for Quebec and no patriotism for Canada

“Change is at a reduction to something else”

1. Nationalistic or patriotic? Make sure you know the definitions of the words decide how you would describe the Quebecers national identity?
2. Why are the anglophones (English-speakers) moving away from Quebec?
3. What do you think the francophone population in Quebec bases their feelings of patriotism on?
4. How does John Walker, the filmmaker, feel about Quebec?
5. if you feel patriotic, what inspires your patriotism? ?

Write a 500 word essay about the documentary. It will be due on April 17<sup>th</sup>.