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French 290

Web Assignment #1

There are many provinces like Quebec who feel their culture is enough to secede from their respective country. Texas is another example in which some citizens want to secede from the United States. While culture is important, secession is a drastic measure to take. Cultural identity and language can be preserved through the actions of the citizens. For example, museums are a great way to preserve the history of a culture. An evolving culture is bound to happen however, and actions taken will only slow down the inevitable. Canada and the United States governments in their current state are not actively preventing their citizens from exploring and expressing their culture. However, each country might mandate certain actions, such as requiring French to be shown on a website.

Crowds of Canadians who are patriotic urged Quebec to not secede and called for unity among all of Canada. Many people celebrated their nationality instead of the culture of Quebec. However, it is evident that Quebecers were threatened by Anglophones and put their culture above their country. It was an effective way because it reminded people of Quebec that while they have a rich culture, they were still Canadian.

The First Nations disagree with the separation of Quebec because it overlooks the needs of the First Nations minority in the Quebec region. While the people of Quebec are fighting for sovereignty, it is not their land in the first place, indigenous people argue. As shown in “Quebec

my Country Mon Pays”, there is a nationalistic view that disregards all other cultures. This would include the Anglophones that live in territory of Quebec as well as First Nations.

Spanish is already a big part of communities all around California. Whether you are traveling on a bus, train, or plane, announcements can already be heard in Spanish. As a Caucasian individual I do not think it would make a difference to me in my day to day life. If California decided to make Spanish a required language it might push me to learn more. As of now, it is not required in businesses, so there is less urgency for me to learn any of the language. It most certainly would change the culture in a positive way. Much like the Anglophones in Quebec, some Hispanic Americans feel this sense of unwelcoming from other people. Actions taken by the Governor to make California more inclusive would create a welcoming environment for people who may not share the English language but still identify as American.

Growing up in Florida, but more importantly, in America there is only one national language. If an American does not know English, you are unwelcome and an outcast from the city or town you live in. So, the English language is very important to our cultural norms. One cannot participate in school, government, and even a job if English is not learned. An active part of the community necessitates learning the English language. For this reason, signing legislation to include other languages would benefit not just those individuals but the society.