

CULTURAL DOMINATION

I think the situation is quite different in Quebec. People in Quebec have their own very clearly defined culture, so they don't have the feeling of being threatened. We do have a lot of TV programmes, for example, which are imported or are being translated into French, and people don't even know sometimes that this programme is of American origin.

QUEBEC'S FUTURE

In the last ten years Quebec has been retiring within itself, and in the future that may change. I think Quebec may open itself much more to the world and to the rest of Canada — it could even go further; perhaps Quebec in the future could play an important role as far as Canadian unity is concerned. In the past, twenty years ago, nationalism concerned a minority. Perhaps in ten years you will see Quebec very active outside the province. In the last elections the Parti Québécois [the separatist party] got forty per cent of the Francophone vote; the polls seem to indicate that support for it is not going down. However there have been, obviously, some strong modifications in the party's programme, and these would seem to indicate that, in terms of future electoral strategy, separatism may not be as important an issue as some people outside the province are led to believe.

Mordecai Richler

Not all of Quebec is French-speaking. (In the 1971 census, 13.1 per cent listed English as their mother tongue; 80.7 per cent, French.) In *The Street*, Mordecai Richler remembers growing up in a different Montreal culture:

"Our parents used to apply a special standard to all men and events. 'Is it good for the Jews?' By this test they interpreted the policies of Mackenzie King and the Stanley Cup play-offs and earthquakes in Japan. To take one example — if the Montreal *Canadiens* won the Stanley Cup it would infuriate the WASPS in Toronto, and as long as the English and French were going at each other they left us alone: *ergo*, it was good for the Jews . . . and we looked neither to England nor France for guidance. We turned to the United States. The real America."

Douglas Le Pan

"It would be pleasant if there could be more scope for an independent foreign policy, if we could settle our own defence policy more freely, if we could have a more self-sufficient economy without sacrificing the economic advantages that flow from our close association with the United States. If . . . if . . . if . . . if. If wishes were horses, Canadians would certainly ride off in all directions."

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