



by Paris and American schools. Second, there is the large number of works inspired by the political question and the problem of nationalism, which have preoccupied intellectuals for many years. Of the essayists, the most important include Vadeboncoeur (*Un génocide en douce*), Fernand Dumont (*Chantiers*) and Marcel Rioux (*La Question du Québec*.)

In a general sense, for fifteen years the question of nationalism has been central to Quebec literature, which has been openly, consistently and almost without exception autonomist. Autonomism, until 1976, was an ideology of opposition and of struggle against the established order. Does the election of the Parti Québécois pose a major problem to writers now? What will be their position in relation to this new power? This is what will be seen in the coming years, in the course of which an important reorientation in Quebec literature will probably emerge in the context of a new political climate. It will be more interesting than ever to follow its evolution.

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ious about its lot, and disturbed by the deep crisis of values common to Western society.

The birth of theatre in Quebec is relatively recent, but dramatic production in the course of the last years has been extremely rich, thanks to such writers as Michel Tremblay, Jean Barbeau and Michel Garneau. These writers have attempted to achieve a synthesis between the most contemporary experimental theatre and a new realism based on the use of popular language called "joual" by some. But the theatre in Quebec, as elsewhere, is detaching itself more and more from its purely literary base; and the ideas of *script* and *playwright* are being energetically challenged by new dramatic groups interested, above all else, in collective creativity and the various forms of pop theatre. These companies, which are numerous throughout the province, are in the process of seriously renewing the art of the theatre in Quebec.

Finally, in the field of essays, two things should be briefly underlined. First, there is the considerable development of the social sciences and of literary criticism, where one again finds all the theoretical and methodological diversity inspired