French Canadian

Ethnic Identity and Power
(2001 census)

- Roman Catholic 42.6%,
- Protestant 23.3% (including United Church 9.5%),
- Anglican 6.8%,
- Baptist 2.4%, Lutheran 2%,
- Other Christian 4.4%,
- Muslim 1.9%, other and unspecified 11.8%, none 16%
Colonialism

- Colonialism goes beyond the simple process of creating colonies.
- It leads to the movement of peoples across the world,
- An ensuing sense of dispossession and displacement by large numbers.
- The continuing legacy manifested in the way "sovereign" political communities emerged at the end of the second world war. (decolonization)
Decolonization

- Decolonization refers to the undoing of colonialism, the establishment of governance or authority through the creation of settlements by another country or jurisdiction.
Three Stages in Ethnic Community Adaptation

• STAGE ONE- FORMATIVE-ethnic group arrives in a society dominated by another 'HOST'.

• STAGE TWO- MAINTENANCE- ethnic group is somehow threatened by the HOST or by another ethnic group

• STAGE THREE - ACTUALIZATION- ethnic group carves out an identity in the larger context.
Will Herberg 1955

- of Hansen's Will Herberg in 1955 used this concept in his study *Catholic, Protestant-Jew*

- Herberg found that, “since the American constitution gives the right of individuals to worship as they please while its culture professes assimilation, a contradiction is created.”
Although Americans were not expected to change their religion, an assimilation ideology results in some adaptation in religious worship.

- **First generation**- worships in ethnic church.
- **Second generation**- does not attend church- son rejects the church of his father and attempts to adapt to an American lifestyle.
- **Third generation**- attends one of America's three mainstream churches.
Drieger (1977)

- **Three Stage Adaptation**

- Three Stage adaptation theories tend to consider post modern realities and the three generational hypothesis.
Immigrant stage

Th I. Immigrant stage was characterized by the initial wave of immigrant who attempt to establish an initial ethnic enclave separate from outsiders.

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Enclavistic stage

II. The enclavistic stage, the immigrant attempts to establish territorial concentration through language, homogamy, residential proximity and voluntary associations.
Post enclavic

• III. Post enclavic Stage-"regenerating pluralism"

• Five Essential Aspects of Regenerating Pluralism.
Regenerating Pluralism.

1. Ideological mythology-- a rallying point for the group.
2. Historic Symbols- heros, totems symbolizing group pride.
3. Charismatic Leadership- either contemporary or historical.
Regenerating Pluralism

4. Social Status Symbols- future generations must strive to maintain and surpass. Usually built out of an ethnic economic enclave.

5. Support for an ethnic language- important for maintaining ethnic identity and values.
Stages in French Canadian Ethnic History

- **Formative** - Pre Conquest 1763

- **Maintenance** - Post Conquest 1763-1960’s

- **Actualization** - Post Quiet Revolution-1960s and beyond
Pre Conquest

• Masters of their own house
  Controlled by Mother France,

• **ESTATE SYSTEM**: Peasants, Fur Traders, Jesuits Local Nobility & Aristocrats

• **THREE TIERS**: HABITANT, CLERGY and ARISTOCRACY
Post-Conquest

- La Survivance - Fatalism, Roman Controlled by RC
- Catholicism dominates -Church, Local Parishes
- LA SURVIVANCE = Humility, Acceptance, Poverty
- P. Vallieres (1971) calls the Habitant, White Niggers of America
Post-Quiet Revolution

• GROUP ACTUALIZATION-DECOLOMONIZATION

• Ideology- assertiveness, questioning, Controlled by Quebec Provincial Gov’t.

• Radicalism to reestablish mastery
Conquest 1759-63

• The Conquest forced French Canadian society to seek to maintain its sense of distinctiveness from Britain.

• French Canada maintained distinctive character through an ideology known as La Survivance or survival.
Pre vs. Post Conquest

• **French Canada prior to the Conquest** was a trading society but following its collapse…,

• French Canada became a *rural society* resting upon subsistence farming by landholding families in local communities called *parishes*.

• See Horace Miner, *Saint Dennis* (1933)
`Revanche de berceau’

- La Survivance sought to maintain a distinctiveness from English Canadians through an philosophy known as "la revanche de berceau" or revenge of the cradle.
`Revanche de berceau’

- Defeated nation's belief that French Canadian culture would survive only by reproducing itself at a much higher rate than natural increase.

- Ultimately achieved through Roman Catholic Church in Quebec (Horn, 1977)
Population Explosion

Following the Conquest, the population of Quebec doubled roughly 25 years.

- From 70,000 in 1760; to 160,000 by 1791; 172,00 by 1840; 485,000 by 1850 and 900,000 by Canada's Confederation in 1867. (1974:77)
Until late 1950s

• The continuation of high fertility rates up until 1950
• While the world's population multiplied by four from 1800 until 1954,
• The French-Canadian population multiplied by eighty.(Horn,1974:80)
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Passive Resistance

• La Survivance= resistance

• French Canadian society resisted the materialism of the English Canadian and survived as a group through-"a single line of social development-rural development".

• (Rioux and Martin, 1968:142)
Hebert Guindon (1978)

• Quiet Revolution 1960s….

• An aggressive government, a rising middle class and the Quiet Revolution of the late 1950's and early 1960's, French Canadian culture "came out of the Dark Ages". (Guindon, 1978:214)
Marie Chapdelain (1934)

• "The myth of French Canada"

• HEMON, L. Marie Chapdelaine. Récit du Canada français
Summary

• French Canadian society is an integral part of the Canadian mosaic.

• Porter calls them a “charter group” along with the English

• Historically French Canadian held a subserviant status in Canada. Particularly, through the Post Conquest stage
• However, the group experienced actualization and decolonization through the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s.

• French Canadians no longer accept English domination…They have become “masters of their own house”