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The Battle for Quebec

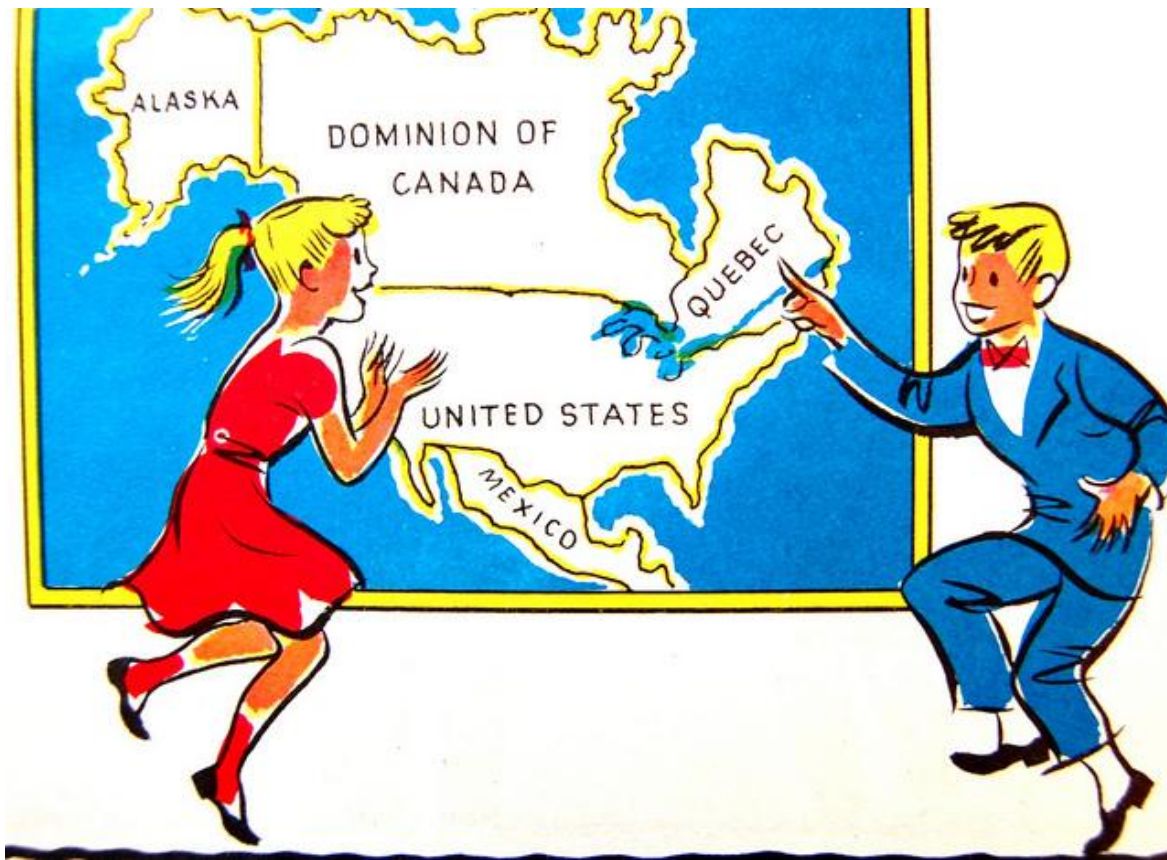
- Nowhere in Canada did the 1960s hit with quite the force that they did in Quebec.
- The shock waves of that era would last for decades and shake Canada to its very foundations.

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- Before delving into this period of English-French tensions, can anyone think of some of the previous events that strained the relationship 400-year old relationship?

- From 1936-1939 and again from 1944-1959, Quebec was controlled by **Premier Maurice Duplessis.**



- He was a **strong Quebec nationalist** who thought of Quebec as its own nation.



- During this era, the **Roman Catholic Church** became the main defender of Quebec culture. **Religion dominated** education, language, and philosophy.



- Many referred to this extremely conservative period as 'la grande noiceur' – **the Great Darkness.**



3 DISC SET

HIGH FIDELITY

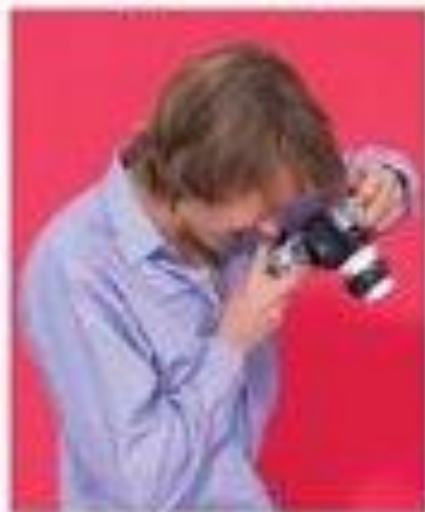
60 CLASSIC TRACKS




SWINGING




SIXTIES!



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- After Duplessis died in 1960, **Jean Lesage** (Liberal) came into power. He brought in a number of changes which came to be known as the **Quiet Revolution**.



- *“Jean Lesage is the only person I know who can strut sitting down.”*
~ Prime Minister Diefenbaker

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- Education was overhauled and the power of the Church was quickly dismantled.
 - Women's rights and social programs were all modernized.

- Lesage campaigned under the slogan, **‘Maitres chez nous’ – Masters of our own House.**



MAINTENANT OU JAMAIS!



**MAÎTRES
CHEZ NOUS**

- Lesage wasn't seeking independence from Quebec, but he wanted **more control** over decisions affecting its future.



The Birth of Separation

- With Quebec's new advances, many **French citizens became frustrated** at the injustices they felt at the hands of Anglo-Canadians.
- Many began to call for **separation** from Canada

Rendez-vous à
MONTREAL




expo67


28 AVRIL-27 OCTOBRE



Bring your camera!

Apportez votre appareil!

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- In 1967, Montreal hosted Expo.
 - During his visit, **French President Charles DeGaulle** gave a famous speech. He said Montreal reminded him of Paris after it was liberated from the Nazis.

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- The insult was clear: Quebec was an occupied country waiting to be freed from English oppressors.
 - He ended his speech with “**Vive le Quebec libre!**” – **Long live a Free Quebec!** This was the slogan of the separatists.

« Vive le Québec

libre ! »




- De Gaulle had given the separatists an international stamp of approval.



- Many politicians referred to De Gaulle's speech as "peeing on our rug."



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- *“Canadians do not need to be liberated. Indeed, many thousands of Canadians gave their lives in two world wars in the liberation of France...”*

~ PM Lester B Pearson’s reply

- In 1967, the Quebec cabinet minister **Rene Lesveque** left the Liberal Party and formed the **Parti Quebecois** – a provincial party determined to achieve Quebec **independence**.



- Other young radicals joined **terrorist groups** such as the **FLQ** (Front de la Liberation du Quebec) and fought in the name of a free Quebec.



*Front de libération
du Québec*

- The FLQ began **setting off bombs** in Montreal. Between 1963-70, they staged 30 armed robberies and exploded more than 200 bombs.




- Things are about to get a little crazy...

**TO BE
CONTINUED...** 



- Enter **Pierre Elliott Trudeau.**

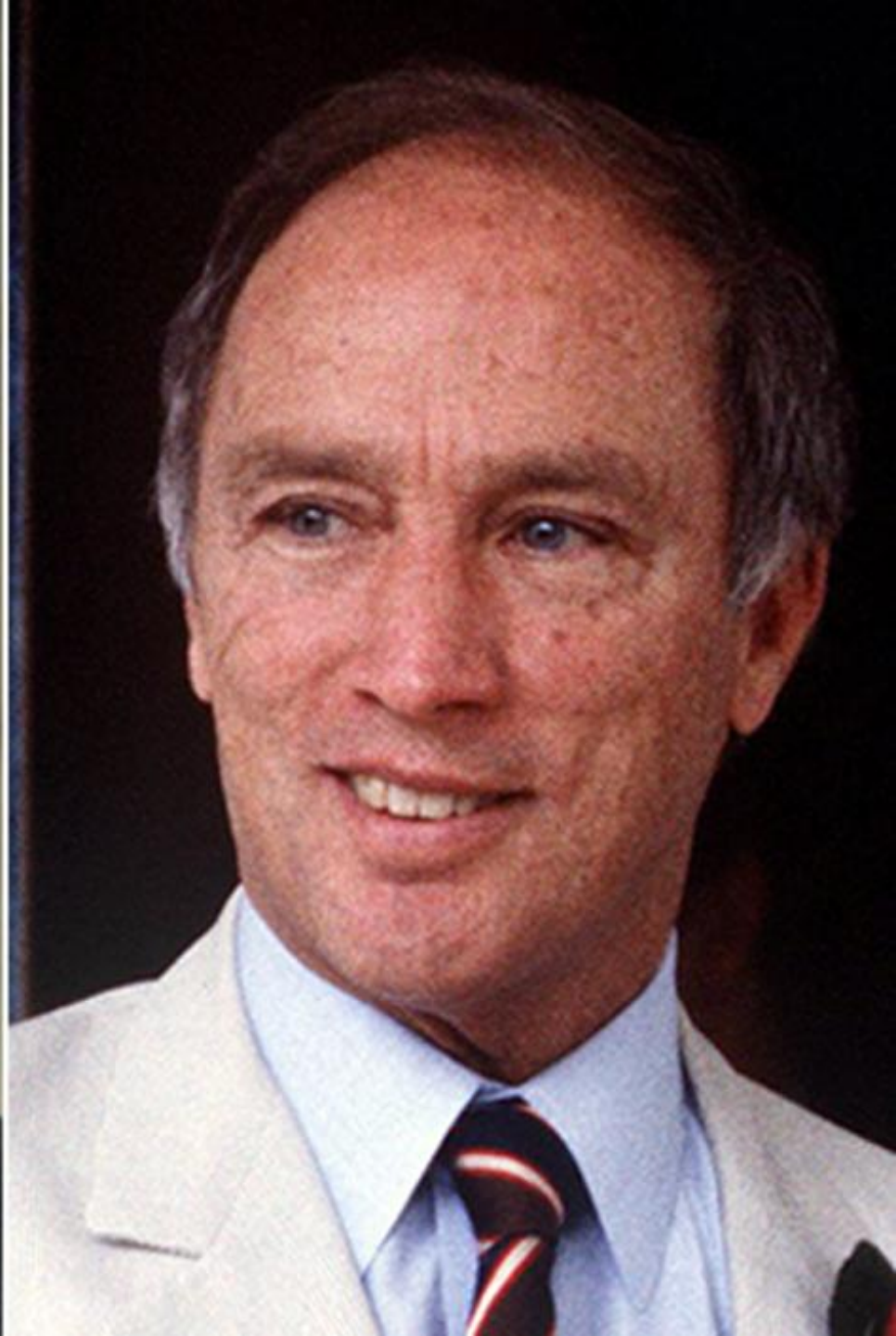



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- He was a law professor, son of a self-made millionaire, and something of a **rock star** in intellectual circles – studied at Harvard, University of Paris, and the London School of Economics.
 - In the late 1960s, **Trudeaumania** began...











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- As a youth, he backpacked and hitchhiked his way around the world, travelling through some of the most dangerous areas on the planet and surviving on his wits alone.

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- As an eyewitness to wars and revolutions in China, Israel, India, and Asia. Trudeau developed a **deep and long-lasting distaste for ethnic nationalism** – and that included the separatists of Quebec.

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- In order to pacify the separatists, in 1968, Trudeau helped pass the **Official Languages Act** – Canada became **officially bilingual**.
 - Many Quebecers wanted “**special status**” for Quebec, but Trudeau refused.

The October Crisis

- In 1970, members of the **FLQ kidnapped James Cross**, a British diplomat from his home in Montreal.



- In exchange for his release, the FLQ **demand the release of FLQ members** in prison – the government refused.



- Five days later, the FLQ **kidnapped Quebec Minister Pierre Laporte**




FLQ Manifesto

- *"We have had enough of promises of work and prosperity," the manifesto read. "When in fact we will always be the diligent servants and bootlickers of the big shots ... we will be slaves until Quebecers, all of us, have used every means, including dynamite and guns, to drive out these big bosses of the economy and of politics, who will stoop to any action, however base, the better to screw us ..."*

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- What do you think Trudeau did in **response** to the kidnappings?

- Trudeau asked Parliament to impose the **War Measures Act** – which suspended civil rights



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- Anyone could be arrested without being charged for an offense.
 - **Federal troops were sent to patrol the streets** of Ottawa and Montreal.





<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Digital+Archives/Politics/ID/1404651972/>

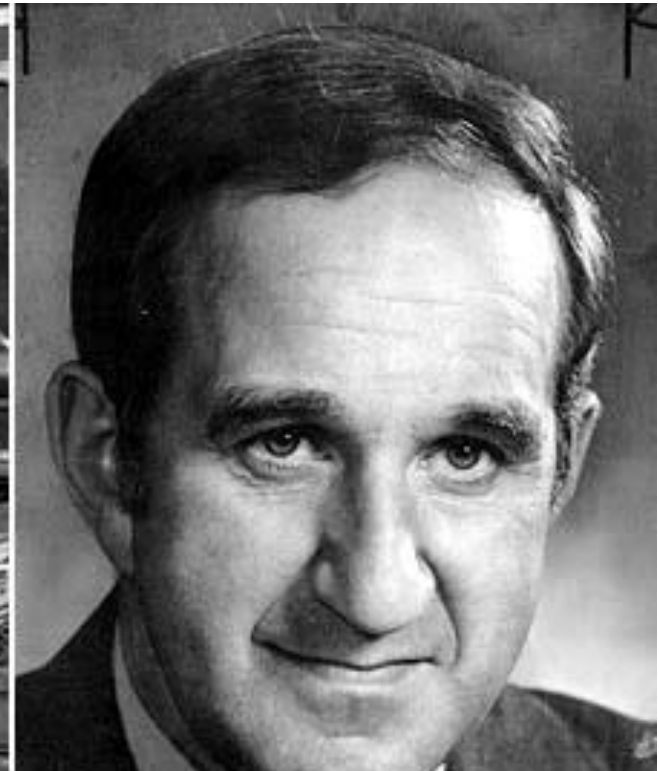


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- A few days later, **Laporte's strangled body was discovered** in the trunk of a car.
- Two months later the police found the group holding Cross – in exchange for Cross, the group was given safe passage to Cuba.

- Laporte's death would mark the beginning of the end of the FLQ as **sympathy abruptly shifted away from the group.**



Paul Rose



Jacques Rose



Francis Simard



Bernard Lortie


- The longest sentence any of them served was **11 years**. By the early 1980s, every one of the FLQ members involved was back on the streets.



- Those detained under the War Measures Act were released **ending the October Crisis.**



- So what?
- The October Crisis convinced most frustrated Quebecers that change would come through **political action not violence.**
- By the late 1970s, the **Parti Quebecois** became a serious force – making Quebecers decide whether to stay or separate.

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- Read over the notes you have taken on Quebec-Canadian relations we have taken over the past few days.
 - Please summarize them into three concise sentences.

- In 1976 the **Parti Quebecois** took power – promised to hold a **referendum** vote regarding independence.

- Soon thereafter, Rene Levesque's PQ gov't passed **Bill 101**. Very controversial.
- The bill required that **French be the language** used by governments, courts, and businesses in Quebec. Commercial signs could **only** be displayed in **French**.

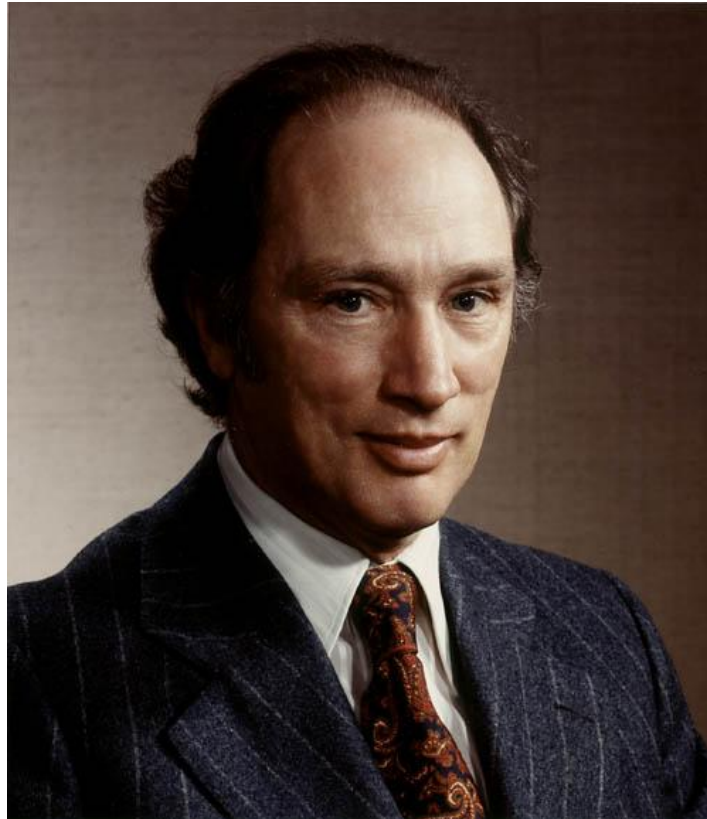
- ❑ Restricted access to English schools – at least one parent had to have previously attended English school in Quebec.



- The referendum vote for independence was held in 1980, with the **majority of Quebecers (60%) voting against leaving.**



- After a short break, **Trudeau returned to power as PM in 1980.**



- Hard to believe, but Canada was still **not a fully independent nation in 1980.**



- The country was still governed under the terms of the **BNA Act** – drafted in 1867 by John A. Macdonald.

- The act was an act of British Parliament, and any changes to had to be approved by Britain.




- This had become a **mere formality**, but it still took time and energy.

- Trudeau made it his mission to bring the Constitution home (**repatriate it**).



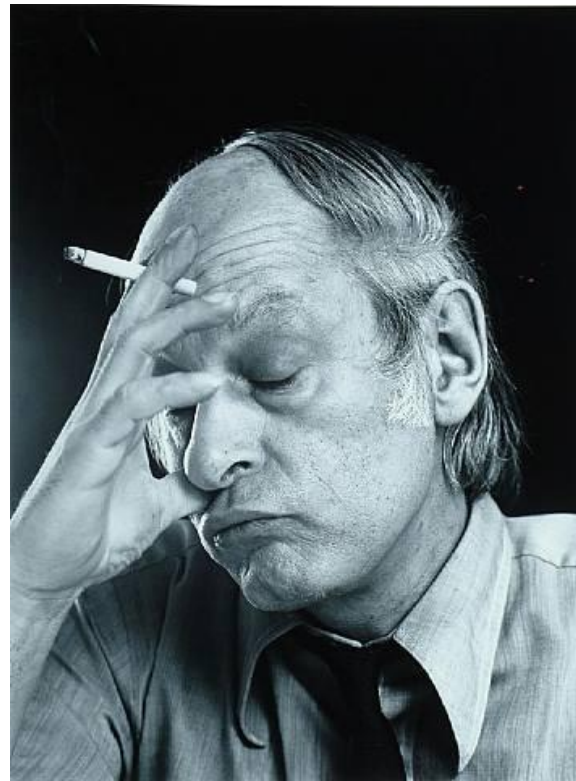
- During the referendum campaign, Trudeau promised Quebec he would update the Constitution to make it fairer. He had 3 goals:
- 1. Bring it **home**
- 2. To create an **effective amending formula** for future changes
- 3. To add a **Charter of Rights and Freedoms**


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- The 10 provincial premiers met in November, 1981 to draft a new constitution.

- However, on the final night of the meeting, all were awakened in the middle of the night to look at last minute changes, **except for Rene Levesque (Kitchen Accord)**.



- While the PM and the nine premiers reached an agreement, **Quebec felt betrayed**, and **did not sign** Canada's new Constitution.



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- So, with the **1982 Constitution Act**, Trudeau brought Canada's constitution home – complete with a **Charter of Rights** and an **Amending formula** – but the process served to further **strain English-French relations**.

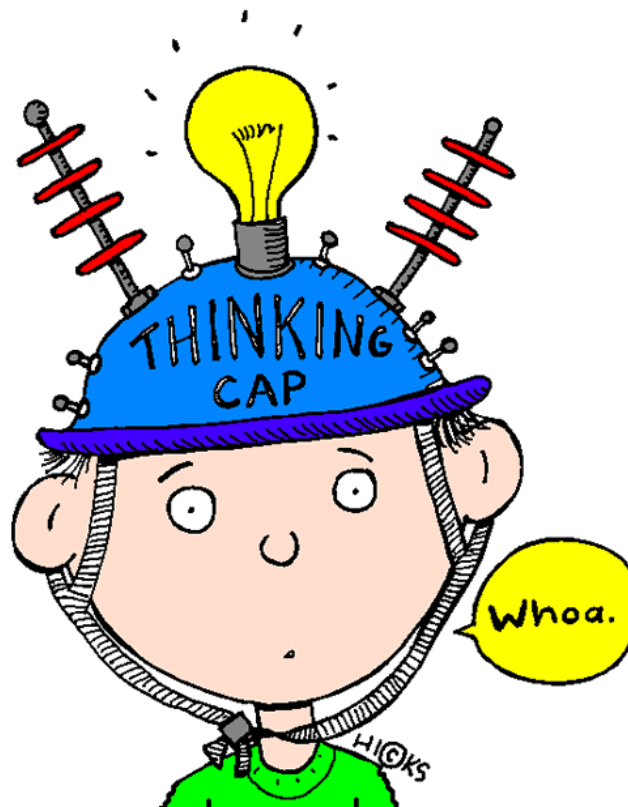





Night of the Long Knives –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTyADqZlebQ>



- What would a Canada, without Quebec, look like?



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- Question of the Day:
 - In your opinion, what **impact** would Quebec's separation have on the rest of Canada and the province of Quebec?

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- **Evaluate** the development of French Canadian and English Canadian relations from throughout the period 1914 to 2000.
 - http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/marking_materials/ss11/ss11training_papers07.pdf