

The Party Politics of the Quebec Independence Movement

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May 4, 2016

9:00am – 4:30pm

Outline

- 1. Introduction: Birth of a Dream**
 - a. Origins and emergence of the independence movement
 - b. The Parti Québécois becomes the vehicle of choice
- 2. Getting elected**
 - a. The campaigns of 1972 and 1976, with Quebec as a two-party state
 - b. Wanting a country, governing a province
- 3. The Parti Québécois, the party that eats its leaders**
 - a. The enduring importance of the humiliation narrative
 - b. Lévesque, the secular saint who was stabbed in the back
 - c. Frustration of every PQ leader—save for one
- 4. The ‘modern’ independence movement**
 - a. Boisclair and an attempt at renewal
 - b. The loss of 2007, and learning a few bad lessons
 - c. Falling back on old habits—and a disturbing new-ish one
- 5. Capitalizing on Liberal overindulgences once again**
 - a. The Charest years—or, Robert Bourassa times 100
 - b. Party based corruption: everyone’s guilty
 - c. Marois and the issue of party integrity
 - d. A close win, and a disastrous 18 months
- 6. The law of diminishing nationalist returns**
 - a. The PQ and other independence parties
 - b. PKP and yet another promise of renewal
 - c. The cold, hard truth in numbers
- 7. What’s next**
 - a. That damned Liberal hegemony.

Required Reading List (find these readings on course reserve*: <http://reserves.concordia.ca/>)

Fraser, Graham. 2001. *René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power*. Chapters 6 and 19.

Pelletier, Benoît. 2008. "Reclaiming Canada: The Affirmation of Quebec's Identity within the Canadian Federation" in *Reconquering Canada: Quebec Federalists Speak up for Change*, edited by André Pratte, Chapter 3.

Garneau, Marc. 2008. "First, Let Us Understand Each Other" in *Reconquering Canada: Quebec Federalists Speak up for Change*, edited by André Pratte, Chapter 11.

Richler, Mordecai. 1992. "One" in *Oh, Canada! Oh, Quebec!*, Chapter 1

Richler, Mordecai. 1999. "From the Ottawa Monkey House . . . to Referendum" in *Belling the Cat: Essays, Reports, and Opinions*.

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca