

Assignment #4

Do you think Québec should separate from Canada? Why or why not? Write a thoughtful 1-2 page reaction paper on this topic. Below are some suggested issues you may wish to discuss. Outside research (news articles, books, etc.) will be rewarded.

1. What would be the effect on the Québec economy?
2. What are the potential cultural benefits? To whom?
3. What are the potential cultural disadvantages? For whom?
4. How would the minority populations feel?
5. How would the world react? (Look at recent reactions about Kosovo)
6. Is there an analogy in the United States?
7. Do you think the Cree (or the Native Americans here in this country) should get the same treatment? (I.e. get their own state if you agree, not get their state if you disagree) Why or why not?
8. Are there any general rules for all similar situations you think should be considered?

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Definitions in the “Political Geography” sub-discipline (from Kuby 2004):

Nation – A territorially based community of people who usually have similar language or religion, a common history (real or imagined), and accepted social ways of behavior that give it a common culture.

Nation-state – A state that has the same boundaries as a nation.

State – A political territory equivalent to a “country.” Necessary components to qualify as a full-fledged state include: (a) defined boundaries, (b) an effective government, (c) international recognition of its formal independence, (d) full sovereignty, (e) organized economy and circulation system, and (f) permanent resident population.

Nationalism – Loyalty to the nation to which you belong (often misused to refer to patriotism).

Patriotism – Loyalty to the governing state in which you live.

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