

# National Matters

*Feature Documentary*  
(1 x 92 min.)



(2009) Much like the little Gallic village of Asterix and Obelix that resists Roman occupation, Quebec is in a unique situation in North America. Homeland of 6 million French-speaking people in an ocean of 350 million Anglophones, it holds high the flag of its identity and originality. Quebecers have been struggling with the dream of independence for more than 150 years now. Without a magic potion though, their journey is not without peril and their survival strategies are neither obvious, nor unanimous.

How can we explain that a nation, rich and democratic, like Quebec has not become an independent state while more than a hundred new states have been created in the world since the Second World War?

Some have said that the Quebecois were not normal, politically inept, maybe condemned to insignificance or worst to predictable extinction. The Quebecois may seem a bizarre political animal, certainly two-headed and all spread out in its multiple identities, its ambivalent feelings and its undecipherable political strategies. To see more clearly in these matters, we thought that it would be a good idea to take a step back from our subject and then look at the cases of Catalonia in Spain and of Scotland in Great Britain that are in similar situation.

In Scotland, there are two particular mirror effects that we find interesting: first the double identity feeling (Québécois-Canadian, Scottish-British) and secondly the economic uncertainty (would we be better off independent or within Canada/Great Britain). In Catalonia, it is in the cultural and linguistic fragility that we can recognize ourselves, as well as in the difficult task of breaking-up from an existing and strong State (Canada/Spain).

We are convinced that in looking at how the others are and behave, we can better understand ourselves, Québécois and Canadian, because when we look at others, we don't have the emotions that get in the way of our understanding.

NATIONAL MATTERS is a non-partisan and fresh look at questions that have been haunting the political and social life of the Quebecois and the Canadians for a long time. From the Quebec electoral campaign of March 2007, to the Scottish one in April 2007, with a close look at the debate over the new statute of autonomy in Catalonia, the film wishes to shed a new light on the question. We are not alone facing this kind of debate, the Scots and the Catalan can help us better understand ourselves.

**A FILM BY ROGER BOIRE AND JEAN-PIERRE ROY**



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