CAJUNS?

What does it mean to be Cajun, and what makes Cajuns any different from the rest of Americans?

Two new books take a stab at these deceptively simple questions.

By R. Norris Fisher

The 1988 census counted about 10 million of the Cajun population, who resided from the edge of the Okefenokee Desert to the fringes of the Bayou Country. It was a sprawl of culture that spanned the Louisiana and Mississippi delta, a region that had been settled by the French and their descendants for over 300 years. In the heart of this vast territory, a unique people, the Cajuns, had carved out a way of life that was distinct from that of the rest of the Americans.

The Cajuns are a population of European descent who migrated to the Gulf Coast regions of Louisiana and Mississippi from the southwest of France in the 18th and 19th centuries. They are known for their distinctive culture, language, and cuisine. The Cajun language, a French-based dialect, is spoken by about 100,000 people in Louisiana and is considered one of the last surviving examples of the Acadian language.

While the Cajuns are often associated with the bayou areas of Louisiana, they are actually found throughout the Gulf Coast region, including parts of Texas and Arkansas. The Cajun culture is rich in traditions, including music, dance, and cooking, and is celebrated in festivals and events throughout the year.

Despite their unique heritage, the Cajuns have often been the target of prejudice and discrimination. In the past, they were rarely portrayed in a positive light in the media, and their culture was often misunderstood. But with the rise of Cajun music and cuisine in the 1980s, the Cajuns have gained a new level of recognition and respect for their contributions to American culture.

Today, the Cajuns are still a vibrant community, and their culture is preserved through festivals, music, and cuisine. They continue to be a source of pride for their people, and their story is one of resilience and perseverance.
New Economies

No sooner does Canada's second largest city become the official host of the No. 1 country on the list of "world economic superpowers", that it's already on the map for the Canadian government's second major economic initiative of the year. The project, called "New Economies", is being marketed as a way to diversify the economy and create jobs in the 21st century.

One of the main goals of the initiative is to develop a new technology sector that can compete on the global stage. This includes investments in areas such as biotechnology, renewable energy, and information technology.

The government has earmarked $10 billion for the project, with half of that going to the provinces. The provinces are expected to match the federal investment, bringing the total to $20 billion.

The initiative is expected to create thousands of new jobs and will focus on developing new industries that are not dependent on the traditional resource sector. The government is also looking to attract foreign investment to help finance the new ventures.

The Canadian government is partnering with private sector companies to help drive innovation and create new products and services. The goal is to make Canada a leader in the global economy and create a strong, innovative economy that can withstand economic downturns.

The New Economies initiative is part of a broader strategy to make Canada more competitive in the global economy. The government has also introduced reforms to improve the education system, to encourage entrepreneurship, and to attract and retain top talent.

In addition to the New Economies initiative, the government is also focusing on improving the country's infrastructure, including highways, bridges, and transit systems. This will help to reduce the cost of doing business and make Canada more attractive to investors.

The government is also working to improve the country's environmental performance, with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

Overall, the government is taking a comprehensive approach to economic development, with a focus on innovation, infrastructure, and the environment.