

VII. Canada and the United States

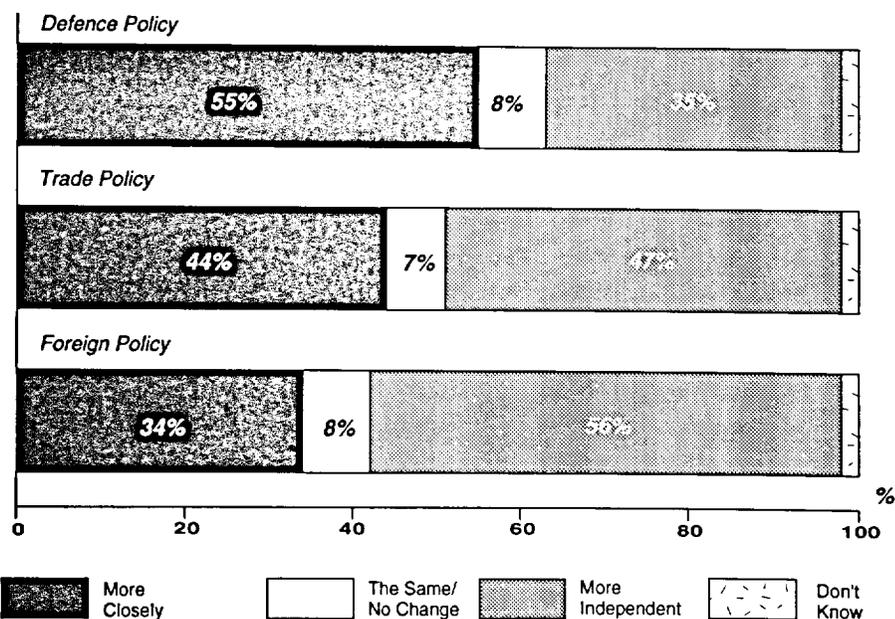
Most Canadians (81%) believe that Canada should maintain a foreign policy which is independent from the United States.¹⁵ Canada's relationship with the United States has three principal aspects (political, economic and military) each of which has been a contentious political issue in Canada at some point (e.g. Cuba, 1961; free trade, 1988; cruise missile testing, 1983-85).

An important finding of this study is that Canadians view the three aspects of the relationship in different ways. Canadians will entertain different attitudes towards the US depending on the issue at hand, be it economic, political or military.

As Figure 21 shows, a majority of Canadians (56%) want a more independent foreign policy for Canada, while a majority (55%) also want closer military cooperation with the United States. Canadians are split on whether Canada should pursue a more independent trade policy.

Figure 21
Canada and the United States

*Should Canada work more closely with the United States
or be more independent with regard to ...*



¹⁵ Please refer to Figure 2 on page 12 of this report.