
Introduction

This article begins with my analysis of the failure over the past dozen years of the Canadian government's strategy for managing the relationship with the United States. It is presented not as a balanced review of all the facts and opinions, in the manner of the objective journalist or the academic seeking neutral truth, but as a criticism of the policies that sprang from a misguided nationalism. I go on to propose a new strategy in which Canada would boldly take the initiative in seeking a closer and more cooperative relationship with the United States. Call it continentalism if you wish; the word is respectable and needs to be brought back into the language of debate on the relationship. After all, Canada does share most of a continent with the United States, and that alone demands a high degree of cooperation between the two countries. Canadian policies that ignore the high and rising level of interdependence are certain to fail, and in failing will further undermine Canada's national confidence. On the other hand, policies that recognize interdependence and manage it effectively will enable Canadian governments to concentrate energy and resources on other problems.

It would be easy to cite facts, figures and opinions in support of my arguments, but I have avoided for the most part the use of statistics and footnotes. I prefer to ask the reader to look at my case in the light of his or her own observations of the world: is the trend toward the indepen-

dence of national states such as Canada, or toward the recognition and management of their interdependence? It may be useful at this point to define what I mean by interdependence, and by two other words I shall use frequently.

By *interdependence*, I mean the recognition by countries that they are dependent on each other in the sense that their economies are parts of an international system beyond national control, and that in order to prosper they must coordinate their national policies, each having regard for the interests of the others.

To *integrate* is to bring together parts to make a whole, or to remove barriers that impose segregation. Businessmen may be said to be integrating the economies of Canada and the United States when they regard the two countries as one market for the purpose of planning investment and production. Governments may be said to be permitting or even encouraging integration when they reduce or remove tariff and other barriers that segregate the two economies.

Nationalism has meant different things in different countries at different times in history. I use the word here to refer to the modern Canadian brand of nationalism which is restrictive and defensive, because it arises from fear or envy of the United States.