

ing, if Canada consisted of fragmented, squabbling states with no effective construct at the centre to muster their total bargaining power. Fewer people in Canada would be talking much about the abstractions of sovereignty and competing fiefdoms if the United States — sure of little retaliation — decided to scrap the auto-pact, or if the European Community decided to move in, without restraint, on Canada's in-shore fisheries or international grain trade.