

This sense of cultural fragility is, in part, rationally based on the harsh economies of small size; certainly, the smallness of the Canadian market makes it hard for specialized cultural activities to thrive under free market competition. It is also, in part, rationally based on the fact of the pervasive influence of U.S. radio, television, magazines, and books in Canada. Sharing a common language with the United States certainly makes Canada much more susceptible to this kind of influence than are Mexico and the small countries of Central America. Finally, this sense of cultural fragility is, in part, irrationally based on Canadians' lack of understanding of the depths and strengths of their differences from Americans.

So, to use the correct analogy for the size discrepancy, two Canadian hippopotami -- one Francophone and one Anglophone -- live uneasily in the shadow of the American elephant. Or as Canadians see it -- and perceptions are at least as important as objective reality in these matters -- the Canadian mouse lies precariously in the shadow of the American elephant.

Canadians cannot help being influenced by the United States and being aware of this influence. Certainly, U.S. pressures tend to impinge on Canada much more than do Canadian pressures on the United States. If university graduate programs are superior in the United States, many good Canadian students do their graduate training there. If universities are better in the United States, Canadian academics who aspire to make good in the world league go there. If U.S.-based firms offer more and better research jobs, Canadian scientists migrate there. If living standards are higher in the United States, some Canadians move there. If the tax and subsidy treatment of firms is more favorable in the United States, some internationally oriented Canadian capital will leave for that country. If a market of 250 million provides a chance for artists to live reasonably on what they can earn, whereas a market of 25 million does not, many Canadian painters, pop singers, and musicians