

political, economic or diplomatic context. Among status groups within the United States, those groups that on margin were most supportive of Canadian interests, the lower end, were also those most likely to support protectionist actions. This fundamental orientation of Canada's constituency may be one of the most serious hidden threats in the Canadian-American relationship. Without a greater level of understanding of the importance of the Canadian-U.S. economic relationship among the Canadian constituency, problems that appear today to be minor could become exaggerated. Canada's economic interests in U.S.-Canadian relations are quite substantial and, at present, this high stake is being wagered on a general pool of good feeling but limited hard core support.