

The comparative Canadian constituency is at the lower end of the socio-economic scale. More educated and more affluent Americans tend to view Great Britain and Japan more favorably or as being more important to U.S. interests.

Free Trade and Protectionism

The recent prosperity and era of good feelings has tempered U.S. concerns with economic issues. Even so, there is strong support for the notion that the U.S. should do more to "protect against unfair trade" (74% to 16% agree).

Significantly, among Canada's strongest supporters, protectionist sentiment is even more intense. Economic issues continue to be most important to lower end socio-economic groups and protectionism is supported by majorities of 83% to 5%.

Support for protectionism, however, is not clear cut. Americans are divided, but a majority supports the view that international competition is good because it forces American industry to improve their products (60% to 31%). Americans disagree with the statement that Americans should purchase only American-made products even if they cost more than foreign products (71% to 32%).