

groups are simply fighting for more resources and attempting to raise the profile of secure trade.

Power Play

Finally, what a world power wants it usually gets. In the grand sweep of international relations, according to the hegemonic stability theory, the dominant power dictates the rules and sets the order.⁴⁷

So what does the United States want? Certainly, the country possesses "a revived sense of mission" (the defeat of global terrorism).⁴⁸ At the same time, it is not in America's interest to forego economic security, which is well appreciated in the Administration as well as in the business community.

Although it is often stressed how much Canada needs the U.S. in trade terms, the U.S. needs Canada nearly as much: Canada is the U.S.'s largest export market—larger than Japan

⁴⁶ Thomas J. Courchene, "The Case for Currency Union," Background Statement Presented at Borderlines: Canada's Options in North America, Montreal (November 1-2, 2002).

⁴⁷ When the theory of hegemonic stability was first formulated by Charles Kindleberger, it offered a cogent interpretation of the creation of free trade regimes in the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries during the *Pax Britannica* and *Pax Americana*, respectively. The singular impact of Great Britain and the United States on the development and enforcement of a set of monetary rules, institutions and procedures was helped by the fact that they were both, in their time, the undisputed economic heavyweights. Not only were they strong, they were willing to assume the leadership role, possessing as they did an invested interest in the proliferation of classical liberalism, a system that relies first and foremost on a free market with the minimum of barriers to the flow of private trade and capital. Charles P. Kindleberger, "Systems of Economic Organizations," in *Money and the Coming World Order*, ed. David P. Calleo (New York: New York University Press, 1976) and Robert Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1987): 72-77.

⁴⁸ Robert W. Tucker, "The End of a Contradiction," Special Issue: One Year On: Power, Purpose and Strategy in American Foreign Policy," *The National Interest* (Fall 2002): 6.