

Throughout this time, Canadians have very strong opinions about the United States. Part of the reason is historical: just as America was born of the desire not to be British, so Canada was born with the determination not to be American. In a sense our histories are mere images: American defeats in the Revolution and in the War of 1812 were Canadian victories. The name of Benedict Arnold suggests something very different to a child sitting in a classroom in Sudbury, Ontario, than it does to a child in Plattsburg, New York. Canadian anti-Americanism probably reached a high point in the late 1960's, when many Canadians were opposed to the Vietnam war and welcomed draft resisters -- and we, therefore, became the beneficiary in many ways of the cream of a generation of young talented Americans. What is interesting is that many of those Americans who came then have now matured beyond the cause of their coming to Canada and, like so many Canadians of other origins, are now directing their talents to the development of a more self-confident Canada.

That new maturity, I think, is the key to understanding what this country is and what it is becoming. This nation has grown up even though some of our peoples still have the reflex of seeking comfort in old fears and old fantasies. The trade debate will crystalize that issue and it is high time. Canada has too many challenges to meet in the future to become bogged down in quarrels about the past. There are always going to be differences between Canada and the United States - some of them serious. We are, after all, separate nations. But the days of automatic fears and automatic differences are behind us.

There is one other dimension of Canada-United States relations that this agreement brings into focus -- and that is how our nations work together. We are different societies with important disagreements on everything from acid rain to Zimbabwe. If you think about that that is everything from "A" acid rain to "Z" Zimbabwe.

We have important disagreements. Since conflict is news those disagreements become well-known, but they are only part of the story. The other part is that our two countries work together in creating international institutions and practices of quite remarkable durability, and incalculable value to the world.