

Free trade

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companies more access to the American market.

How angry are people about free trade?

The media and politicians would like everyone to think that the free trade issue has gone away. But we find when we go across the country, that people are still interested in free trade because it concerns Canada's independence. They are worried that if we don't have an economic border with the United States, soon we will lose our political border also.

It's true people are getting angrier since the deal was signed, but people were opposed to free trade before, too. In the last election, Mulroney only got 43 per cent of the vote. The problem was there were two opposition parties which fought each other instead of Mulroney, so he won the election.

A Decima poll recently said that 60 per cent of Canadians are opposed to current free trade talks with Mexico, and 65 per cent want free trade with the U.S. cancelled.

Grassroots Opposition

Is it even possible for a movement to arise here that could successfully oppose free trade, considering how much of Canada is already in American hands?

There is already a movement. In the 1891 election and in the one in 1911, around 52 per cent of Canadians voted both times against economic union with the U.S. In the 1988 election, the numbers actually increased, with 57 per cent of Canadians voting against free trade.

This is especially striking when you consider the unprecedented campaign waged by the deal's supporters during the election. The Mulroney government itself spent \$30 million of taxpayer's money pushing for free trade. American business stepped into our election in an unprecedented way and spent \$20 million through their subsidies in Canada.

On our side, we had a few thousand dollars sent in by citizens across the country. It was completely a one-sided battle, and yet more Canadians voted against free trade than at any time in our history.

If the NDP and the Liberals had worked together, they could have won up to 210 seats in the House of Commons and defeated free trade.

What alternative does Canada have to this free trade agreement?

There are alternative visions to running a country, you know. We're the second largest country in the world, and we have resources that other countries can only dream of. Instead, we have Canadians eating out of foodbanks while our resources are being pumped out from under us by American corporations.

Mulroney is saying it doesn't matter who owns the economy, as long as they provide jobs. Well, I'm a farmer. You can't tell me it doesn't matter who owns my farm. I know that if someone else owns my farm, they get to say jump, and I get to say how high. It's exactly the same story for Canada.

The first thing we have to do is stop giving Americans control of our economy. We must take positive steps to regain control of our resources and economy.

Of course, the Americans are not going to say, oh, you want your country back? Here it is. The Americans don't take kindly to people or countries that want control over their economy back. Take Chile as an example.

What we think will work is if the NDP and Liberals form an electoral coalition in the next election when they win. It would be much harder for the Americans to destabilize an alliance of two major political parties with broad support from Canadians.

We're at a stage that if we don't form a strong alliance against American business, we're going to simply become a territory of the United States, like Puerto Rico or Hawaii.

Global reflections: Images of a global crisis

by Mike Glaister

Flux

THREE DAYS. In three days the leader of the largest country in the world was deposed and reinstated.

"The skies are clearing..."
"The coup is officially over..."

A country with one of the largest arsenals in the world.

"...coup disintegrated in six hours."

One of the largest armed forces in the world.

"The troops are... pulling out of Leningrad"

Three days.

"The future of the Soviet Union is still in flux."

The future of the world is still in flux.

New World Math: Yeltsin = Asshole

AT THE END of the crisis Russian President Boris Yeltsin was quick to blame Gorbachev totally for the coup. Perhaps I'm in the minority but I seem to remember two other factions wrestling for power at the same time. Blameless Boris was one faction... the Russian hardliners were the other faction.

You have Gorbachev trying to administer reforms while politically fighting off the advances of the Hardliners on one side and Yeltsin (pro-reform, anti-Gorbachev) on the other.

Actually, I'm kind of surprised that the coup didn't happen sooner (it may have succeeded). I notice that Gorbachev and Yeltsin are closer than two peas in a pod... for now.

New World Math: Schwarzkopf = Cool

HE CAME OFF as a straight-from-the-hip kinda guy. He wasn't scared to make his views known: from the notorious "luckiest man in Iraq" joke to his comments that the multinational force should have finished Iraq.

Of course when you have the United Nations and the world's strongest power behind you...

New World Math: Schwarzkopf = Sex

A FEW WEEKS ago there was a survey involving American women. It asked them who would they like to be stranded on a desert island with. The number one choice was actor/director Kevin Costner, the second choice was Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf! Get a load of this: you're on a moonlit, deserted beach discussing battle strategy with Norm. Fun? Wow!!

Resurrection

LATVIA AND THE Baltic states, St. Petersburg, the Ukraine... the U.S.

Killing Blow

U.S.S.R., MARX, STALIN, the Warsaw Pact and the Cold War. Ghandi, rest in peace. Oh yes... les Forces Armees du Canada for the most part relegated to support capabilities... rest in peace (pieces if the government has anything to say about it).

Owning Up

YUGOSLAVIA IS AT civil war. At last count (when this passage was written) four ceasefires have been violated. The government is one step from crushing the "rebellion" staged by Croatia. U.N. is threatening sanctions. By the time the sanctions have any effect Croatia won't exist. It's do or die time for Croatia, Yugoslavia and the U.N.

Owning Up 2: Permanent Vacation?

ARISTIDE, THE FIRST democratically-elected president, is on the lam, victim of a coup. He is currently calling on aid to reinstate him. Few nights back I was watching his supporters demonstrate (in front of the Haitian embassies) calling for action.

The Organization of American States will establish sanctions against Haiti. I believe a more personal touch will be needed.

I'm betting the new leaders have already started withholding fuel and other supplies. They should be able to hold out for an extended period of time (like months). The general populace on the other hand... nyah.

Get a lawn chair Aristide, suck down a cold one, for until you shake the right hands you're on extended vacation.

Colder Comfort

THE COLD WAR really sucked, but it did serve a purpose in the roughly 40 years it existed. It kept the big two superpowers, America and the U.S.S.R., at bay.

Currently, in the midst of breakaway republics and severe military cut-backs (literally cutting its forces by 2 million bodies), the Soviet (soon to be Russian) Union is rapidly losing its prominence.

The big two has become one. I don't believe there is another country that is an adequate match for the Americans except possibly China. The U.S. is in a position to drastically affect world affairs.

I won't miss the Cold War or its offspring M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction) but there was comfort in knowing that there was some kind of balance to keep things from getting hot. Cool things down if you will.

New World Order: Now

- Soviet Union's left with several potential troublespots... among them the Asian and Muslim states

- Yugoslavia and Croatia... crumbling

- Racism boiling in Germany, still struggling with unification... the immigrants are being kept at facilities to "protect them from the public"

- French nationalism takes an ominous turn

- Freedom in communist states... freedom to think, freedom to do, freedom to hate

- South Africa breaking down the barriers... slowly

There's more of course, all of it fast, electric but nothing different... the players have changed but it's still the same old song.

FREE
WITH
EVERY
'NEW
WORLD'
ORDER

