

Nothing is said about the role of Canadian diplomats in the conduct of our foreign policy. Like other bureaucrats, diplomats are influential in determining the character and direction of our external relations. There is one table showing the distribution of Canadian posts abroad by geographic region. But it is not clear whether these are embassies, consulates or both. And no explanation is provided for what functions these "posts" perform for External Affairs.

Apart from these minor reservations, the chapter is recommendable reading for undergraduates. The authors show enthusiasm for their subject and avoid the off-putting jargon so often confronted by beginning students in texts of Canadian political affairs. On the whole, the chapter under review is a reasonably timely and up-to-date survey of Canada in the international system — a useful and resourceful addition to the educative literature on Canadian foreign policy.

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Macdonald Commission persuaders

by Peyton V. Lyon

The Politics of Canada's Economic Relationship with the United States edited by Denis Stairs and Gilbert R. Winham, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1986, 210 pages \$16.95.

This rewarding volume offers five of the papers that helped the Macdonald Commission reach its compelling conclusion in favor of free trade with the United States. None, however, advocated that course. Three are relatively neutral while the others are characterized by the excessive caution typical of Canadian political scientists. Most of them, indeed, seem determined to deprive their economist colleagues of the distinction of pursuing the "dismal science."

Jack Granatstein, a political historian, contributes a lucid, authoritative account of Canada's earlier flirtations

with continental free trade. He concludes, not surprisingly, on a note of caution. Jock Finlayson offers a clear, but quite familiar, analysis of shifts in Congressional attitudes and behavior. Like Stephen Clarkson and others, he urges a heavier concentration of Canada's diplomatic resources on Washington. Wisely, however, he concludes that our principal target should remain the administration. Two American contributors, Gary Hufbauer and Andrew Samet, demonstrate with ease the reasons why a sectoral approach to continental free trade, so appealing to many Canadians, would simply not work. They urge Ottawa to adopt a bolder, more comprehensive approach.

The chapter by Charles Pentland illustrates why he is the one Canadian political scientist studying international integration to have earned an enviable international reputation. He analyzes thoughtfully the potential domestic consequences of free trade areas in general, and with the United States in particular. While remaining well within the cautious tradition of Canadian political science, Pentland easily dismisses the alarmism characteristic of Canadian nationalists such as publisher Mel Hurtig and Shirley Carr, President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

The most theoretical chapter is by Professor Kim Richard Nossal. With healthy skepticism, he assesses the global literature on economic nationalism, and then the Canadian variant. Usefully, he rejects the labelling of advocates of free trade with the United States as "continentalists." But Nossal's proposed alternative, "integrationalist," is no improvement! Certainly free trade *could* be a step towards tighter forms of political and economic union. But the historical record demonstrates that free trade has always stopped at that level, or contributed to a *decline* in overall "integration." Informed advocates of a Canada-US free trade arrangement make a persuasive case that they are actually promoting Canadian independence, both economically and politically.

If Nossal and others wish a new label to describe supporters of free trade fairly and accurately, why not try "free trader?"

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Chronicling 1986

by Clyde Sanger

Canada among Nations: 1986/Talking Trade edited by Brian W. Tomlin and Maureen Appel Molot. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1987, 230 pages, \$14.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth.

This is the third in a (profitably unending?) series of books by the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. In chapters written mostly by Carleton professors, these books usefully chronicle, one calendar year at a time, the efforts of Canada on the world stage. Occasionally, too, they tell you when some of the stage scenery fell on this minor player; but 1986 was not a year when the roof fell in. So this volume is a useful, rather than an exciting, book.

Of course, there are disadvantages in writing about a single year. The reader is often left in the middle of some development, waiting for the climax; 1986 was an awkward year in that way. The Canada-US trade talks were under way, but also under wraps; so Tomlin and Molot are left hovering — and hawing — in any judgments. David Leyton-Brown has the simpler job, done very competently, of describing the shakes and the shingles we went through during the early rounds. Again, Joel Sokolsky is kept waiting for the Defence White Paper, but fills his space with good background material about the Commitment-Capability Gap and the deplorable state of our naval forces. And of course the advantage of these yearly chronicles is that you feel impelled to buy the next volume, to learn how some of it ended.

Of its eleven chapters one of the most interesting is that of Harald von Riekhoff on the structure of decision-making and management of foreign policy. For he has contrasts to make — the "brokerage politics" of Brian Mulroney versus the "rational management" of Pierre Trudeau — and trends to analyze, such as the quasi-anarchy of 1984-85 being gradually sorted out through a resurgent Privy Council Office. And the use by Mulroney of summitry to speed up an immobile bureaucracy. Here, one feels, we are glimpsing how it really is.