

pinpoint the beginning of Canadian self-determination is not easy. Did it come with Confederation in 1867? With the Westminster Statute giving Canada full legislative power in 1931? Or with the patriation in 1982 of its constitution, which replaced the English Parliament's British North America Act of 1867, under whose terms the Dominion of Canada was founded and which has not been ratified by all the provinces of Canada yet. Assuredly, Canada is a state, a powerful and successful one at that. However, one hesitates to call Canada—Canada in its entirety—a nation. In contrast, the province of Québec seems a nation; Québec, however, is not a state, or not yet. Canada, as an aggregate, has been called „a 'multination' state.”³ This appellation is derived from the existence within Canada of groups with distinct national identities: the Québécois and the Native Canadians, that is, Indians and Inuit, who also go by the name of „First Nations.” In 1999, Canada added another territory to its ten provinces and two territories: Nunavut, an Inuit territory. In contrast, a fifty-first U.S. state on an ethnic basis—let us say a state called „Navajo”—seems impossible, despite the fact that the existing Navajo reservation surpasses in size most of the New England states. The impossibility, it could be argued, is not due, or not wholly due, to a repressive American attitude toward minorities but to „the traditionally open or inclusionary American model of civic nationalism.”⁴ Even with political correctness replacing the Melting Pot concept, Americans find it hard to conceive a happier fate for any inhabitant of the U.S. than that of becoming a regular American. Even with W(hite)A(nglo-)S(axon)P(rotestant) dominance gone, the American people hold on to consolidating nationalist thinking imbued with America's founding concepts and myths. The „The American Way of Life,” a sociologist observed in 1960, „is the symbol by which Americans define themselves and establish their

³ Will Kymlicka, *Finding Our Way: Rethinking Ethnocultural Relations in Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1998), 10.

⁴ Knud Krakau, „Nation—National Identity—Nationalism: An Introduction,” *The American Nation—National Identity—Nationalism*, ed. Knud Krakau (Münster: LIT Verlag, 1997), 7-15; 13.