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RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE U.S.A.

The Magnitude and Complexity of the Relationship

No other two countries have so complex and extensive a relationship as Canada and the United States. They are each other's largest supplier and customer. They co-operate in the defence of the North American continent and through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Western Europe as well. They share and manage an environment along a 9000 kilometre border. Canadians and Americans are linked by countless personal, family, academic, cultural, professional, business and trade union ties. The two countries are each other's largest source and destination of tourists, with over 73 million border crossings in 1981. The bilateral relationship is based on abiding friendship and mutual benefit and, in many respects, sets the standard for the civilized conduct of international relations.

Management of the Relationship

Although most contacts between Americans and Canadians take place outside the government sphere, management at that level is essential to the harmony of the relationship. The Prime Minister and the President, who are the central figures in this management, are assisted by their respective Cabinet colleagues and officials. The embassies and diplomatic services of the two countries are their permanent representatives and their principal channels of communication on policy matters. Bilateral agreements, arrangements and understandings cover numerous subjects. Cross-border regional relations are also close between Canadian provinces and American states within their areas of jurisdiction.



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