

preferable to what they had left, they did not let go of their roots -- they clung to them. In the United States immigrants dissolve into what June Callwood has called "a melting pot of bubbling assimilation." In Canada, the respective cultural elements remain distinct; they never merge into a strong coherent whole.

Then there is the almost overpowering influence of the United States. The American example of economic success, unparalleled in history, has exerted an enormous gravitational pull on the people of Canada. It urged them to emulate the American example, to mimic the methods that had made the U.S. a leviathan. The colossus to the south inevitably resulted in a loss of identity in Canada, a fear of eclipse, a fear of being overwhelmed by American economic and cultural imperialism. Our ancestors began to betray that curious negative psychology which is characteristically Canadian. They struggled to build a northern nation that was almost by definition anti-American in response to American predominance on the continent. Yet, at the same time, they felt driven to attempt to gain access to American markets and to copy the American success story. And so the dichotomy that has always marked Canada's approach to life was established.

Moreover Canada's proximity to the United States, when coupled with today's technology, results in Canada being barraged, not to say inundated, by all-pervasive signals proclaiming the cultural themes of America. This powerful new technology abolishes distance, ignores national boundaries, and