

*United States  
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The greatest irony is that those modest, hesitant moves Canada has recently made towards protecting its own national interest have been regarded by many, on both sides of the border, as "nationalistic". When one considers the present-day results of the juxtaposition of the world's greatest super-power with the world's foremost branch-plant colony, cries of "nationalism" from below the border would surely be some great joke, except that many poorly-informed Americans and Canadians really believe it.

The United States is one of the most nationalistic and patriotic states the twentieth century has produced. It is surely one of the most aggressive culture and values-exporting societies the world

has ever known. For Canada to maintain its independence, we shall have to do a much better job of protecting our interests in the future. Americans may have good reason to believe that there will be few major changes in the future. But they will be very much mistaken if they ignore the growing feeling in the Atlantic Provinces, in Quebec, in Ontario, on the Prairies, and in British Columbia — the feeling that has enough is enough, the feeling that Americans must not believe they can continue to buy up Canada.

Much has been written in the past about sharing the continent. Many Canadians now believe it is we who have been doing the sharing and that now is the time for some clear-cut friendly dividing instead

### *Sharing the continent*

# The United States: good friend and benevolent neighbour

## *A continentalist approach*

By Peyton V. Lyon

These lines are being written during the last lap of a three-month peregrination in search of the Canadian image of the world and the world's image of Canada. Interviews in 30 capitals (including more than 200 in Ottawa) have been conducted with senior Canadian officials to discover how they conceive of international politics and Canada's participation in them. About 100 foreign politicians, officials, journalists and academics have also been interrogated in order to compare their images of Canada with those held by the makers of Canadian foreign policies. Although analysis of the interviews is barely under way, a few preliminary, personal impressions may be

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relevant in a discussion of Canada's experience in sharing a continent with the world's most powerful nation.

Both Canadian and foreign observers concur that relations with the United States constitute the Number One issue in Canada's external relations. Some of the foreigners deny that Canada has a "real" problem, and almost all indicate willingness to swap their problems for Canada's. On the other hand, too many of the foreign experts, especially in academic and journalistic circles, exaggerate the degree to which Canada is constrained by its economic interdependence with the United States, the amount of anti-American feeling in Canada, and the novelty and extent of the Trudeau regime's efforts to affirm Canada's identity and independence. They too readily assume that Canada's relations with its one neighbour must resemble closely the relations within many of the disparate dyads, such as Mexico and the United States, or Finland and the U.S.S.R.