

U.S. affiliated companies doing business in Canada, one begins to have some idea of the importance to the U.S. as well as to Canada of good trade relations.

Americans must therefore try to come to terms with the paranoia that colours the minds of some Canadians on the question of sovereignty, and in particular that narrower segment that we Canadians have named "cultural sovereignty." Cultural sovereignty may be defined as a country's right -- without outside interference -- that is to say, its heritage -- through its own indigenous instruments of communication -- books, magazines, motion pictures, graphic arts, music and dance, to name some of those important constituents that form the basic yarn of a country's social fabric and distinguish it from all others. There are, of course, reasons for this national state of mind that stem from the way the country developed.

Canada has the second largest land area in the world but most of its population lives within a hundred miles of the U.S. border. It is characterized by two official languages, wide ranging cultural and ethnic diversity, and strong regional identities.

The Canadian society, as we now know it, was created by a large number of immigrants moving into vast, vacant, geographical areas. These Canadian immigrants were never absorbed into the Canadian psyche so as to bolster national esteem and a distinct Canadian identity. Many came to Canada as a less desirable alternative because their first choice, usually the U.S., was not open to them. Though their new country was