

★★★ PROLOGUE ★★★

**Canadianism:**

the state of being Canadian (*Oxford Canadian Dictionary*)

+

**anti:**

opposed to; against (*Oxford Canadian Dictionary*)

=

**anti-Canadianism:**

opposed to the state of being Canadian (*Bomb Canada*)

Anti-Canadianism, anti-Canuckism — call it what you will, it's hard to find a definition in contemporary dictionaries for the act of bashing Canada. Surprising? Not really. While scholars in Canada and the United States have studied anti-Americanism in depth, anti-Canadianism has largely been neglected, left on the bench you could say as America-bashing comments take centre ice. Yet that doesn't mean it's irrelevant.

The relationship between Canada and the United States has been compared to that of siblings — or jilted lovers inexplicably drawn back together over, and over, and over again. It's a complex history that entwines periods of tension and reconciliation. In 1776, almost a century before Canada's Dominion Day celebrations, the Thirteen Colonies issued a Declaration of Independence and invited the four other British colonies in North America — Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland — to join a revolt against Britain. These colonies, much to the surprise of the fledgling United States, refused, in essence placing loyalty to the monarchy over that of a republic. The War of 1812 further cemented Canadian ties to the British. Simmering trade and sovereignty disputes erupted in vio-

lence again when the United States declared war on Britain and launched pre-emptive attacks against Upper and Lower Canada. Perplexed by the British colonies' allegiance to the Crown, Americans were convinced the colonists desired to be liberated from Britain too. But the Canadian and Native peoples fought alongside British forces, repelling the American invasions and in the process burning the White House in Washington, D.C.

Why mention these events from centuries past? Because they are the foundation upon which anti-Canadianism has been built. The roots of negativity towards Canada unavoidably trace back to the United States' turbulent relationship with Britain. And while Canada has obtained full independence from Mother England, the country's ideals and values continue to reflect more closely those from across the sea than those of the republic to the south.

Mostly, the American-Canadian relationship has been one of stability, particularly since the mid-twentieth century. Though they had contingency plans for war with the other – Canada devised "Defence Scheme No. 1" in 1921 and the United States drew up "War Plan Red" in the early 1930s – the economic, the cultural, and increasingly, the defence ties have become so tightly woven that unbraiding them would threaten the security and prosperity of both nations.

Still, understanding the shared but ultimately different destinies of the two countries helps explain why there's a nagging sense of mistrust or anxiety that has coloured cross-border relations every so often since the United States gained its independence. Overt gestures by the American government for increased co-operation have been denounced as concealed aspirations of annexation from the Canadian side. And when the Canadian government exerts its sovereignty against certain U.S. policies, American reaction has been similar to that of being betrayed by a best friend. In those times of tension, whether it be Canada's creation as a Dominion, the failed 1911 Reciprocity Treaty, the Cuban missile crisis, Vietnam, the Trudeau years, the war in Iraq or terrorism, the American media has been scrupulously – some would argue erroneously – recording the events and ideas of the moment.

Modern-day journalism traces back to the hurly-burly days of the penny press, which emerged in the 1830s. From those humble, often-colourful beginnings were born newspapers that would gain national prominence, including the *Chicago Tribune* founded in 1847 and the *New York Times* in 1851. Within four and a half decades, printing presses were churning out the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Into the twentieth century, the term “media” broadened as the number of national magazines increased and technological advances allowed the news to be presented in radio and television formats. Now in the twenty-first century, blogs and online media outlets have ushered in a new era of journalism, one that is more transparent and immediate than ever before.

Of course, in the midst of this information overload, it would be a monumental task to compile Canadian coverage from every newspaper, magazine, and broadcast outlet in the United States. So from hundreds, it has been whittled down to a select few. While blog and TV comments are important and mentioned in later chapters, national newspapers are prominently featured because they have reported on Canada for a period stretching over three centuries. In particular, the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal* have been chosen because they have stood the test of time, not only surviving as competing papers folded but also growing in national eminence. As leading media outlets in the United States, these newspapers have reached a broad audience, influencing members of Congress, local policy makers, and popular opinion.

“Journalism is the first rough draft of history.” So goes the oft-quoted cliché credited to *Washington Post* publisher Philip Graham. Spanning more than 140 years – from the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867 to terrorism in the new millennium – here’s an initial, informative, and often humorous look at anti-Canadianism from the south side of the 49th parallel. This is the “uncut” version of Canada-U.S. relations. Before the history books were written, turn the page to hear what the press was saying.