
ABSTRACTS

Teresa Gutiérrez-Haces, *Canadá-México: vecindad interferida*

Just recently, Canada and Mexico decided to assume and promote an American vocation that has geographically always belonged to them. The vicinity shared with the United States—a constant influence in the development of the bilateral relationship between Canada and Mexico—is one of the most explanatory factors both in terms of the traditional lack of knowledge between the two countries and of their recent rapprochement. For years, this shared vicinity was a dense “smoke curtain” between the two countries, since each one gave priority to its bilateral relationship with the powerful neighbor until it became a privileged, almost exclusive relationship. This essay analyzes some of the less known characteristics of the beginnings and the evolution of the relationship between Canada and Mexico: the trade approximation pretended by the territories that were already the British colonies that would become Canada, the first Canadian commercial missions of the 19th century, the importance of Canadian investment in the Mexican economy at the beginning of the century, and the evolution of relations in the period between the wars, among others.

Herman W. Konrad, *Los vecinos del vecino: comprender la ecuación Canadá-México*

Any analysis of the Canada-Mexico relationship must take into account the one that has separated the two countries and has become a powerful influence in the internal and international development of the two countries: their shared neighbor. Canada and Mexico have important factors in common that have to be understood and appreciated in the two nations: historically, they have experienced American expansionism; their political and economic evolution have been influenced by this situation, both domestically and exteriorly; in the two cases, that evolution has shown similarities that are often explained as a reaction to the values, policies or influences of the United States. Knowing these “parallel histories” will not only help to understand the Mexico-Canada bilateral relationship better, but can have an influence on its future.

Isabel Studer, *Fundamentos y condicionantes de una sociedad estratégica entre México y Canadá*

Relations between Mexico and Canada have become closer to the degree that today one commonly speaks of a “strategic association” between the two countries. This essay seeks to explore the bases and conditioning factors of Mexico and Canada’s vision as strategic partners. The essay is divided into five sections. The first describes the significance of the new governmental vision of a strategic association; the second and third analyze the real bases on which this association can be sustained: from the historical coincidence in different topics and the recent convergence of interests in developing North American integration, to the historical-structural conditioning factors that can encourage it or make it fail. The author evaluates the real bases of a full, permanent, strategic association between Mexico and Canada. The fourth section examines a core point in the creation of that association: the complementary nature between Mexico and Canada in the international sphere that, although it exists, is also limited. The essay ends with a critical reflection on proposals about the future perspectives of the strategic Mexico-Canada association.

Sandra Fuentes-Berain, *Hacia la consolidación de una relación estratégica: México y Canadá*

Convergence —the result of the process to redefine Mexico’s and Canada’s foreign policies—, coincidence in different subjects and the complementary nature of areas of common interest have allowed Canada and Mexico to inject their bilateral relationship with unusual dynamism. The new strategic alliance between the two nations is forged in the heat of two new factors: continuity and consistency. The first of them supposes the persistence of the intention and the flexibility of the action to reach medium-and long-term objectives beyond changes in administration; the second entails the design and putting into practice of an integral strategy that is reflected in the bilateral agenda that, in turn, is coherent with the foreign policy objectives and with the development and modernization processes of the two countries. This essay identifies the commitments, the actions and the advances that both continuity and consistency have been giving to the bilateral relationship. The analysis is divided into two parts: the first addresses following up and implementation of the mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation that have provided the bilateral relationship with greater solidity and maturity; the second presents the expansion and enrichment of the bilateral agenda as an example of the interrelationship process and the

enormous potential of cooperation and of interchange existing between the two countries.

Jorge Castro-Valle K. *Mecanismos institucionales gubernamentales y no gubernamentales en las relaciones México-Canadá*

Relations between Canada and Mexico have grown economically and politically. Today, the agenda between the two countries has been diversified to incorporate trilateral, regional and global topics, and the number of actors in relations between the two countries have multiplied. This essay offers a general vision about the recent evolution of the Mexico-Canada bilateral relationship and describes the process of expansion and strengthening of the institutional infrastructure available for its administration. It is divided into three sections. The first of them examines the context in which the vigorous expansion of the bilateral relationship has occurred: the second describes and analyzes the institutional mechanisms the governments of the two countries have available in order to develop their connections: the third section studies the appearance and expansion of the communication forums between different nongovernmental sectors of the two societies.

Yolanda A. González Martínez, *Evolución reciente de las relaciones económicas entre México y Canadá*

The essay compares the evolution in the trade and investment flows of the eighties and those that have occurred in the nineties. The impulse generated from the start of NAFTA negotiations between Canada, Mexico and the United States, consolidated from the time it was signed and came into effect, have meant that Canada has become Mexico's third trade partner and the eighth investor in this country. Although economic relations between Canada and Mexico tend toward strengthening, particularly in the financial and investment spheres, some problems persist in the area of commerce, derived from ignorance of the markets. However, at both the government and the private sectors, efforts are being made in both countries to counteract the problem and take better advantage of opportunities. Beyond relations at the federal level between Canada and Mexico, the contacts existing between the different states of Mexico and the Canadian provinces can strengthen and constitute a strong tie between the economies of the two countries.

Francisco Olguín, *La cuestión de Quebec y la unidad de Canadá: retos, riesgos y perspectivas*

On October 30, 1995, the referendum called by the Canadian province of Quebec to attain sovereignty was rejected by a narrow margin (50.6 as against 49.4%). This paper gives a general review of Quebec separatism and of its current situation in order to explain the results of the referendum. The ambivalence of Quebec's French-speaking population, that aspires to national sovereignty as much as it wants to maintain its Canadian identity, is one of the most important factors that explain the results of the referendum. The paper is divided into three main parts. The first of them analyzes the background of the Quebec separatist movement; the second studies the increased drive attained by separatism because of the success of the Quebec Party in the 1994 provincial elections; the third and last examines the risks and implications both for Quebec and for Canada of the eventual secession of this province.

Ana Teresa Gutiérrez del Cid, *Rusia y el interés nacional: las nuevas tendencias de la política exterior rusa*

The essay analyzes the recent evolution in Russian foreign policy. It maintains that three very clear stages in Russia's foreign policy of the last five years can be identified. The first stage covers the years 1992 and 1993; it is characterized by an absence of doctrine and the situational response to the problems that have gradually been arising. The second stage covers the end of 1993 until 1995, characterized by the abandonment of a strategy based on cooperation with the West and the predominance of a new posture, propelled by the military sector, that favors Russian security above any other issue in relation to foreign policy. The third stage, that includes the period that has lapsed since the end of 1995, is characterized by the pragmatic incorporation of many of the proposals of the nationalists and the definitive abandonment of the idea of unconditional cooperation with the West.

Alfredo Pérez Bravo and Iván Roberto Sierra, *La cooperación internacional para el desarrollo: nuevos actores y nuevas estrategias*

The international cooperation for development offered by the countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) could benefit from the accumulated

experience of a small group of developing countries that offer cooperation programs and activities, particularly in the sphere of technical cooperation, to countries with a lower relative degree of development. The new actors in cooperation for development are countries like Thailand, Turkey, Taiwan and Mexico. Despite their own continued requirement of aid to strengthen their development processes, they offer useful cooperation programs whereby they provide their experience in technical questions (personnel training, equipment transfer and agricultural technology, health, and infrastructure construction among other things) with the aim of reinforcing their connections with countries with whom they share regional interests in peace, security and development, or with which they have strong cultural ties. The complementary nature of experiences between the DAC and this new group of actors in cooperation would result in better use of the resources that are directed to international development cooperation.
