

free of these particular burdens, is the importance of protecting our environment if we are to preserve our prosperity. [WV]

**FORGOTTEN PARTNERSHIP:  
U.S.-CANADA RELATIONS TODAY**  
by Charles F. Doran

(Johns Hopkins University Press; 294 pp.; \$32.50)

Newton Koltz

Canada and the United States are the very best of friends. Indeed, each is the other's best friend among nations. These two statements are so without dispute, at least in the U.S., that hardly anyone here gives them a moment's thought. Yet, while largely agreeable to these sentiments, the people up north, as Charles Doran points out in his perceptive and very sensible new book, have a rather different fix on their relationship to their very large friend to the south. For instance, where most of us down here scarcely give the people up there much thought, most of them up there mightily resent being taken for granted. Or, while they see serious disagreements with us over basic policies and goals, we see petty obstructions they put in the way of getting done what needs to be done. Or when they say to us (rightly), "You need to respect more our autonomy and our individuality," we reply (rightly), "But you people have made out awfully well for such a small and powerless country so near a large and powerful one. Consider Lithuania or Scotland or, more recently, Afghanistan."

These and other cross-purposes clearly inhibit a closer, more mutually satisfying relationship. In order to overcome them, Professor Doran argues, the two nations need to work out a consensus, a sharing of purposes and goals, a partnership.

Getting to partnership is no easy matter, since the roots of the tensions and cross-purposes are so little understood. Neither nation, in Doran's view, acts as though it is at all aware of the other's chief concern. For Canadians this is trade and commerce with the United States, since without that trade the Canadian economy would collapse. For the United States, much less dependent on Canada than Canada is dependent on it and much more aware of its unique responsibility as a world leader, the chief concern is Canada's place, politically and strategically, within the Western Alliance. The inevitable confusions that rise out of these different awarenesses are exacerbated



by the deeper and more fundamental confusions that rise out of the differences in the psychologies of the two peoples.

"I don't understand what's the matter," the American says. "We're just alike."

"You *don't* understand," the Canadian says. "We're really very different."

Americans tend to see Canada as a sort of extension of their own country, separate from their happy federal union only by accident of history. Canadians, contrarily, are on the whole quite happy to be separate from the federal union to the south. And they rather tend to resent being included in it even honorarily. Thus, Americans talk to Canadians about integration and interdependence. And Canadians talk to Americans about autonomy, independence, and separate national identities.

How do the two nations begin to resolve their apparent bilateral impasse? By passing beyond "bilateral" and moving to a larger perspective, Doran maintains. He asks if there is another way of looking at those recent events that have separated the two nations, one that is "more deeply informed by the evolution of history involving powers outside North America and by the contemporaneous global crush of pressures and opportunities along the East-West and North-South axes." A more international perspective would suggest that the changing structure of the international system itself may have something to do with the timing, the direction of changes, and the contra-

dictions in their relationship.

From this angle, both countries' views of their mutual connection appear somewhat skewed by each one's perception of its own needs. Thus Americans concentrate too much on the "political-strategic" dimension of the relationship. And Canadians concentrate too much on the "trade-commercial" aspects. But in reality, Doran says, both nations need to pay most attention to what he calls the "psychological-cultural" dimension of the relationship, because it is "more determinative of outcomes" than the other two. It is in the area of feelings, perceptions, and sensitivities that the two peoples find themselves most apart. In support of this analysis the author examines in detail a number of significant U.S.-Canada policy issues, such as on the law of the sea, fisheries, the environment, and energy.

Practically, Americans and Canadians might be able to resolve their differences and move toward greater partnership if Americans could resolve to take the time and effort to learn more about Canadians—and especially about how they are different from Americans—and if Canadians could resolve to take the time and effort to learn how to do something about losing their resentments—which means learning how to rejoice more in what sets them apart and makes them special.

Anyone interested in either project will find *Forgotten Partnership* a helpful and delightfully lucid guide. [WV]