

## Tensions between the USA and Canada

❶ “In Canada, I saw how Trump is ripping North America apart – and how hard its bond will be to repair”, Andy Beckett, *The Guardian*, 24 march 2025. A British standpoint (Canada belongs to the Commonwealth).

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/mar/24/canada-donald-trump-north-america-relationship>

Earlier this month, I spent a week in some of this particularly vulnerable stretch of Ontario and Quebec, visiting my daughter at university and encountering a new, more anxious Canada. [...] The feeling of being a foreigner in a tense, contested place reminded me of when I lived in West Germany, near the East German border, during the early 1980s, one of the most fraught phases of the cold war.

Until Trump started talking so insistently about making Canada his country’s “51<sup>st</sup> state”, that would have been an absurd comparison. But not any more. “The Americans want our resources, our water, our land, our country,” said the new Canadian prime minister, Mark Carney, in his first speech as Liberal leader. “If they succeed, they will destroy our way of life.” [...]

As in Britain, in the mid-20th century the Canadian state sought to create what it called a “special relationship” with the US. Canada’s export-oriented economy – necessary because of the country’s relatively small and scattered population – got access to US markets. US businesses got access to prosperous Canadian consumers, often close to America’s manufacturing heartlands. [...] With Trump seemingly much closer to Moscow than Ottawa, that North American alliance may in effect be dead.[...]The feeling that Canada has been abandoned militarily by the US possibly explains the huge “Fuck Trump” flag I saw flying from the back of a pickup truck in the usually polite city of Kingston, Ontario, home of the Royal Military College of Canada.

❷ Cartoon by Chappatte (Switzerland), 11 January 2025.

The Canadian beavers are building dams in order to stop Trump. (In the background, the US flag, the Stars and Stripes).

This European cartoon is very sympathetic to the Canadians.

The question is (knowing the imbalance of power): can the beavers win ?



As a matter of fact, the US dominates the USMCA.

> Using the documents and your knowledge, explain why tensions are now growing in North America at the expense of cooperation.