

Funding the Future

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Trump's claim that he wishes Canada to be the 51st state of the USA has to be taken seriously, but what it threatens is a new era of brutal, anti-democratic, imperialism. How are we going to react to that?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG9kCNnyMTQ?si=IDlpRVMU4-JYFEiq>

This is the audio version:

https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=it89w-18392f2-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=f6f6f6&font-color=auto&logo_link=episode_page&btn-skin=c73a3a

This is the transcript:

Can Canada avoid Trump? That's a pretty important question right now. Not just if you are Canadian, but also if you happen to be living in Greenland or somewhere near the Panama Canal or in any other territory that at some time Trump, and let's be honest, his friend Putin, might think that they desire to be part of their evil empires, which I think is a fair description of what the USA and Russia now look to be.

What is the threat to Canada? Look, it's almost impossible to believe that we have to ask that question because why on earth is Canada under threat? The country of Canada has existed since 1867. It was created by a British Act of Parliament in that year, which sounds sort of absurd except that's how the world was divided up in those days.

And since then, its borders have been pretty clear and unambiguous.

So, too has its form of government, although that evolved so that it became a self-governing country in the 1930s, along with many other such similar states inside the British Empire as it then was, and it has been an effective democracy since then, albeit that it keeps King Charles as its head of state. It is then a mature democracy working within established borders, but which Trump now likes to call the 51st state of the USA.

That in itself is also absurd. There are 10 provinces in Canada, all of which could be states in their own right, and there are another three territories on top of that, which may not be states in their own rights, but frankly some of them are almost as big as some of the micro-states that exist in the USA. There are, after all, nearly 42 million people in Canada. This is no small country.

It's also a country with a diverse ethnicity. A quarter of those people speak French, and about 20% of all people in Canada speak French as their first language. So it has not got ethnic alignment with the USA, but nor has it got a social alignment in terms of values with the USA. For example, big business dominates healthcare in the USA. In Canada, big business has nothing to do with healthcare as such because healthcare is a right, rather like it is in the UK. So, the point is that this is a country which is not in sympathy with the USA. But Donald Trump wants it.

Why does he want it? Because of its resources. Let's be clear why he wants it. He wants it because it is wealthy, because it has oil, because it has gas, because it has timber, because it has water, and it has hydro power as well, all of those things mean that this is a rich source of supplies to the USA, and it obviously has industry and strong universities and other things as well.

Trump wants to make it American because he wants to expand his empire because he sees the opportunity to make money out of this. That's why people have always wanted to expand empire. It's never been for any other reason at all, the same as there's never really been any other reason for war. It's always been about economics and Trump believes that the economy of the USA will be enhanced if he has power over Canada, just as he thinks it will be enhanced if he has power over Greenland and just as he thinks it'll be enhanced if he has power over the Panama Canal. And just by the way, as he thinks his economy will be enhanced if he abandons Ukraine.

The point is simple. Trump is being transactional, there is nothing else to it.

Trump doesn't understand what it might mean to be Canadian because he doesn't really understand what it means to be American.

He doesn't even really seem to understand what it is to be human, to be blunt. He simply reduces everything to the condition of being a transaction. To be blunt, it's all about money. So, this is a man who does not really act in accordance with normal human emotions that most people understand. And what he most certainly won't

understand is the idea that Canadians have, that they are most definitely not American.

Now there are lots of issues that arise from this claim by Trump.

The first one is with regard to the status of NATO, because Canada is a NATO country. It's also a member of the G7. So, we would have a superpower inside the G7 and NATO trying to take over another country within both those organisations. Now, that is extraordinary beyond the imagination until a few weeks ago.

What will the other states within those organisations do as a consequence? They are bound under Article 5 of NATO to come to the defence of Canada.

Will they?

Can they?

Should they?

What will happen if Trump decides to send his troops quite literally over the border into Canada, which he could do and numerically, he would of course win, but would that create a stable situation? I really doubt it.

What would his doing that do for relationships between the US and the UK? We're in the absurd situation at present that the UK's prime Minister, Keir Starmer, went to see Trump and gave him an invitation from King Charles to come on a state visit to the UK, and yet Trump is threatening to invade a country of which King Charles is king.

How does that make sense? The UK's primary duty is to Canada, because it's a member of the Commonwealth and has long-term associations with this country, not least via the royal family.

We have a duty to defend it.

We have that duty under NATO.

And yet we have Starmer saying the US is our friend. It clearly isn't.

And what would he say to the rest of the world if the US thought it could just literally take over Canada, which it appears that Trump thinks he can, and which it is very obvious that the brand new Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, formerly governor of the Bank of England, thinks is a very serious threat, or he would not have spent so much time addressing it during his first speech to his own political party when they elected him its leader.

My point is Canada is a sort of touchstone for where we are going with regard to world political economy.

Political economy is all about how power is used to claim economic control.

The USA is trying to claim the economic power of Canada from its own people to vest it in the billionaires who will no doubt benefit if Trump were to seize that country and make it part of the USA.

There is, therefore, in this threat to Canada, the whole question of the future of the way in which the world itself will be organised when it comes to political economy.

Will brute force and imperialism rule as once it did?

Or will democracy survive?

Canada is extremely important when it comes to the future of just about everyone as a result.