

What's the Deal By [Daniel Lesser](#)

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Time to boycott vacations to the U.S.?

(The views and opinions expressed in this blog are strictly those of the author.)

I recently came across the following commentary, titled "[Time to Boycott Vacations to the U.S.](#)," which appeared on the website of the Toronto Star. Canadians can protest U.S. President Donald Trump's policies by staying away from America, Mark Bulgutch writes. "It's not a terrible sacrifice. Wait four years. We can hope the Trump presidency will then be over. The Grand Canyon will still be there. The Golden Gate Bridge. Mount Rushmore. Disney World. They'll all be there. And with any luck, the Statue of Liberty will still be there too."

At first I was disturbed, and upon re-reading the piece several more times, I experienced a range of reactions including surprise, disgust and sadness. Given a shared border and ever-increasing close economic and cultural ties, relations between the U.S. and Canada have historically been extensive. The shared heritage has resulted in one of the most stable and mutually beneficial international relationships in the world. For both countries, the level of trade with the other is at the top of the annual combined import/export total.

Tourism in the U.S. employs millions of people and annually serves millions more international and domestic travelers. Canada also enjoys a dynamic and far-reaching domestic and foreign tourism industry. Travelers visit both countries to see natural wonders, cities, historic landmarks and entertainment venues. Recall that America and Canada's travel and tourism industries were among the first and most significant commercial casualties of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Nationalistic positions sweeping across parts of the world are largely a vote against globalization, and deep divisions amongst and within societies have been created. The world offers no shortage of conflict and war, and while the notion of nuclear battle may appear unfathomable, the concept of airplanes flying into 110-story buildings was also incomprehensible prior to September 11, 2001.

With this in mind, since prosperity is closely linked to the health and growth of mutually intertwined economies, sustaining the U.S. and Canadian economic relationship ranks as one of the most important foreign policy objectives for both countries. Lester B. Pearson, who served as Canada's 14th prime minister from 1963 to 1968, observed that "to live alongside this great country is like living with your wife. At times it is difficult to live with her. At all times it is impossible to live without her."

The moral of this blog is, be careful what you wish for. Irrespective of one's political views, suggesting the boycotting of visitation to America clearly threatens the U.S. However, such action would invariably rebound with negative consequences for our neighbors, and ultimately the entire globe.

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