

# **Sharing the Burden of the Border: Layered Security Cooperation and the Canada-US Frontier**



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# Overview

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- ▣ Contextualizing US-Canada Cooperation
- ▣ Models of Border Management
- ▣ Theory and Practice of Security Cooperation
- ▣ Conclusions

# The Border Myths

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- ❑ 1) The Canada-US border was not securitized
- ❑ 2) Economic interests matter most
- ❑ 3) Canada is a free-rider in border security

# Models of Border Management

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- The “Status Quo”
- Customs Union
- External Perimeter Strategy
- Dual Bilateralism

# 9/11 and Border Security

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Or, how did we get from the Status Quo to the SPP?

- Asymmetric security cooperation
- National sovereignty and the role of the provinces
- Canada as a burden-sharer, not a free-rider

# Asymmetric Cooperation

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- ❑ **Free-rider:** stronger partner bears the brunt of the costs, while the weaker party enjoys the benefits of the alliance without adequately contributing to the costs
- ❑ **Burden-sharer:** costs are shared according to the benefits respectively received by the allies

# Post-9/11 Cooperation

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- Economic Security and Interest harmonization
  - The homeland security paradigm
  - Competing discourses
- National Sovereignty
  - Putting the “home” in homeland security
  - US-Mexico border issues
  - NAFTA and bilateralism
- Unilateral Contributions and Commitment

# Québec and the US

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- ❑ The Gérin-Lajoie Doctrine
- ❑ Québec's department of international relations  
(Ministère des relations internationales)
- ❑ Québec delegations/government offices abroad  
(6 in the United States)



# Québec's U.S. Strategy

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- ❑ Contributing to the security of the North America
- ❑ Fostering trade
- ❑ Ensuring Québec's leadership regarding energy and the environment
- ❑ Promotion of Québec's culture and identity
- ❑ Increasing Québec's capacity to take action and supporting the development of expertise

# Security Initiatives

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- ❑ Improvement of security information management
- ❑ Signing cooperation agreements with bordering states
- ❑ Participation in regional organizations geared toward mutual aid for civil protection

# Centralizing Trend

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- ❑ Border policy should be more decentralized
- ❑ Provinces can better tackle diffuse threats:  
organized crime, money laundering, human  
trafficking, terrorism...
- ❑ The federal government does not disagree...

# Policy Implications

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- ❑ Québec can enhance Canada's bilateral relationship with the US in certain areas
- ❑ Layered approach to border security
- ❑ Contributions:
  - Network with partner states in the US
  - Local expertise in managing the border
  - Enhanced visibility through Québec's US delegations

# Conclusions

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- ❑ Smart Border approach will likely endure
- ❑ Efficiency can be enhanced, but greater participation is needed for such programs
- ❑ Greater cooperation between Québec and border states is key
- ❑ Québec and Ottawa would gain from identifying areas of mutual interest