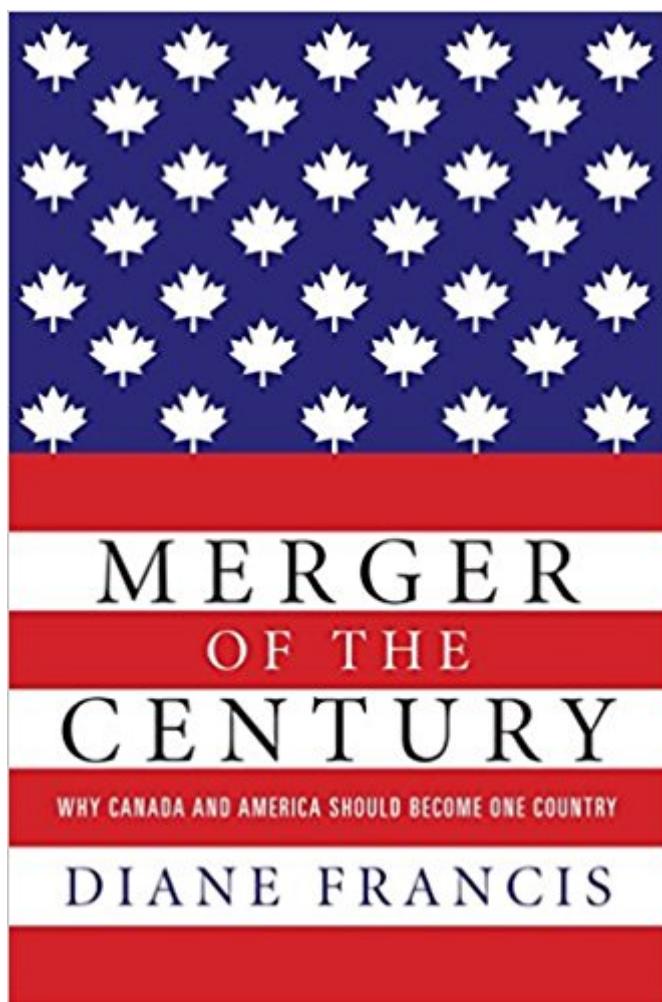


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Merger Of The Century: Why Canada And America Should Become One Country



Synopsis

Geopolitics expert and award-winning journalist Diane Francis presents a compelling political argument and business case for merging America and Canada into a geographical, political, and economic superpower. No two nations in the world are as integrated, economically and socially, as are the United States and Canada. We share geography, values and the largest unprotected border in the world. Regardless of this close friendship, our two countries are on a slow-motion collision course with each other and with the rest of the world. While we wrestle with internal political gridlock and fiscal challenges and clash over border problems, the economies of the larger world change and flourish. Emerging economies sailed through the financial meltdown of 2008. The International Monetary Fund forecasts that by 2018, China's economy will be bigger than that of the United States; when combined with India, Japan and the four Asian Tigers—South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong—China's economy will be bigger than that of the G8 (minus Japan). Rather than continuing on this road to mutual decline, our two nations should chart a new course. Bestselling author Diane Francis proposes a simple and obvious solution: What if the United States and Canada merged into one country? The most audacious initiative since the Louisiana Purchase would solve the biggest problems each country expects to face: the U.S.'s national security threats and declining living standards; and Canada's difficulty controlling and developing its huge landmass, stemming from a lack of capital, workers, technology and military might. Merger of the Century builds both a strong political argument and a compelling business case, treating our two countries not only as sovereign entities but as merging companies. We stand on the cusp of a new world order. Together, by marshaling resources and combining efforts, Canada and America have a greater chance of succeeding. As separate nations, the future is in much greater doubt indeed.

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Harper (October 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062325019

ISBN-13: 978-0062325013

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.3 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #760,373 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #162 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Canadian #1805 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Commentary & Opinion #76249 in Books > Business & Money

Customer Reviews

Diane Francis is the author of nine books, including the #1 bestsellers, Who Owns Canada Now and Bre-X: The Inside Story. An award-winning journalist, broadcaster and entrepreneur, she has been a columnist for Maclean's magazine, The New York Sun and the Financial Post, and is currently Editor at Large at the National Post and a blogger for The Huffington Post. Francis was a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University's Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy and a Media Fellow and participant at the World Economic Forum for 20 years. She is currently Distinguished Professor at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management. A native of Chicago, she divides her time between Toronto and New York City.

I gave five stars because of the boldness of this speculation. The reason for my interest in the subject is that as a Scandinavian living in Finland I have had same kinds of thoughts for a very long time of the merger of all the Nordic countries into a federation. Our starting point, however, would be different because we are all small nations which should join our resources to a larger entity and not strive apart as e.g. Scotland tried. The unification of the countries in the European Union is a quite another matter and nearly impossible because of the differences of the countries. The question of the merger of Canada and America is again different because the United States is already a world power and Canada's land mass is so large with huge natural resources. Both countries seem to us foreigners very close to each other in many ways. You have the same English language with even the same dialect except of the French. Of course there are also differences of which the best parts could give something new to a possible merger. The text of the book contains a lot of useful data which could also be perhaps a little scary because the rest of the world may think of the coming of an even mightier superpower than the United States is at the moment. But anyway the book is a challenging speculation of the possible.

I have been at work (ms. nearly complete) on how Americans and Canadians can cooperate better together--and, yes, perhaps even form a union. My thesis, first of all, is that Americans need to understand and appreciate Canadians better (I have a Canadian wife and have had investments in

Canada). And yet Americans know so precious little about Canadians and Canada, to their ultimate detriment. (One of my chapters will critique a recent Maclean's magazine piece on 99 reasons why Canadians are even superior to Americans. Wow.) In any case, we need to pay much more attention to what's going on above the 49th parallel. I came across Diane Francis' work in the course of my research and realized it was of such monumental import that it was either going to kill my project, or give it greater depth and urgency. I decided the latter was more true. This is 400 pages of detail, statistics, analysis, conjecture and occasionally "pie-in-the-sky" thinking that nonetheless has to be taken totally seriously. Francis is a dual citizen who has her media tentacles on both sides of the border, and can argue forcibly for a merger--even while recognizing it may end up as no more than a "thought experiment." I can tell you that it is much more than just that (stay tuned).

Great read. It does drag on in some parts but all in all its very thought provoking and makes some strong arguments for a union of the the two North American countries. But the author is not delusional, she points out many hurdles that are in the way. And being a dual-citizen she seems to have a very good point of view on the matter.

The United States and Canada have been longtime allies. We have worked together on innumerable world issues and see eye-to-eye, at least most of the time. But in "Merger of the Century," author Diane Francis makes a proposal that most have never considered--a merger of the two nations. Francis makes American readers aware of issues concerning the resource-rich but underdeveloped northern and Arctic regions of Canada and how that part of that nation is threatened. She also describes the current problems at the U.S.-Canadian border, including long wait times for passage, drug smuggling, and terrorism issues. The author follows by making the case for a merger between the two countries into one, huge nation, outlining how such a merger would benefit both Canadians and Americans in many areas, including trade as well as oil and other resources. She opines how such a merger deal might be structured both monetarily and politically. Francis closes by warning what might happen in both countries if a merger does not happen. Even if you disagree with some of her prescriptions for the economy and health care, and even if you are not convinced that the two countries need to merge when you close the book, if you are interested in geography you will be fascinated by the thesis offered in "Merger of the Century."

Dad loved it!

I saw the author on McLaughlin Group discussing her book. I purchased the book and learned quite a bit about Canada (and the rest of the world) that I didn't know. Politicians, be they Canadian or American, only looking for short term gain, will certainly kick and scream and find any reason not to form any US/Canada union. Basically, Canada is loaded with natural resources that it cannot access and needs American capital and know how to get to it. It's a real win-win for Canadian citizens and if her one of her proposals is adopted, most middle aged to senior citizen Canadians will receive a nice payout and be able to retire to warmer climes. Either way, according to her, we (US and Canada) better wake up quick, protect and develop our natural resources otherwise, lest Chi-Coms (Peoples Republic of China) will help themselves to those resources by theft, deceit, etc., and by the time we catch them with their hand in the cookie jar, the cookies will all be gone. We play fair, we have the rule of law, the Chi-Coms don't, and they're picking us clean while we watch Kim and Kanye.

I never read this book, but it looks cool on the shelf.

One of the best books I have read 5 out of 5 stars.

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