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## Featured

### Coming Soon to a Continent Near You

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Following a grand photo opportunity in March 2005 for the presidents of Mexico and the United States, and the prime minister of Canada, observers were regaled, almost to the point of nausea, by references to these men as 'the three amigos'. Their alleged camaraderie was deemed by a compliant media to be of far greater interest and import than the substance of what might have been discussed or accomplished. Unfortunately, the major issue under review by the three men will, if not aborted, cause immense harm to North America and, ultimately, the world.

Canadian prime minister Paul Martin and Mexican president Vicente Fox are now gone from the world stage; neither will be missed. Unfortunately, the most simple-minded of the three remains. In the context of this article, however, United States president George Bush is not the villain; he is merely a symptom of a virulent disease that is infecting North America and which may be unstoppable unless the brakes are applied very soon.

Completely outside the public forum, behind closed doors and in first class comfort, planners have been meeting to create a North American Union (NAU). Mostly, these planners are not government officials; they are not the representatives of the people. Those government minions who have been admitted to these hallowed meetings are there solely for the functionary benefit of greasing the skids for the conductors of what might soon become a runaway train.

What is occurring is the auctioning of North America. You can find some of the details if you really search; but there is no way to know how much information is still hidden.

A small, but influential, group of wealthy business people is proceeding with plans to create a North American union that will combine Canada, Mexico, and the United States. There is no political or economic mandate for these plans and various polls, mostly unofficial, indicate that citizens of all three countries would oppose such a union. Although George Bush is not the prime mover behind this effort, it does have its genesis in the Executive Branch of the US government – more than 30 years ago – and both Presidents Bush have their fingers all over it.

What is being created can be best thought of as NASSR — North America's Sinking Ship Republic. It has most of the bad points of the USSR, and none of the good. Most important, it is doomed to fail.

### Triumphant Trilateralism

In 1973, a group known as the Trilateral Commission was founded. It's a private organization created on the initiative of David Rockefeller, of the family who bears that famous surname. He solicited a cadre of influential people and, after a series of preliminary and exploratory meetings,

the first executive meeting of the Commission took place in October 1973. Today, the membership is between 300–350 private individuals from North America, Europe, and Asia; it claims to exist for the purpose of promoting closer economic and political cooperation between these areas. In fact, the group has asserted throughout the years that its only goal was to foster a 'New International Economic Order'.

The membership list during its history contains a lot of familiar names: George Bush the First, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Henry Kissinger, Paul Wolfowitz, Dick Cheney – and a host of influential politicians, diplomats, and business executives from several continents.

It presents itself as non-political; but nothing could be further from the truth.

The Trilateral Commission has maintained a lock on the Executive Branch of the US government since the election of Jimmy Carter in 1976. The Trilateral Commission is believed to have hand-picked Carter to be a candidate for the presidency; his training in globalist philosophy and foreign policy appears to have been provided by Brzezinski personally. As president, Carter appointed a third of the US members of the Commission to his cabinet and other high-level administration posts.

White House influence continued with the election of Ronald Reagan and his vice-president, George H.W. Bush, who influenced Reagan to appoint Commission members to key areas in his government. Following Reagan, the presidency itself was held by members of the Trilateral Commission for twelve consecutive years. And although the current President Bush is not a member of the Commission, his vice-president is.

This group is, despite all protestations to the contrary, established solely to provide a forum for the elite to plan the management of the world. Because the people of the world are not, in the view of the Commission members, entitled to any kind of input into how the world should be ordered – only this elite group should have that right. Naturally, the order of the world shall be whatever enriches them most.

The North American members of the group now have their sites set on a new prize.

## **Circumventing the Ballot Box**

Membership in the Trilateral Commission includes corporate CEOs, politicians, academics, labor leaders, and individuals involved in overseas philanthropy. Members who gain a position in their respective country's government must resign from the Commission. That criteria has nothing to do with maintaining integrity or averting inappropriate influence; it is to deflect criticism that the Commission is running the world's governments – but it does run them nonetheless, or at least many of them.

The time for democratic choice by citizens has long since passed. No government of a major country can make any real claim to democracy any longer. Governments do not represent the citizenry; they represent business. And business is the domain of the Trilateral Commission and other similar groups whose prime purpose is to ensure that the elites continue to be in charge, and that the great mass of humanity functions as their feudal peasants.

In North America, there is a general belief among the citizenry that we have largely fair and clean elections. There is at least some belief that the people we elect to represent us intend to do just that. But such beliefs are wishful thinking. If the citizens of the three North American countries ever truly did have democratic choice and honest representatives, it is in some semi-mythical past far beyond the reach of remembrance.

Worldwide, the globalization movement has been designed to construct international agreements that give corporations virtually free reign to conduct business as they see fit. This is accomplished primarily through the creation of trade documents that ultimately leave corporations unfettered and uncontrolled by any government. In North America, the same thing has been happening on a smaller scale.

### **NAFTA: a North American Foul Trade Agreement**

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement came into being. It was created to allegedly improve trade between Canada, Mexico, and the United States and everyone was supposed to be a winner. Public consultation took several years against much opposition; but, in the end, everyone should have expected the three governments would end up doing whatever their owners (that is, the corporations) wanted.

Consider the insanity of a trade agreement that is designed to destroy the fundamental basis of one country's economy (maize farming in Mexico); or that guarantees one country access to another country's resources even if the supplying country no longer has sufficient resources for itself (the United States has an absolute right under NAFTA to Canadian oil and gas reserves); or that allows a private courier company to sue a national postal service because it has a monopoly on letter carrying. But that is what NAFTA has wrought. [I think it might be good idea for Canada to sue the United States' military because it has a monopoly on illegal war and subversion.]

When NAFTA was being flogged, North Americans were told it was going to reduce or remove all those horrid barriers to the free exchange of goods and services between the jurisdictions. We would all prosper, life would be grand, we would all eventually die at ripe old ages in splendid luxury, and kittens would become 32% cuter. Even more important, it was going to defend us against those Eurobastards who had made large strides toward an economic union that was, at least partly, designed to challenge the financial clout of North America.

Since all this good news was being brought to us by governments and the business community, the usual suspects rose up in righteous anger against the expected rape of the people and their resources. Labour, leftist, and social activist groups predicted chaos, more losers than winners, and a crystallization of more wealth into pockets that were already full to overflowing.

They were right.

For corporations, there have been a few losers under NAFTA; but they did achieve the primary benefit they were seeking — the disembowelment of the three governments. Federal authority in all three countries is effectively non-existent. And the authority that remains certainly does not come from the people; it comes directly from corporations who are most often extra-

territorial and completely beyond the control of any government.

Even the United States, who surely thought the deck was stacked in its favour, bought a pig in a poke. Each year since the implementation of NAFTA, officials in Mexico, Canada, and the United States have regularly declared it to be an unqualified success. It's the economic equivalent of a free lunch, a 'win-win-win' for all three countries.

They're lying.

The reality is that it has been a success only for the very narrow group of parties for whom (and by whom) it was designed — investors and financiers. For the average working stiff in North America, the woman or man who is paying for all of this, it has been a dismal failure. But the governments and business interests who caused all this to happen are not concerned; they don't care.

The idea of a formal North American Union where all the trade barriers are stripped away and access to increasingly cheaper labour and resources is wide open has business leaders salivating. And in true business fashion, they are going about making arrangements to purchase us without consulting us.

Canada's increased market integration with the United States actually began in 1989 with the advent of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which was the precursor to NAFTA. Since the FTA, trade and investment flows between Canada and the United States have increased dramatically. But since FTA, and even more so since NAFTA, per capita incomes have declined year after year. And like Mexicans and Americans, Canadians have seen an upward redistribution of income to the richest 20% of Canadians, a decline in stable full-time employment, and the ripping of ever-widening holes in Canada's once proud social safety net.

There has been a continent-wide pattern of stagnant worker income, increased insecurity, and rising inequality even though the climate should have been right for a successful continental integration. But this document was never intended to deliver what its advocates claimed it would deliver. It was meant to enrich banks, investment companies, and corporations and it is inconceivable that the very bright people who finagled the agreement didn't know this. This was a deliberate plot to break unions, to roll back the costs of production on the backs of the average working stiff, to further line the pockets of the already disgustingly wealthy. It was a deliberate plot to distil and relocate the centres of power, to put corporations beyond the reach of national or local governments and clearly in the grasp of NAFTA, which had been designed by and for those corporations.

Unfortunately, this disaster has been masked by an extraordinary consumer boom in North America, particularly in the United States. The boom has been fuelled by a huge expansion of consumer credit and a speculative stock market bubble. The economies of all three countries now hang precariously on the capacity of American consumers to continue spending in excess of their incomes.

## **Thrusting Deep**

But we're no longer talking merely about trade agreements. Now will come a full and formal amalgamation of the three countries, with Canada and Mexico being subsumed by the beast between them.

A group known as the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC) was formed in 2006 to influence and even write policy. We know it has targeted Canadian policy and it is surely going to do the same with Mexico.

When NACC was announced in June 2006 by Stephen Harper, George Bush, and Vicente Fox, there was little fanfare. This is a group best kept under wraps because its primary function is to meet secretly and set priorities for the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America. And it must do that surreptitiously because North Americans are being led unwittingly and unwillingly into a political coup: The United States is going to get much bigger; Canada and Mexico will be just memories.

A poll conducted in September 2002 by Montréal-based polling firm Léger Marketing asked Americans if they would be "in favour of Canada being annexed to the United States". Léger posed the question to 1,000 Americans with 38% responding they would be in favour of annexing Canada to the US. There were 49% who did not agree and 13% who didn't know or declined to answer. The cynical among us might suggest the 13% didn't know where or what Canada is.

A similar poll was conducted the previous September by the same firm except in that case they posed the question to Canadians about whether they would like to join the US. Almost 77% of Canadians said 'thanks, but no thanks'.

It is doubtful these attitudes have changed for the better, particularly given Canadian objections to the war in Iraq.

While it is clear that many Mexicans are willing, even eager, to skip across borders to earn a living in the United States, there seems little reason to think that the average Mexican really wants to be anything other than a Mexican.

So imagine the surprise when North Americans finally realize what is being done. Most of it will be impossible to undo, in our current political and legal climate, and most of the citizens of the three countries are going to regret not paying more attention to this.

SPP is described, superficially, as being all about increasing security and prosperity in North America by strengthening cooperation between Canada, Mexico, and the United States in such areas as: immigration; security; trade; transportation; food and drug regulations; policing; military activity. In customary corporate fashion, any regulations that remain will sink to the lowest denominator.

SPP is, in fact, designed solely to bring about the removal of the borders between the three jurisdictions that affect corporate profits. Effectively, SPP will result in the peaceful and barely noticed takeover of Canada and Mexico; people in Climax, Saskatchewan and Barránca, Jalisco will wake up one day to the ignominy of Old glory hanging on their flag poles.

## Silence is Golden

So why are the mainstream media (MSM) largely silent about this issue? Lou Dobbs, who hosts a program on CNN, is very exercised about it; but, other than him and a few journalists and critics who find themselves marginalized by the MSM, there is little discussion of the issue.

Fortunately, there is at least one group paying attention: the Council of the Americas. They are not interested in stopping this movement; but they do post minutes of NACC meetings. While the MSM themselves may be silent, the helpful postings of the Council of the Americas tell us, for instance, that the August 15, 2006 meeting was chaired by Lockheed Martin. And we know the Mexico and United States delegations are in agreement with respect to the priorities for North America that these unelected CEOs wish to set for the three countries. Those priorities include energy integration, regulatory harmonization, and worker mobility. They are discussing a common foreign and international trade policy for North America; they are discussing a common currency (called the amero).

And they are discussing all of these things behind closed doors, without involving elected officials.

According to the Autumn 2006 edition of Canadian Perspectives, the journal of the Council of Canadians:

... the NACC goes back at least to January 2006, where public and private leaders from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. met in Louisville, Kentucky, to discuss objectives for the SPP. According to the minutes of that meeting, participants agreed that the future of the integration process depends on the "creation of a genuine constituency of North America." This will require "buy-in" from legislators who have been left out of the process so far, as well as governments that recognize "the importance of business issues to the overall social welfare" and that empower "the private sector to engage substantively and pragmatically on trade and security issues without undue deference to political sensitivities."

In other words, the NACC was created to bypass the democratic process. The vision is for business leaders in the three countries to come together and set the conditions under which they will do business in North America. That will have the effect of business dictating public policy to all three governments and it is only a short step from there to amalgamating the governments into a single body. That body will then be charged with the job of keeping the citizens of the three former countries believing that they actually have democratic choice.

This will be sold to us much as NAFTA was – a great benefit for all, more freedom, better jobs, lots of consumer goods. They'll leave out the part about the loss of democratic and civil rights and the quality of life for the average citizen going straight down the toilet.

## North America is not in Europe

It isn't clear if the movement to unify North America is meant to bring it back to ascendancy or simply to postpone the inevitable. If the former, it is a completely useless exercise.

For Canada and Mexico, this is entirely a losing proposition. Canada, in particular, has a huge number of natural resources prized by the United States who would surely rather just assume ownership than have to deal with pesky bartering.

But the largest reason Mexico and Canada will lose out in this equation is that the United States is sinking – fast – and its fall is going to be catastrophic; this fall is surely unstoppable.

Even without the success of the European Union and the rapid rise of China and India, the United States has run its course. As a society, it has nothing left to offer; as an experiment in 'people oriented' government, it has utterly failed. The United States is run from boardrooms, not from the White House or the Pentagon; its elections are no longer considered to be fair or legal; its predilection for shooting wherever and whomever it chooses is rejected by the entire world; its society is corrupt and ruined and its citizens are becoming the least admirable people on Earth. How unfortunate for Mexico and Canada to find themselves having to sidle up to these losers.

An economic union in Europe works precisely because it isn't North America. There are several large European countries but no giants; there is a substantial group of lesser, but equally important nations. Compromise and consensus are a necessity. In North America, it is simply not possible to form an economic union, even with the best intent, because the United States dwarfs everything. And when it crashes and burns, the rest of North America is going to crash with it.

### **We will all go together when we go**

Already some of the steps needed to bring this reality closer have been taken. Canada is presently fighting a United States war in Afghanistan, a war not sanctioned by Parliament nor supported by the Canadian people. And, completely contrary to Canada's historical leanings, our latest budget has committed billions of dollars to a military build-up even though we have no enemies. This isn't just trying to curry favour with the United States; it is part of the movement toward amalgamating our military, under United States rule.

In a curious step backward, though, Canadians traveling to the United States now have to provide a passport. This has never previously occurred along the border that both countries have historically touted as 'the world's longest undefended border'. There are some within the United States who are fiercely xenophobic and it is largely them behind the passport movement. This border is crossed by more than a billion dollars of trade every day so creating border blockages is not in anyone's interest.

In a curious way, those xenophobes might represent the best hope for derailing the North American Union.

Cooperation between Canada, Mexico, and United States is a desirable thing. Easing the flow of goods and people might also be desirable. But there are vast differences between the three countries on a whole range of issues that must be reconciled before any formal amalgamation could take place. For instance, health and safety on the job, food and water safety, health care, international trade, foreign policy to name but a few are widely divergent between these three countries.

But by far the biggest mistake the citizens of North America make is leaving the discussions of these matters in the hands of their governments. Those governments march lockstep with the dictates of corporations who see the citizens as vassals, as units of production, as markets for products. Those citizens should have no rights; they serve their purpose by doing what they are told, by working where they are told, by buying what they are told.

It North Americans want to be slaves, they are going about it the right way.

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