

NAFTA - Colony and Chattel

Canada has been “colonized” by the USA in a time when colonies have vanished?

A colony is a land area whose people and resources are controlled in effect by another country. Canada is a new breed of colony. We pretend to have a sovereign government but we do not. Sovereignty simply means- ‘free from control of another’. Canada has lost control of it’s own resources under the heavy meddling, lobbying and influence of international corporations very much directed by Americans.

The US government itself, through disagreement after disagreement have pounded and subdued the Canadian government and our economy into submission. They dictate incessantly under NAFTA what we must do in their favour with our resources. Example- independent logging/ lumber operators like Doman have gone under after years of softwood court battles and have been gobbled up by Weyerhaeuser who now own rights to huge tracts of BC forest. Our oil industry is all about the USA. (see Squandered Bogs - A Nightmare)

⁴⁴⁴ Our NAFTA partners in Mexico have not only been colonized in the same way but in effect enslaved as well.

The US was founded almost immediately on a dependency on the cheapest form of labour available at the time, slave. For the simple cost of food, ragged clothes and lodgings land could be cleared, crops planted and harvested for next to nothing.

The US Congress recorded it best when they said back in 1790 “Slavery is an economic precondition for the prosperity of our people [white ones of course] such is the state of agriculture in our country, no white man would perform the tasks required to drain the swamps and clear the land so that without slaves it must be depopulated.”

Today not only is the economy and lifestyle of people in the US still based on the absolute cheapest labour possible, so is Canada’s. Both peoples, 125 years after the US emancipation proclamation, continue to live through a virtual slave economy. Yes our slaves are physically “free” but our Majority ‘Third’ World peons still live in poverty and abysmal working conditions, at the cheapest level we dictate and can get away with paying, so that Wall Mart can provide us with “the lowest prices possible” for stuff that for the most part we really don’t even need. We should be ordering our World Banks to forgive all debts so they might have a basic standard of healthy living.

As it is, we Canadians keep a massive pool of our global village brothers and sisters financially destitute so as to maximize market control and satisfy our piggish consumer appetites.

Thomas Jefferson a slave owner himself originally

wrote in the Declaration “... slave trade is a perverse plot of an evil English monarch designed to contaminate innocent Colonists”. In the final drafts he entirely struck any reference to this phrasing about slaves.

Ben Franklin, perhaps only second to Washington if a Pantheon of Americans were to exist, lead the Pennsylvania Abolition Society from the start. At one time he did own two house keepers- later freed. He himself actually worked hard to make a good income with his own mind and hands, writing and printing a newspaper and such things as the popular and very useful Farmer’s Almanac as well as inventing things like bifocal lenses.

George Washington and others realized that the emancipation of slaves through their sheer numbers would be a problem that would destroy the budding Republic. At that time there was 1 slave for each 5 “free white”. In Virginia the ratio was 1 slave to each 3 whites.

It wasn’t until the Quakers and other religious leaders forced the debate some 50 years later that the issue was once again discussed, eventually leading to the dissolution of the government and the civil war.

However, slavery never disappeared, it was just moved out of site and mind to off-shore banana republics. Today our own impoverished Third World labour force is a precondition simply for maintaining our global frying, environmentally destructive consumer behaviour.

Where are our voices of conscience, our churches, our Quakers of today? Where are those to remind us that we have too much, far more than our share, while others live in dire poverty world wide?

Where are our Re-founding Brothers? Where are our great and brilliant young orators? Where are those who will lead us out of the Quagmire that is NAFTA and our attachment to the United States, the new despotic Rome, complete with it’s pending fall after a hundred year rise? We are connected to a country which embraces the exact perversion of power their political founders were so adamant in leaving behind with the new Republic. Those founders would be acutely ashamed today. We should be ashamed to be associated.

Parents and youth we don’t need another Gretskey or Lemieux. We need a new generation of political intellect in the rescue and redirection of a misguided, rudderless, lost, and spiritless Canada. Where are you? We need a new even more worldly PETrudeau. Justin, are you listening?

Lance Read - A Canadian in Cuba