



Downloaded from: Dalhousie's Institutional Repository

Type of print: Publisher's PDF

Originally published as: Kirk, John M. "[review Of] Natural Allies? Canadian and Mexican Perspectives on International Security." *Journal of Latin American Studies*. 31.2 (1999): 530-531

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Natural Allies? Canadian and Mexican Perspectives on International Security by H. P. Klepak

Review by: John M. Kirk

Journal of Latin American Studies, Vol. 31, No. 2 (May, 1999), pp. 530-531

Published by: [Cambridge University Press](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/157934>

Accessed: 08/04/2013 12:31

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Cambridge University Press is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Journal of Latin American Studies*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

supporters of protection around Vargas in the 1930s), rightly attributing more influence over Prebisch to Kindleberger along with the Cambridge school. But this in turn undermines the key role Manoilescu plays in the conception and structure of the book. Whatever the merits of Manoilescu's view that low productivity in agricultural production in itself justified a switch to protected industrialisation (derived anyway from Soviet debates in the 1920s), Love shows that Prebisch's concerns were quite different (tied up with trade cycles and relative propensities to import, for example), and they emerged in a quite different context. Whichever way one turns it, then, the overall structure of the book is highly idiosyncratic, and unsatisfactory.

Nevertheless, the scholarly apparatus (over a hundred pages of notes and bibliography) bears witness to the sustained research which underpins the project. Love is a good and careful historian, and each section, as a result, has its own independent merits. The debates he recounts about class structure and paths of economic development in newly-independent, grain-exporting Rumania in the late nineteenth century will be of considerable interest to historians of the same period in Latin America, though Love himself is not familiar with the relevant comparative material. Part II, in turn, opens up a fascinating research agenda on Latin America in the 1930s and 1940s. In particular, the paragraphs (pp. 124–30) on Prebisch's ideas and international activity in the period preceding the founding of ECLA suggest the potential for a major contribution to current debates on globalisation and international political economy. In contrast, Love is rather too brief on Furtado's major work to offer a good overall assessment of his contribution, and the account of subsequent Brazilian debates is extremely compressed. But again, there is more than enough here to recall the vitality of structuralist and Marxist scholarship in the 1960s and 1970s, and to provide some perspective on the excessively foreshortened view propagated in much of the contemporary literature. This book has strong virtues as well as structural faults, then, and it will be for the reader to decide whether the latter outweigh the former.

University of Manchester

PAUL CAMMACK

H. P. Klepak (ed.), *Natural Allies? Canadian and Mexican Perspectives on International Security* (Carleton, Ontario: Carleton University Press and Canadian Foundation for the Americas, 1996), pp. 208, pb.

Canada has finally cast aside its 'traditional aloofness from the rest of the hemisphere' (p. 139) and discovered Latin America. In the last decade Canada has joined the Organisation of American States (after contemplating such a move since the turn of the century), has signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (with the United States and Mexico), and in the last six years has seen three high-profile trade missions to the region led by the Prime Minister. Trade with the region has increased noticeably, Canadian troops have been involved in peace-keeping and humanitarian missions there, and both tourism and cultural connections continue to grow.

In many ways Canada's natural ally in these ventures to the south is Mexico. Sovereignty is extremely important for both countries, although there are other shared interests – ensuring national security and promoting trade, for example. And of course the issue of 'security' increasingly involves a number of less

traditional concerns – from narcotics to corruption, migration patterns to vast socio-economic disparities. Finally the presence of a common, powerful neighbour is reason in itself to consider coordinating approaches on security measures.

The book, based upon a series of presentations given in a conference held in Mexico in 1994, is divided into three sections. The first deals with the context for Mexican and Canadian approaches to traditional security questions; the second analyzes current positions on their most pressing international security matters; and the third assesses future prospects or bilateral cooperation. The participants were a combination of academics and diplomats who together have fashioned a balanced anthology of essays on this topic.

By far the most interesting is the second section, with five first-rate contributions. Here the contributors seek to redefine the shifting sands of security concerns in the late 20th century. It is time now, argues one contributor, to develop the ‘orientation and rules of the game for sharing power within the hemisphere during the coming decades’ (p. 132). There are differences in concerns over the most pressing security issues, and clearly differing agendas in Ottawa and Mexico City (the threat of social unrest in Mexico and the challenge of underdevelopment, for example are clearly not major security concerns in Canada).

Nevertheless, there are many areas where regional and bilateral cooperation are both desirable and necessary. (The issues of pollution, immigration, narcotics smuggling, and money-laundering spring to mind). The clear trend since 1989 to strengthen links along a north–south axis, and to rebuild connections between centre and the periphery, clearly indicate the desirability of such a strategy in the case of Mexico and Canada. Brian Stevenson emphasizes Canada’s pursuit of ‘cooperative security’, an innovative approach of internationalist values that seems pertinent for the modern period.

It is clear that there are indeed converging interests, with mutual benefits for both countries, in the post-Cold War era. It is also apparent that these two countries have more in common than is widely thought. As Klepak notes with some insight, ‘One cannot escape geography, but bilateral efforts aimed at maximizing linkages between Canada and Mexico would gain from the absence of asymmetries and historical baggage’ (p. 185). The fundamental question which remains to be addressed, however, is whether Canada and Mexico are ready to overcome vast cultural differences – and a long-standing tradition of ignoring each other – in order to devise a shared security agenda. This book argues, and argues convincingly, that there are indeed significant reasons for the political leaders of both countries to work closer in pursuing this goal. One hopes that they are listening.

Dalhousie University

JOHN M. KIRK

Lars Schoultz, *Beneath the United States. A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America* (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1998), pp. xvii + 476, £24.95, £12.50 pb.

Written with a sharp sense of humour, Lars Schoultz’s *Beneath the United States* is a strong criticism of US policy towards Latin America for almost 200 years. Schoultz’s work integrates the most popular interpretations of US policy and