

# A Mexican Look at Canada



Chris Helgren/Reuters

IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT Conservatism has consolidated in Canada. This move to the right, personified in Prime Minister Stephen Harper, seems to be a trend in that society. His three consecutive federal electoral wins (2006, 2008, and 2011) could not have happened without the vote of confidence of a considerable part of the electorate. However, beyond the hard Conservative vote and Harper's own strategies to stay in power and consolidate his position, it is clear that his government has launched an ambitious political program to reformulate many of its traditional values. This affects social programs that had been part of the proud national identity; seemingly, these values have been displaced by the need to reduce the deficit, regardless of whether this creates profound social imbalances or not.

The materials presented here serve as an updated frame of reference for some of the most polemical and controversial topics among Canada's best informed milieus in recent years. At the same time, it will be of help for better understanding the dimension of the changes in that country so far in the twenty-first century. Some of the most active dynamics in the Canadian-Mexican relationship in the cultural and social spheres in recent years are also analyzed. This section culminates with an article that studies the position of "North America" as a trade entity, and its impact in the region, seeking to update Mexico's perception of Canada. All this is aimed at achieving better understanding between the two societies right when they are commemorating seven decades since bilateral diplomatic relations began.

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