



After leaving the Foreign Service, Richmond's skills continued to be in demand in the waning years of the Soviet Union. Richmond contributed to the Helsinki process and later joined the National Endowment for Democracy.

I entered the Foreign Service as Yale Richmond was retiring, but while reading *Practicing Public Diplomacy* I felt I'd gotten to know him. His straightforward writing makes his humanity, humility and sense of humor almost tangible. If I ever write a memoir, I would like it to be as instructive and enjoyable as Yale Richmond's.

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Compare and Contrast

Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture

David T. Jones and David Kilgour, Wiley, 2007, \$27.95, hardcover, 352 pages.

REVIEWED BY STEPHEN W. BUCK

Having preceded David Jones as political minister-counselor in Ottawa and introduced him to his Canadian co-author, David Kilgour, I volunteered with enthusiasm to review *Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs*, whose title aptly points to the often subtle similarities and differences between Canada and the United States.

Jones and Kilgour, a longtime member of Parliament and deputy speaker of the House of Commons, have undertaken an ambitious and

difficult task: exploring how Americans and Canadians differ on major social and political issues. They briefly outline some major differences between the two societies and how they view each other: "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" versus "peace, order and good government;" separation of powers in the U.S. vs. concentration of power in the hands of the prime minister; and American unilateralism vs. Canadian multilateralism. As the authors put it: "Americans are proud of what they are — Americans; Canadians are proud of what they are not — Americans!"

Decrying the sorry state of Canada's military, Kilgour makes an eloquent argument that it should at least develop the capability to support peacekeeping and related multilateral operations. The authors rightly point out that in situations such as Chad or Darfur, military capability is essential: "the key component is good weapons, not good words." Still, many around the world would respond that after seven years of relentless wielding of the American big stick, speaking softly — and listening — are in order.

The authors acknowledge the difficulty Ottawa has had dealing effectively with the Bush administration's "either you're for us or against us" attitude. Yet they seem to prefer Mexico's relatively muted opposition to the invasion of Iraq over Canada's "almost contemptuous commentary ... that suggested not only that the United States was wrong in its judgments but that it had no right to take action without international sanction." (At this point a review of how George H.W. Bush built international consensus in the run-up to the Persian Gulf War, as compared to his son's approach 12 years later, might have been useful.)

Somewhat surprisingly, Kilgour writes that the Canadian role on

human rights has been "far from spotless," citing Ottawa's policy of "constructive engagement" with a range of deeply repressive regimes such as China, Sudan, Iran and Cuba, as if talking to such regimes somehow gives them the gold seal of approval. I raise this point as one of a number of examples where the authors may be more in agreement in their views than Canadians and Americans are.

An excellent final chapter ("Where Are We Going?") summing up comparisons between the two neighbors did leave me wishing the authors had spent a bit more time on the complex question of national unity, as well as the environmental implications of extracting oil from tar sands. (Canada has been touting tar sands as having the potential to increase oil production to five million barrels a day.)

Throughout, the book would have benefited from a more robust Canadian perspective, particularly in supporting multilateralism and opposing unilateralism. Indeed, some readers may be put off by Jones's many acerbic pronouncements, his reveling in John Bolton's criticism of the United Nations and dismissal of Canadian criticism of the U.S. invasion of Iraq as indicative of anti-Americanism and fear of the American "Goliath."

Still, there is a huge amount of thought-provoking material and much wisdom here — and not just for those who deal with, or are being posted to, Canada. (Kilgour's description of the relative insignificance of a backbencher is particularly poignant and informative.) It is also highly useful for Americans seeking to understand their own nation better, precisely because the contrast is between countries whose make-up is so similar. ■

Stephen Buck, a Foreign Service officer from 1963 to 2002, is a member of the FSJ Editorial Board.