

# *Why I think Canada should (not) join the USA*

An essay by Madelaine Gierc

*So you want to be American, eh?*

At first the idea seem preposterous. Canada and the United States? Join!? You've got to be kidding! The entire notion is beyond crazy. Like 'wild-animal-in-a-china-shop' type of crazy. Like 'lets-go-sky-diving-without-a-parachute' type of crazy.

*What do you love about the United States? The trillions of dollars spent on military? The absurd thought that they have the right to start wars whenever they want to?*

And then you begin to think about it. Canadians – well, the entire world! – is bowing down to the United States ... Maybe not consciously, but we worship their Hollywood and television. Their music. Their culture. Hamburgers and milkshakes, Elvis and fast cars. It everywhere. It's in everybody's mind ... to be American is to be cool. To be American is to have power and influence.

*Maybe it's their brilliant firearm collection ... you know, the one underneath everyone's pillow. Or could it be that the country is so safe? Do you want to get rid of the Queen? She is old, after all. Compared to Britney Spears, Lizzy's not at all attractive on the postage stamps.*

It couldn't harm us. Lower taxes and a deficit so high you don't even know what number it is. No more long queues at customs, more trade between the 'states.' You wouldn't have to worry about national security at all, and the Canadian military equipment would look great in a museum. The not-so-Canadians would have a say in who's the leader of the most powerful nation on earth and representatives in their government.

Besides, we aren't that much different then Americans, right? We were both English colonies, we both speak the same language, we both have the same beliefs about freedom.

*Do you think that we'll get some respect from the American population if we joined them? Do you think they'll see us as more then just 'Mounties and Molson' if we become one of them? Do you think the rest of the world will notice us for our inventors and heros rather then our hockey team?*

And the United States would benefit as well ... They'd have more tax money to feed that mean fighting machine that likes to go about invading third-world countries. America's land mass would more then double in size – plenty of room for its millions of

cramped citizens to spread out – and you couldn't even begin to complain about all of the natural resources that would become available. And, even better, Alaska would no longer be in the middle of nowhere.

*Or maybe, just maybe, you're greedy. You're unsatisfied with Canada and its open-mindedness. You're too stubborn (or crazy) to see the beauty, wealth, prosperity and dignity of our homeland.*

Then it hits you.

*I refuse to apologize for being part of the greatest nation on earth. I refuse to apologize for being truly free, for being who I want to be and what I want to be.*

Despite all of our similarities, you really don't want to be an American. You don't want to be part of a country where your morals are ignored and culture isn't respected; where media monsters consume your identity. A nation that starts wars without reason and feels obligated to liberate people (many who don't want to be "freed") before nurturing its own. A land where the only thing that matters is the profit - even if the result is hundreds of people suffering. Where you are not free.

— — — *Canada is our mother, soft, yielding, and beautiful. She cares about purity and the environment, equality and peace. She is young and shy, and often doesn't speak out when she should. She is upset when manners are ignored, though scolds softly. She opens her heart to everybody that she meets and everybody that is in need. Nobody ever leaves her home hungry. She is polite and dislikes confrontations. But, I warn you, don't come between her and her children. She'll guard them fiercely.*

We aren't like Americans: We have our own unique personality. Most of us can't put it into words exactly *what* the ever-elusive "Canadian Identity" is, but it's in every selfless act and kind word that comes from a person – and not just Canadians. If we joined the USA, our culture, heritage, and sense of pride would disappear faster than we could imagine. We're proud of our nation and proud of ourselves. Proud of Canada's evolution to one of the greatest nation the world will ever see.

*So you want to be American, eh?*

Resources:

United North America  
[www.unitednorthamerica.org](http://www.unitednorthamerica.org)  
Jonathan Wheelwright

*Inspiration for the Italic text came from the feedback letters on the 'United North America' website.*