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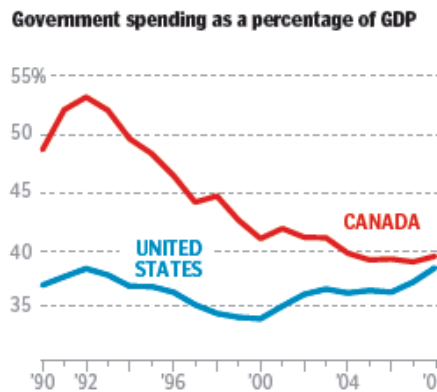
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Saturday, May 23, 2009

Coyne & Wells on the Great Right North

Andrew Coyne and Paul Wells have done an extra [Coyne v. Wells](#) this week in response to the Cato Institute's report on [the Great Right North](#).

The report details how, even before September 11, 2001, the United States had been increasing the size of government (measured as a percentage of GDP) while Canada has been decreasing it.



Coyne and Wells discuss the truth behind this report (there's lots, and we're on it: the Shotgun has written about Canadian vs. American freedom [here](#) and [here](#)) and how this will throw many Canadians for a loop since both the right and the left define Canada as more big government and socialist than the United States.

Coyne also points out that the current situation - a bigger government United States and a more restrained Canadian government - is more in sync with most of Canada's history. It's only been for the past fifty years or so that we've become the socialist nation we're branded as, and most of the public programs the Canadian left takes pride in (medicare and EI, for instance) were lifted from big-government American policy.

Here's the video. Enjoy!

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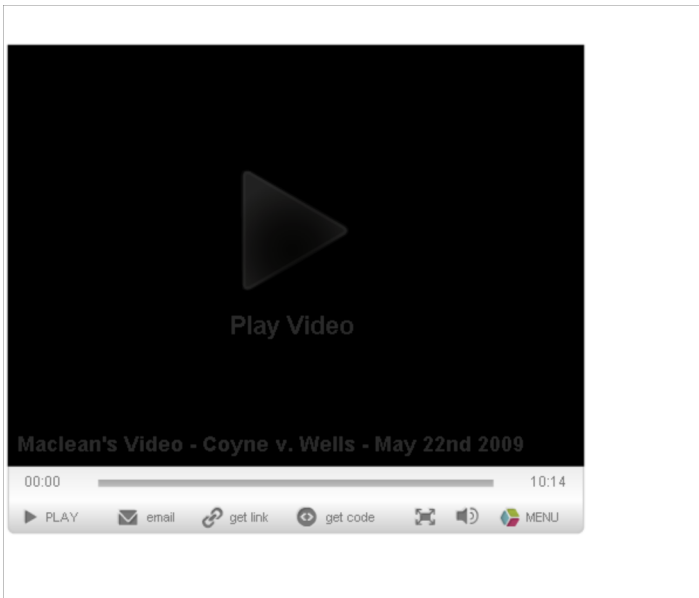
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Posted by Janet Neilson on May 23, 2009 | [Permalink](#)

Comments

Sorry, Janet. I did not enjoy. How could I when barraged by Coyne's fanciful historical fabrications?

Everyone knows that Canadian history began in 1968 with the election of Pierre Trudeau.

Posted by: [Kalim Kassam](#) | 2009-05-23 12:27:34 PM

Everyone knows that Canada sprang, fully formed, from P.E. Trudeau's forehead.

Posted by: [Terrence Watson](#) | 2009-05-23 1:55:30 PM

Janet,

I'm very disappointed by your tendency towards this sort of historic revisionism. First Andrew Coyne dares to doubt the unimpeachable narrative taught in our school textbooks about Canada's, but what's next?

I'll tell you what's next: anarchy, chaos and fornication in the streets.

Posted by: [Kalim Kassam](#) | 2009-05-23 2:17:55 PM

"I'll tell you what's next: anarchy, chaos and fornication in the streets."

How will we be able to tell the difference, Kalim?

Posted by: [Shane Matthews](#) | 2009-05-23 3:10:55 PM

When I first visited the US, in 1975, I was surprised at how easy it was to survive, without working. They pay no premiums on unemployment insurance, and can collect without ever working. Welfare is much easier to collect. Housing is more available for the unemployed. Food stamps ensure that nobody goes hungry. Free healthcare is available to those who can't afford the good stuff(unless you're really sick). You can get a degree from a community college.

Anyone who believes Canada is more socially liberal is confused. Our tax dollars are wasted by too many high paid government employees, not by social programs.

Posted by: [dp](#) | 2009-05-23 3:32:52 PM

Two comments:

Coyne's right about our historical experience. The best place to look for that

Robert Seymour on Marc Emery's extradition hearing delayed "to finalize an agreement with U.S. prosecutors"

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version of our past is Bill Watson's excellent "Globalization and the Meaning of Canadian Life."

Second, despite the weather, I sure wish I wasn't living in southern California right now!

Posted by: Craig | 2009-05-23 8:53:59 PM

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