

Wintery Knight Blog



...integrating faith and knowledge in the public square

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05/19/2009 • 10:00 PM

Who has the better economy? Canada or the USA?

Hans Bader at the Competitive Enterprise Institute [reports](#):

1.2 million Americans have [lost their jobs](#) since the \$800 billion stimulus package was signed into law.

The stimulus package has directly destroyed tens of thousands of jobs. A provision in the stimulus package that [blocked 97 Mexican truckers](#) from U.S. roads “[caused Mexico to retaliate with tariffs on 90 goods affecting \\$2.4 billion in U.S. trade](#),” destroying [40,000 American jobs](#).

It also ignited a [trade war with Canada](#). In response to vague “buy American” provisions in the stimulus package, “A number of Ontario towns, with a collective population of nearly 500,000, retaliated with measures effectively barring U.S. companies from their municipal contracts — the first shot in a larger campaign that could shut U.S. companies out of billions of dollars worth of Canadian projects.”

Yet, Obama had the audacity to claim that only passing the stimulus package would save us from “[irreversible decline](#)” and economic “[“disaster”](#)”.

Obama’s policies [echo those of Herbert Hoover](#), who helped spawn the [Great Depression](#) through his protectionism and [tax increases](#).

Remember how Democrats used to complain about Bush and his “tax cuts for the rich”? Yeah, it’s strange how only people who pay taxes (59% of the public) can actually get tax cuts, isn’t it. But Obama has an even better idea: “tax hikes for the poor”.

The Washington Post [reports](#) on Obama’s new car tax: (H/T [Heritage Foundation](#), [Michelle Malkin](#), [Stop the ACLU](#), [Gateway Pundit](#))

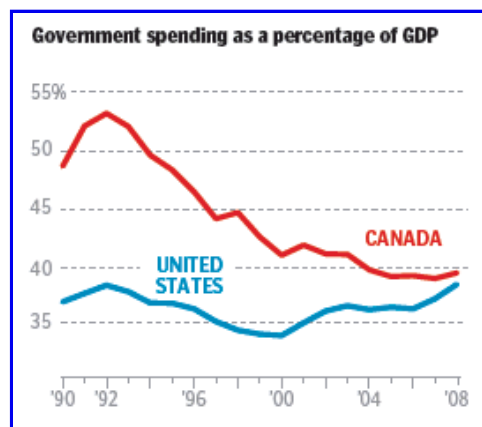
A senior administration official said the new standards would raise the cost of an average car by \$1,300, \$600 of which could be attributed to the rules being announced today.

This is not to mention the [electricity tax \(cap and trade\)](#), the [cigarette tax](#), [taxing employee health care plans](#), and the [rising cost of living caused by protectionism](#).

On the other hand, let’s take a look at Canada in relation to the United States, courtesy of the [Cato Institute](#). (H/T [Heritage Foundation](#))

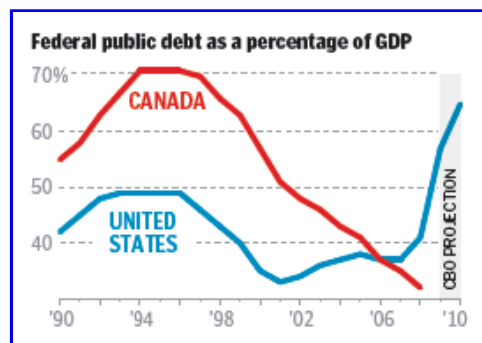
The Cato Institute writes:

Spending: Spending by all levels of the Canadian government peaked at 53 percent of the country's GDP in the early 1990s, then plunged to 40 percent in 2008. U.S. government spending has risen, reaching 39 percent of GDP in 2008. And with the stimulus package, that number is likely to jump even higher.



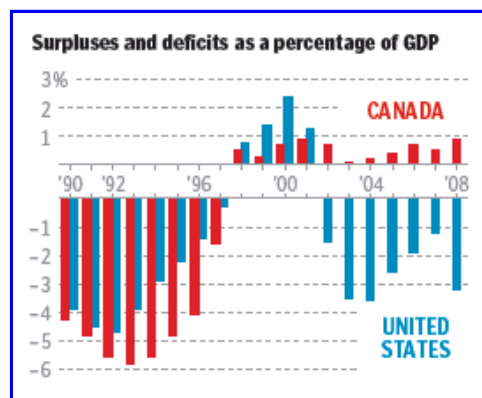
Government spending as % of GDP

Debt: The Canadian government cut its debt from 71 percent of GDP in 1995 to 32 percent in 2008. Under President Obama's budget plan, U.S. federal public debt will jump from 41 percent of GDP in 2008 to more than 60 percent next year.



Federal debt as % of GDP

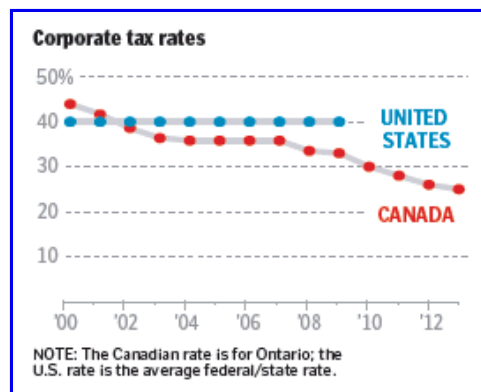
Deficits: Canada has balanced its budget every year since 1998 — not by raising taxes, but by cutting spending. The United States balanced its budget for four years in the late 1990s, but now deficits are so large that it's difficult to imagine that ever happening again.



Surplus / Deficit as % of GDP

Corporate Taxes: Canada has cut the corporate tax rate from 28 percent to just 15 percent, and most provinces

have trimmed corporate taxes as well. The U.S. federal/state rate stands at about 40 percent, and the Obama administration is planning to increase corporate taxes.



Corporate tax rates

It's important to note that the Liberal party in Canada is socially progressive, but moderate on fiscal issues. Of course, now that the Conservatives have been running things, it's gotten even better. It would be great if they could win a majority. The biggest problem in Canada right now is the fascist Human Rights Commissions, but there are candidates from the Conservative Party who intend to abolish the HRCs in BC and Ontario.

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