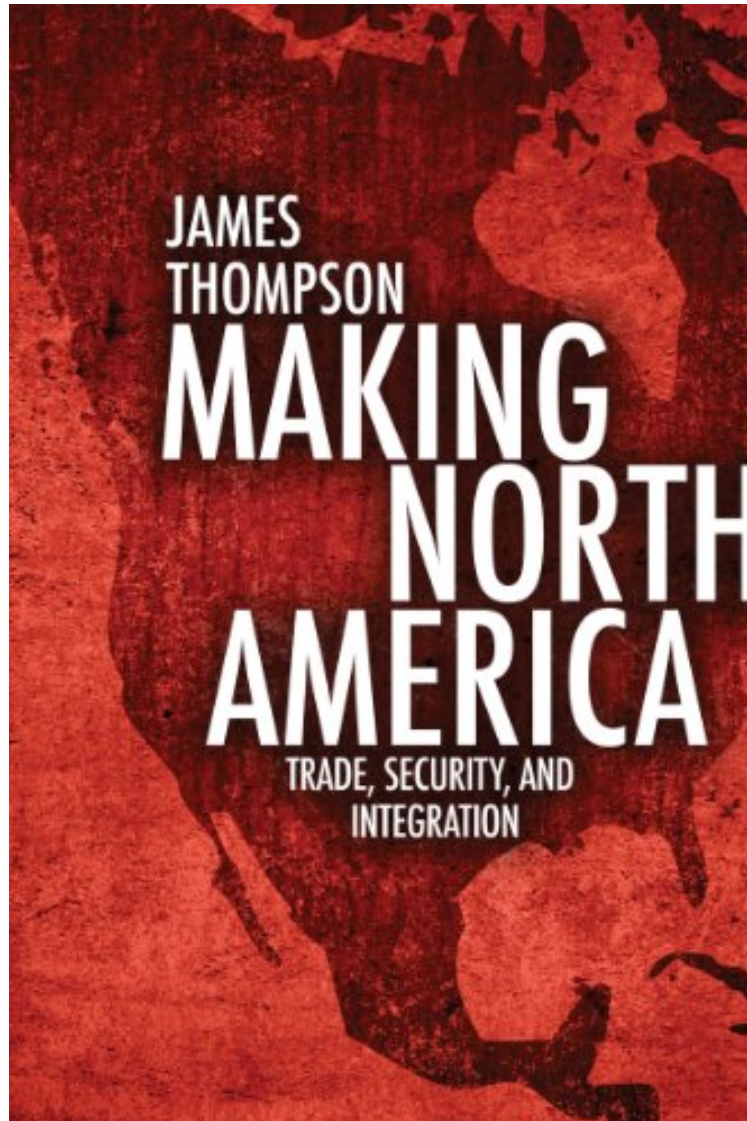


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Making North America: Trade, Security, and Integration

James A. Thompson

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James A. Thompson : Making North America: Trade, Security, and Integration before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making North America: Trade, Security, and Integration:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. NAFTA and national securityBy Tim Wouml;ffenThis book should be included in all international relations and civic education classes and it should be part of a mandatory briefing for any US president, Canadian prime minister or Mexican president before being sworn into office. Ignoring the findings in this book can be a risk to national security: The book sheds light on the relationship and function of trade agreements for security by carefully tracing their historic development and interviewing people involved in their

creation. This security aspect of trade agreements is often ignored as discussions tend to focus on economic effects. This book also provides indirectly a well-researched answer to the question if president Trump (or any other president) may ever actually reverse NAFTA: Probably not, because the economic integration through trade agreements expands a country's sphere of security and may also prevent the neighboring countries from developing potentially dangerous ties to third countries. Surprisingly to be learned in this book, not that long ago in history, Canada, the US and Mexico had all plans to invade each other before economic integration took root. In the future, North America is more likely to become more integrated, not less. The findings of this book have implications beyond North America for economic integration elsewhere, and the Thompson also addresses these in the final chapter "The Broader Context". Europeans should read the book to reflect on the possible security implications regarding the breakaway of formerly integrated markets. Also, it may be worthwhile to analyse in this light the current Chinese initiative "One Belt, one Road" strengthening the infrastructure and trade of the Eurasian continent (and similar initiatives in Central Asia). (Now, after reading this book, I also like to get a copy of Mead's classic "The economic basis for a durable peace" to see if that was part of his idea for a complete "commercial union".) "Making North America" is not only fascinating because of its detailed research, but it is also very well written and a joy to read. One can read the 200 pages in a single sitting (as I did on a flight from Beijing to Frankfurt). The book is also rewarding to read as it provides a very entertaining lesson in North American and World History. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lucky enough to have him in class! By Ashley Andrews James Thompson is brilliant! I have taken many courses with him and I have learned a great deal. His arguments are intriguing and persuasive. This is a must have.

Much has been written about the trilateral relationship between Canada, the United States, and Mexico, and the free trade agreements that this relationship has spawned. In *Making North America*, James Thompson uses the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement of 1988 and the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994 to demonstrate that there has been an often-unrecognized impulse behind the process of North American integration — national security. Featuring interviews with key decision-makers from all three countries, including Brian Mulroney, George H.W. Bush, and Carlos Salinas, *Making North America* is a rigorous analysis of the role national security has played in North American integration. Furthermore, Thompson's evidence suggests that the processes at work in North America are part of a global phenomenon where regions are progressively coalescing into larger-scale political entities.

"*Making North America* is an important contribution to our understanding of the security aspects of trade agreements and provides a useful bridge between the paradigms of realism and liberalism. As many of the leaders Thompson interviewed confirmed, nothing is done in isolation; trade agreements, especially in the context of the Cold War, always had security implications." (Ian Rutherford, Department of Politics, Royal Military College of Canada) About the Author James Thompson is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Hiram College.