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FEATURED Q&A

How Does Canada's Leadership Change Affect Foreign Ties?

Mark Carney became Canada's prime minister earlier this month. On Sunday, he called a general election for late April. // File Photo: Instagram Page of Mark Carney.

Q Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Sunday called a snap general election for April 28. An economist, Carney was elected leader of Canada's governing Liberal Party just two weeks ago and became Canada's first new prime minister in nearly a decade. Carney now leads Canada amid unprecedented trade tensions with the United States. To what extent will Canada's change in leadership result in a shift in the country's trade policy? How might Canada's relationship with the United States and Mexico change under Carney? What could Carney's ascension—as well as the Liberal Party's sharp improvement in recent polling—mean for review of the USMCA free trade agreement, which is expected next year?

A Carlo Dade, director of international policy at the University of Calgary School of Public Policy: "Now that the writ has been dropped, there will be little time for any foreign policy changes. That situation should not change much if Carney wins a general election. The United States will occupy most available bandwidth, and this summer's G7 leaders' summit in Alberta still lacks an agenda three months out. It's hard to see a Carney government simply carrying forward with an agenda from his—now universally despised—predecessor as the first international statement for a new government. Other foreign policy changes will take time. The current government has made a 'generational commitment' to strengthening ties with the Indo-Pacific, on which there is wide consensus. This is unlikely to change. And the foreign ministry has announced significant budget cuts over the coming years. All this limits capacity for new initiatives. Lacking evidence to the contrary,

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TODAY'S NEWS

POLITICAL

U.S. Ends Protections for More Than 500,000 Migrants

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Friday that it is ending legal protections for some 532,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who arrived under a temporary parole program.

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Panama Eyes Restarting First Quantum Mine

Panama's government reportedly may allow the restarting of Central America's largest open-pit mine.

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Peruvian Interior Minister Ousted Amid Crime Wave

Peru's Congress on Friday ousted Interior Minister Juan José Santiváñez amid a soaring homicide rate in Lima. The government last week declared a state of emergency over the violence.

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Santiváñez // File Photo: Peruvian Government.

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POLITICAL NEWS

U.S. Ends Protections for More Than Half a Million Migrants

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Friday that it is ending legal protections for more than half a million people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who arrived in the United States since October 2022, the Associated Press reported. The order affects approximately 532,000 migrants who arrived in the United States with financial sponsors and received two-year permits to live and work there under a humanitarian parole program, the wire service reported. Participation in the program also required background checks, The Hill reported. People in the program are to lose their legal status and be subject to potential deportation as of April 24, said Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, the AP reported. The Department of Homeland Security said people in the program who have no legal status to remain in the United States "must depart" before their parole status ends. "Parole is inherently temporary, and parole alone is not an underlying basis for obtaining any immigration status," the department said in a statement, the wire service reported. The action will "cause needless chaos and heartbreak for families and communities across the country," said Karen Tumlin, the founder and director of Justice Action Center, which was among the organizations that filed a lawsuit at the end of February challenging the Trump administration's plan to end the program, the AP reported.

U.S. Resumes Deportation Flights to Venezuela

The United States on Sunday resumed deportation flights to Venezuela following an agreement between the two countries' governments, CNN reported. The first flight under the deal landed early today at an airport just north of Caracas. Nearly 200 deportees were aboard the flight and were taken from the United States to Venezuela with a stop in Honduras, according to the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. "Today, deportation flights of Venezuelan illegal aliens to their homeland resumed via Honduras," the bureau said in a posting on social media site X. "These individuals had no legal basis to remain in the United States. We expect to see a consistent flow of deportation flights to Venezuela going forward," it added. Jorge Rodríguez, the president of Venezuela's National Assembly, announced on Saturday that his country and the United States had reached the agreement to resume the flights, the Associated Press reported. Nicolás Maduro had stopped accepting the flights on March 8 after the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump announced that it was terminating oil major Chevron's license to operate in Venezuela and export oil from there. On March 15, the Trump administration deported approximately 250 Venezuelans, whom Trump alleged were members of the Tren de Aragua gang, to a high-security prison in El Salvador, the AP reported. "Migrating is not a crime and we will not rest until we achieve the return of all those who require it and until we rescue our brothers kidnapped in El Salvador," said Rodríguez.

Peru's Congress Ousts Minister Amid Crime Wave

Peru's Congress on Friday ousted the country's interior minister amid rising crime in Lima, the Associated Press reported. Seventy-eight of 109 members of Peru's unicameral legislature voted to remove Interior Minister Juan José Santiváñez from office for his "inability to confront the wave of citizen insecurity that the country has been facing," according to a statement that Peru's Congress posted on social media site X. Homicides increased by around 25 percent last year in Peru, and the high-profile killing of a popular local musician on March 16 led authorities to declare a state

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. Bars Argentina's Fernández de Kirchner Over Alleged Corruption

The U.S. government on Friday banned former Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner from entering the United States for alleged involvement in "significant corruption," the Associated Press reported. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement that Fernández de Kirchner orchestrated "multiple bribery schemes involving public works contracts, resulting in millions of dollars stolen from the Argentine government," the wire service reported. Fernández de Kirchner has denied all allegations of criminality made against her, according to the AP.

Slain U.S. DEA Agent's Widow Files Suit Against Sinaloa Cartel

The widow of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent who was killed in 1985 by the Sinaloa Cartel, last week filed a federal lawsuit seeking undetermined damages from the trafficking group's founders, The Wall Street Journal reported. The suit is one of the first implementations of the U.S. government's designation of Mexican cartels as terrorist organizations.

U.S. Nearly Doubles Egg Imports From Brazil Amid Skyrocketing Prices

The United States has nearly doubled egg imports from Brazil amid a bird flu outbreak in the United States that has led to soaring prices for eggs, Reuters reported today. Brazilian eggs were once used only for pet food in the United States, but they can now be used for processed foods such as cake mixes and salad dressing, the wire service reported. The Trump administration also reportedly may relax restrictions on imports of eggs from chickens raised for meat.

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of emergency in Lima last week, according to the AP. President Dina Boluarte has until the end of the day today to name Santiváñez's replacement as interior minister, Infobae reported. Santiváñez's chief of staff is being considered as a replacement, as is the current commander of Peru's national police, the news site reported. Santiváñez will leave his post at the interior ministry but may remain a member of Boluarte's administration at a different agency, according to Infobae. Boluarte's government previously declared a state of emergency to combat a spike in crime in Lima in September, the AP reported. "Both the executive branch and the Congress are sharing responsibility for the failure of the response to the criminals," former Peruvian Interior Minister Carlos Basombrío Iglesias told the Advisor in a **Q&A** published Oct. 16.

BUSINESS NEWS

Panama Eyes Restarting First Quantum Mine

Panama's government plans to consider reopening Central America's largest open-pit mine, the copper mine run by Panama Copper, a subsidiary of Canada-based First Quantum Minerals, the Associated Press reported. The discussions come more than a year after Panama's supreme court halted the mine's operations, saying the government concession that allowed it was unconstitutional. President José Raúl Mulino has already ordered a restart of the mine's power plant and has said some of the $250 million in copper concentrate that is at the mine should be sold, the AP reported. The mine accounted for almost 5 percent of Panama's gross domestic product during the most recent year that it was in operation, the wire service reported. On Sunday, some 200 protesters gathered in Panama City, demonstrating against the mine's potential restarting, The Tico Times reported. Opponents of the mine's reopening have raised concerns about potential environmental damage.

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relations with Mexico would be expected to remain the same. Carney has, for obvious reasons, questioned the benefits and use of an agreement whose principal purpose is to bring certainty. The biggest change and improvement for Canada will come from simply not having Justin Trudeau as a target for Trump's personal ire, vendettas and taunting. Regardless of the party or wherein lies the fault, at this stage, simply not being Trudeau is a win for Canada."

Barry Eidlin, associate professor of sociology at McGill University in Montreal: "To the extent that Canada's trade policy shifts under new Prime Minister Carney, it will be due to responding to the actions of the country's southern neighbor as opposed to a shift in the Canadian government's underlying principles and policy goals. The Carney government is largely a continuation of the previous Justin Trudeau government, with a few new faces, a shrunken cabinet and somewhat less ambitious climate and economic policy. And as an Oxford-trained economist, former central bank governor for two countries, with a long career in investment banking, it would be hard to find a more faithful representative of global economic orthodoxy surrounding trade policy than Carney himself. It would be hard to see Carney wanting to take a different tack on trade policy compared to Trudeau based solely on his own policy preferences. But Carney is not operating according to his own policy preferences. He has to react to the Trump administration's unprecedented assault on Canadian sovereignty, as well as the U.S. administration's wild, unpredictable trade war, with different tariffs coming and going on what seems to be a daily basis. In response, Carney has sought to strengthen ties with European nations like France and the United Kingdom, while reducing economic involvement with the United States. He will also likely look to Mexico's Claudia Sheinbaum as a key ally to respond to Trump's threats. Her popularity has skyrocketed as she has proven herself to be an effective opponent of the Trump onslaught. While Carney does not share Sheinbaum's progressive political outlook, I suspect he will be taking cues from her on how to respond to Trump, as his political future in the upcoming federal election hinges on his convincing Canadian voters that he is the leader best equipped to stand up to Trump."

> **"The Carney government is largely a continuation of the previous Justin Trudeau government..."**
>
> **— Barry Eidlin**

Tequila Brooks, attorney and former labor law advisor to the North American Commission on Labor Cooperation Secretariat: "Canada's new prime minister and Liberal Party leader, Mark Carney, is a globalist who served as a governor of the Bank of England from 2013 to 2020 and of the Bank of Canada from 2008 to 2013. He has also served as the U.N. Special Envoy for Climate Action since 2020. With early trips to meet with the leaders of France and England, Prime Minister Carney signaled that Canada will be buttressing its relationships with allies and trading partners in Europe and elsewhere. Mexican magazine Proceso reports that it is likely that under Carney, Canada will work to diversify its trade portfolio to reduce its reliance on trade with the United States. Unlike the United States, which never finalized a preferential trade agreement with the European Union, both Canada and Mexico have trade agreements with the European Union: the Canada-E.U. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which took

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effect in 2017, and the modernized version of the 2000 Mexico-E.U. Partnership, which was finalized on Jan. 17 of this year. Both agreements have strong labor and environmental provisions. Unlike the United States, both Canada and Mexico are members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). While the United States withdrew from CPTPP in 2017, the United Kingdom became its 12th member on Dec. 15. Thus, both Canada and Mexico are well-positioned to deepen trade with one another and with existing trading partners in Europe, Asia and the Americas in an era when the current U.S. administration has declared multiple trade wars and put the USMCA at risk. It will be interesting to see whether Carney and the Liberal Party prevail in upcoming parliamentary elections in Canada–his climate change and financial portfolios could elevate Canada's environmental leadership on the global stage."

Halina B. Ostrovski, president of HBO International Consulting in Toronto: "Canada's new prime minister, Mark Carney, chose an experienced and compact cabinet to 'fight tariffs and strengthen the domestic economy.' A new general election will be intended to reaffirm the mandate of his government. No matter who leads Canada's government, bilateral and trade relations with the United States will be a challenge. The current U.S. administration implemented radical changes to trade, disregarding the practices that they had previously negotiated and agreed upon. Needless to say, the level of trust in dealing with the United States has changed. There is no confidence, nor is there trust, in statements coming from the United States anymore. And it seems that this pattern of deconstruction extends to all kinds of alliances and cooperations that once were symbols of U.S. leadership. Mexico and Canada are substantial contributors to the U.S. economy as consumers, as suppliers, as partners, as friends and as family connections. To renegotiate the current trade agreement will be difficult and complicated. Both Mexico and Canada should be prepared; negotiations toward an agreement implying 'respect' no longer appear to be valid. The concept of abiding to agreements may not be adhered nor respected, for it seems that the current U.S. administration only respects an agreement if it favors and benefits the United States. Meanwhile, Canada has already started to strengthen its own economy while looking for 'more reliable markets,' as Carney indicated in his first speech as prime minister on March 14."

[Editor's note: The commentaries above were submitted to the Advisor before Carney called the snap election.]

The Advisor welcomes comments on its Q&A section. Readers can write editor Gene Kuleta.

Upcoming Event

ONLINE EVENT: Launch of the Regional Repository of Chinese Investments in Latin America
March 25, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. ET

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