

# Comparative Environmentalism: Pipeline Protests in Canada and the US

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Joint Honours Political Science and Philosophy, Minor Anthropology

## Project Description:

This research project compiled theoretical frameworks, historical analyses, case studies, and contemporary public opinion data pertaining to Canadian and American environmentalism into an extensive annotated bibliography. The project aimed to better understand the comparative strength of these environmental movements with a particular research focus on the politics of pipeline protests in two important oil producing jurisdictions: Alberta and Texas.

### In Canada...

- Pipeline politics is a *more* salient national issue
- Public opinion is *more* aligned with fighting climate change
- Citizens engage, on average, in *more* environmental practices but hold similar views about pipelines
- There is a *more* electorally successful Green Party
- The regulatory regime is *less* consistent due to executive-dominated system
- Activists *often* emulate American counterparts
- Activists have *stronger* collaborations with indigenous groups

## Comparative Pipeline Protests

### Alberta

- Opposition is strongest from indigenous groups and out-of-province municipalities
- Protests reach national scale
- Critical infrastructure protection legislation passed in 2020
- More direct action

### Texas

- Opposition is strongest from private landowners resisting eminent domain
- Few cases of pipeline protest
- Critical infrastructure protection legislation passed in 2019
- More emphasis on courts

### In the United States...

- There is a *stronger* “environmental justice/racism” movement
- ENGOs are better funded
- Activism is *more* legalized
- Activists benefit from a *more* open federal regulatory regime
- There are *more* NIMBY protests
- There has *never* been protests on the scale of Canada’s 2020 railway blockades
- In 2020, pipelines have faced *greater* challenges for approvals

## Sources:

Due to the nature of this project, over 90 sources contributed to these findings. For specific references, please consult the annotated bibliography.

## Acknowledgments:

Many thanks to the Arts Internship Office, Prof. Béland, and Mr. Harry Samuel for his generous support of this project.