

Alberta (Canada)



Why is it different from the US?

- Federal government has authority to approve new inter-provincial pipelines
- Ottawa more exposed to decision-making on pipelines than Washington, D.C.
- Federal government has the sole authority over regulation of pipelines that cross provincial borders
- The Federal Government obligated to consult and accommodate to Indigenous peoples
- Canada is a middle power unlike U.S. where oil has no global influence

What is triggering intergovernmental conflict?

- *Political rivalry*
 - The Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) does not have same agenda as the Province of Alberta in terms of oil
 - Alberta is dominated by Conservative Party of Canada
 - LPC kept in check by the NDP, Green Party, and Bloc Quebecois on pipeline expansion
- *Interprovincial clashes*
 - Unlike other provinces, Alberta has not received Equalization payments
 - British Columbia and Québec do not want interprovincial pipelines coming from Albertan oil
 - Provinces not producing oil have no material incentives to support more pipelines
- *Incompatibility*
 - Alberta seeking expansion of its oil and gas to foreign markets (Asia, Europe)
 - 74% of Province's oil went to the U.S.
 - Alberta has set up the Fair Deal Panel

Federalism and the Politics of Oil and Gas Pipelines in Canada and the United States

Daniel Béland & André Lecours

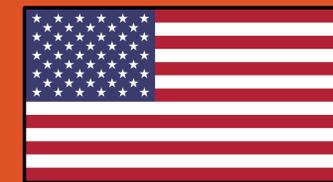
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Project Description

This research project was an in depth annotated bibliographic study that compiled newspaper articles, government reports, and case studies investigating the severe intergovernmental conflicts prompted by pipeline projects in Canada. On the other hand, the literature reveals that, in the United States, pipeline projects to increase the transportation capacity for Texas oil have been high on the energy agenda, while they have not been engraved in the national politics of Canada. The research identifies four factors that have contributed to this occurrence:

1. The regulatory framework for oil and gas;
2. The ideological and political support for, or opposition to, oil and gas development;
3. The level of Indigenous opposition to pipeline projects; and
4. The presence or absence of a stand-alone federal equalization program.



Sources:
Due to the scope of the research, almost 50 sources contributed to these findings. For specific references, check the research paper by André Lecours and Daniel Béland.
1. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney and Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meet on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, in 2019. PHOTO BY BLAIR GABLE/REUTERS FILES
2. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with then-U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Friday, December 9, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ Patrick Doyle

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Texas (United States)



Why are Oil and Gas important for the US?

- Federal government interested in Texas oil
- Oil production is a contributor to U.S. global power
- Oil states lobby Federal government to be pro-oil
- Texas largest producer of oil and gas (42% and 26% of country's output)
- U.S. Oil has been a longer economic/institutional factor than in Canada
- *New pipelines set to transport oil from Texas Permian Basin*

Why is the situation different from Alberta?

- *Internationality*
 - *Texas unlike Alberta has a major oil and gas export beyond North America*
 - *Texas has sea access to ship oil unlike Alberta*
- *Federal / Provincial Relationship*
 - *Unlike Canada, U.S. oil pipelines subject to state-by-state approval*
 - *Federal government has little actual political exposure in relation to building of oil pipelines*
 - *Texas governor Greg Abbott has not shown frustration towards the federal government or neighboring states over construction of pipelines*
 - *Party affiliation important in understanding oil Politics in U.S.*
 - *Indigenous people in the U.S. do not have same legal levers outside of federally recognized tribal lands*