

Why should Canada extradite anyone to a prosecutocracy?

The United States is not, by Canada's standards, in criminal matters, a society of laws

by Conrad Black



The last week has been an auspicious one in displaying the judicial and legal deficit of the United States compared to this country. The arrest and bail of Meng Wanzhou has been handled with exemplary fairness. The United States should be supported by all civilized countries in the imposition of sanctions on Iran until Iran believably and verifiably renounces nuclear weapons, or miraculously bootstraps itself into being a country that can be trusted to have them. The agreement the United States largely negotiated, signed by France, Germany, the U.K., China and Russia as well as Iran, provides a porous inspection system and requires Iran to wait 10 years before completing a military nuclear missile program. In the meantime, it is free to retain fissile material, develop missiles and warheads capable of carrying a nuclear

payload, but not actually to deploy nuclear weapons. This was an insane arrangement and the Trump administration is right, both legally and in terms of the strategic interests of all civilized countries, to withdraw from it and impose sanctions on those who do not observe American sanctions on Iran. It has received no recognition for this, but with Iran and with North Korea, the Trump administration is the last hope of nuclear non-proliferation. Most of the other nuclear powers have rolled over like poodles and enjoyed trading with an Iran briefly re-enriched by President Obama's release of \$150 billion of Iranian assets the United States had frozen, and the full resumption of Iranian oil exports.

In this framework, it was reasonable for the United States to request the detention of Meng as the finance director (and daughter of the founder) of China's largest private company, the telecom giant Huawei, for sanctions violations. Given the existing treaty with the United States, Canada was right to detain her, and has been right to ignore, apart from normal diplomatic niceties, any pressure from the United States and China to influence the operation of Canadian courts. The fact that the United States and China are the world's two most powerful countries should not be, and as far as can be judged, has not been, taken into account by the Vancouver court where Meng's bail hearing occurred. Her personal history, the circumstances of the case, and the quantum of bail posted make the verdict – [*National Post*](#).