

While Trump was gearing up his trade war machine, Carney, Canada's Prime Minister, wasn't just sitting in Ottawa twiddling his thumbs. He'd been quietly increasing Canada's holdings of U.S. Treasury bonds—over \$350 billion worth by early 2025, part of the \$8.53 trillion foreign countries hold in U.S. debt. On the surface, it looked like a safe play, a hedge against economic chaos. But it wasn't just defense. It was a loaded gun.

Carney didn't stop there. He took his case to Europe. Not for photo ops, but for closed-door meetings with the EU's heavy hitters—Germany, France, the Netherlands. Japan was in the room too, listening closely. The pitch was simple: if Trump went too far with tariffs, Canada wouldn't just retaliate with duties on American cars or steel. It would start offloading those Treasury bonds. Not a fire sale—nothing so crude. A slow, steady bleed. A signal to the markets that the U.S. dollar's perch wasn't so secure. (...)

Trump's spent years calling Canada a freeloader—remember his 2019 NATO jabs?—while ignoring the inconvenient truth. Canada's \$350 billion in U.S. debt isn't charity. It's a lifeline. Japan's trillion-plus? Same deal. The EU's pile? Ditto. These countries aren't just buying bonds to be nice; they're bankrolling the U.S. government. And when they threaten to pull the plug, even slowly, Washington listens.

This was the determining factor in Trump's surrender. Not the public spats, not the retaliatory tariffs Canada slapped on U.S. autos (though those stung). It was the quiet, coordinated threat of a Treasury bond unwind that bent Trump's knee. Carney didn't need to shout. He didn't need to posture. He lined up the free world—Japan, the EU, Canada in lockstep—and showed Trump the cliff's edge. Strategic brilliance doesn't get louder than that.“

- Bjorn Ognibeni