

Canada, Expanded Security and the "New" Multilateralism

by

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Introduction

This paper is part of a larger project that advocates a re-construction of the understanding of what constitutes Canadian foreign policy.¹ Such a "re-construction" requires that one stand outside prevailing or received views on the nature of foreign policy and the foreign policy making process in order to critique those views. This is in line with a critical orientation to the subject — one that allows the observer to remain somewhat distant from the immediacy of contemporary issues affecting Canadian foreign policy so that those issues can be placed into a broader historical and sociological context.² In so doing, one is in a much better position to identify and investigate the impersonal historical forces that frame foreign policy action and at the same time to question the impact that global structural changes have on Canadian foreign policy orientations and vice versa.

The security elements of Canadian foreign policy is especially crucial in any attempt to re-construct our understanding of such policy. Dewitt and Leyton-Brown made the case recently that Canadians are unaccustomed to speak of security policy. This is so, according to the authors, because during the Cold War period the strategic assessment of the threat to Canada's security was done largely outside the Canadian State. As they put it: "The strategic assessment was, in effect, defined for us by our partnership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and our commitment to the United Nations."³ As a result, the Canadian government seemed content to deal with the more narrow issue of defining Canada's defence policy. As the late Rod Byers pointed out, defence policy is only one aspect of security policy. It constitutes "those military activities and capabilities which are utilized to promote national and international security from military-strategic perspectives." On the other hand, security policy "encompasses defence policy and includes those political instruments which are employed to enhance the security interest of the state. In theory, security policy serves as a bridge between foreign and defence policy."⁴

It is that bridge which Dewitt and Leyton-Brown tries to construct in their 1995 edited volume titled *Canada's International Security Policy*. That text had two main goals: 1) to address the gaps in understanding "between Canada's foreign policy interests in international peace and security, Canadian domestic well-being, and Canada's defence policy interests in

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