

This suggests a need to develop a middle way between open resistance to Russia and acquiescence. Although there appears to be little that can be done to stem Russian assertion, its modalities may be moderated and its consequences mitigated through efforts to situate Russian "peacekeeping" in a multilateral context. The association of UN and CSCE monitors to Russian peace keeping operations, for example, would add a degree of transparency that might deter excess. It would also accustom the Russians to operating in a multilateral context. The negative implications of Russian assertion of preeminence would also be mitigated by an active policy of assistance to those states willing to accept it (e.g. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) in the area of political development, through the provision of technical and economic assistance, and through promotion of the foreign investment without which these economies are unlikely to stabilize, in short, by the provision of the counterweights that more independently minded statesmen in the region desire.

It seems probable that Canada's role in the military security and arms control fields is best played in multilateral fora such as the UN and the CSCE. Canada has a more direct potential role to play in the areas of political and economic assistance. Its experience in dealing peacefully with problems of ethnic and cultural diversity is of relevance to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in particular. Its technical expertise in the areas of dry plains agriculture and natural resource exploitation has wide applicability in the region. And, as noted in the introduction, the area of natural resources contains considerable potential for Canadian investors and exporters of the relevant technologies.

Finally, given constraints on Canadian resources and the specific characteristics of Canadian expertise, some effort to define priority targets for Canadian involvement is appropriate. On the spectrum of political development, the most appropriate recipients of Canadian assistance are Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, given the diversity of their ethnic makeup and their relative openness to political reform. In the area of economic opportunity, the logical targets are Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. As noted, however, in the study on Kazakhstan, Canada's capacity to define appropriate policies, to pursue the ample opportunities that exist, and to establish presence and personality in the region are dramatically constrained by the thinness of Canadian diplomatic presence.